

2026 INDEX OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Bylaws

Bylaws Proposal No. NB 1..... Page 2

USBC National Bylaws
Article VI, Meetings
Section A. Annual Meeting

Allows for offsite voting at the USBC Annual Meeting

Proposer: Douglas Sass
Walkersville, MD

League Rules

Rules Proposal No. LR 1..... Page 6

USBC Playing Rules
Chapter 4, League Rules
Rule 117b - Reason

Requires the player to use the same hand for all first-ball deliveries, but allows the player to use either hand for any second-ball deliveries.

Proposer: Jeff Shircel
Sheboygan, WI

Delegate Action	Vote Count	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	_____	_____

BYLAWS PROPOSAL NO. NB 1

PRESENT BYLAW...

**USBC National Bylaws
Article IV, Meetings
Section A. Annual Meeting**

An Annual Meeting of USBC is held at a time and place approved by the Board of Directors. Attendance is open to all members.

1. **Delegates.** "Delegates" are defined as individuals, who hold USBC membership, 18 years of age or older at the time of election, who are elected from associations according to these Bylaws. Delegate's term of office is from August 1 through July 31 of each year.
2. **Voting and Speaking.** Voting at the USBC Annual Meeting is by Delegates, USBC Officers and Directors who are not elected Delegates may nevertheless vote as Delegates at the USBC Annual Meeting. All votes of the Voting Members at the Annual Meeting shall be cast by electronic ballot which shall be the sole method for determining votes at the Annual Meeting unless the President in his or her sole discretion determines the circumstances reasonably require a different method of voting. All members (including the Voting Members) in good standing as of the date of the Annual Meeting may be permitted to address the members at the Annual Meeting. Other USBC members may address the USBC Annual Meeting but may not vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
3. **Delegate Representation.**
 - a. Each merged state association in good standing representing men, women and youth, may elect two Delegates and two Alternate Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting. Each non-merged state association in good standing may elect one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the USBC Annual Meeting;
 - b. The number of Delegates to which a local association is entitled will be based on USBC's records of the association's fiscal year membership as of July 31, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting. Each local association in good standing with USBC, with the exception of affiliate associations, are entitled to Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting. Associations with youth would base their membership on USBC Youth members bowling in USBC Leagues within the association's jurisdiction, as follows:
 - 1) Less than 500 members - two Delegates and one Alternate Delegate;
 - 2) 500 members or more - two Delegates and one Alternate Delegate for the first 500 members and one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate for each additional 500 members or major fraction thereof with a maximum of 30 Delegates;
 - c. Newly-chartered local bowling associations, with no membership numbers recorded by July 31st, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting, may elect one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the USBC Annual Meeting;
 - d. A state or local association whose charter has been suspended or revoked, or an association that is delinquent in processing dues for the current bowling season, is not considered "in good standing" for purposes of Delegates or Alternate Delegates attending the USBC Annual Meeting;
 - e. Athletes, as defined in these Bylaws, are eligible to serve as Delegates.
 - f. USBC Board of Directors;
 - g. For all purposes, voting power is the sum of items a through f.
4. **Delegate Responsibilities.** Delegates vote to:
 - a. Amend and approve the National, state and local mandatory bylaws, with the exception of provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations, provisions related to Athletes and Youth, and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law;
 - b. Establish standard maximum adult dues for National and state;
 - c. Elect Directors to fill open positions on the Board that are subject to election by the Delegates;
 - d. Approve adult league rules, and adult tournament rules for the sport of bowling.
5. **Meeting Notice.** Written notice of the USBC Annual Meeting is provided to Delegates and chartered state and local bowling associations in good standing at least 30 days in advance of the USBC Annual Meeting.
6. **Quorum.** The presence of 100 Delegates establishes a quorum for the transaction of business at the USBC Annual Meeting.

7. **Action.** Elections by the Delegates are conducted according to policies and procedures established by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board. The action of a majority of Delegates present and voting, when a quorum has been established, carries a motion unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws. Absentee and proxy voting and other types of voting agreements are not permitted.

PROPOSAL...

In the first paragraph:

Add “. whether able to attend in-person or remotely via electronic means”

In Item 2:

Replace “at” with “during” in the second sentence.

Add a new third sentence to state:

“Voting members attending the Annual Meeting remotely may continue to contribute their vote by electronic means.”

Add to the fourth sentence:

“either in-person or remotely via electronic means.”

Add an new sentence to Item 5 to state:

“Instructions for attending the Annual Meeting either in-person or via electronic means will be available.”

Add to Item 6:

“whether attending in person or remotely via electronic means”.

In Item 7:

Add a new second sentence to state:

“They shall provide for Delegates to vote either in-person or remotely via electronic means.”

Delete “present and” and add “either in-person or remotely via electronics means” to the 3rd sentence

If adopted, Section A will state:

An Annual Meeting of USBC is held at a time and place approved by the Board of Directors. Attendance is open to all members, whether able to attend in person or remotely via electronic means.

1. **Delegates.** "Delegates" are defined as individuals, who hold USBC membership, 18 years of age or older at the time of election, who are elected from associations according to these Bylaws. Delegate's term of office is from August 1 through July 31 of each year.
2. **Voting and Speaking.** Voting at the USBC Annual Meeting is by Delegates, USBC Officers and Directors who are not elected Delegates may nevertheless vote as Delegates at the USBC Annual Meeting. All votes of the Voting Members during the Annual Meeting shall be cast by electronic ballot which shall be the sole method for determining votes at the Annual Meeting unless the President in his or her sole discretion determines the circumstances reasonably require a different method of voting. Voting members attending the Annual Meeting remotely may continue to contribute their vote by electronic means. All members (including the Voting Members) in good standing as of the date of the Annual Meeting may be permitted to address the members at the Annual Meeting either in-person or remotely via electronic means. Other USBC members may address the USBC Annual Meeting but may not vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
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the USBC Annual Meeting. Associations with youth would base their membership on USBC Youth members bowling in USBC Leagues within the association's jurisdiction, as follows:

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- d. A state or local association whose charter has been suspended or revoked, or an association that is delinquent in processing dues for the current bowling season, is not considered "in good standing" for purposes of Delegates or Alternate Delegates attending the USBC Annual Meeting;
- e. Athletes, as defined in these Bylaws, are eligible to serve as Delegates.
- f. USBC Hall of Fame members;
- g. USBC Board of Directors;
- h. For all purposes, voting power is the sum of items a through f.
4. **Delegate Responsibilities.** Delegates vote to:
 - a. Amend and approve the National, state and local mandatory bylaws, with the exception of provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations, provisions related to Athletes and Youth, and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law;
 - b. Establish standard maximum adult dues for National and state;
 - c. Elect Directors to fill open positions on the Board that are subject to election by the Delegates;
 - d. Approve adult league rules, and adult tournament rules for the sport of bowling.
5. **Meeting Notice.** Written notice of the USBC Annual Meeting is provided to Delegates and chartered state and local bowling associations in good standing at least 30 days in advance of the USBC Annual Meeting. Instructions for attending the Annual Meeting either in-person or via electronic means, will be available.
6. **Quorum.** The presence of 100 Delegates whether attending in person or remotely via electronic means establishes a quorum for the transaction of business at the USBC Annual Meeting.
7. **Action.** Elections by the Delegates are conducted according to policies and procedures established by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board. They shall provide for Delegates to vote either in-person or remotely via electronic means. The action of a majority of Delegates voting, either in-person or remotely via electronic means, when a quorum has been established, carries a motion unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.

If adopted, Article IV, Section A and Article VIII Amendments will be codified to conform.

REASON FOR PROPOSAL....

The most important aspect of membership in a membership organization is to have a voice. In the past years, the inability to afford to send delegates from small associations cost their members a vote in how the organization they fund is run. The emergence of COVID forced USBC to successfully utilize the very methods that are contained in this proposal. The success of the 2021 meeting proved that a combination of live meetings/workgroups and remote participants could be achieved without any loss of quality, without issue about ownership of votes, without loss of important information exchange, and without issues regarding a change in the writing of the rule via an amendment. All of these are addressed in this proposal, including the removal of permission for proxy/absentee balloting with the exception of valid delegates voting via electronic means at the same time in-person delegates do so. In the 2024-2025 Annual Meeting, USBC supported, and the delegates approved, a similar resolution in Alaska, as the distance of travel for members to the State Annual Meeting was prohibitive. This would simply allow the same ability for delegates across the nation as was approved for Alaska. As membership numbers continue to decline, it is vital that we give bowlers the most value for their sanction fee. Their voice is more important than anything, how they want to see our sport moving forward matters. Let's make that a permanent fixture in our sport. Let's let every member feel they can contribute through their elected delegates.

Presented by: Douglas Sass
Walkersville, MD

The USBC Board makes no recommendation on this proposal

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION – While the USBC Board is not making a recommendation, USBC is providing some background on this topic.

- Proposals for remote voting have failed to receive support on three separate occasions.
- The virtual convention in 2021 had remote voting. The result was a participation decline to only 653 delegates casting votes. This was the lowest vote participation of any USBC annual meeting in history.
- The proposal from Alaska last year was not the same premise. That proposal was to allow states authority to conduct virtual meetings if needed. It was not an endorsement of virtual voting.

The USBC Board believes there is tremendous benefit of in person attendance at USBC Convention for education and voting. That said, as with the last time this proposal came forward, the USBC Board believes the delegates are equipped to make the best choice for the organization on this issue and will support the preference of the delegation.

Delegate Action	Vote Count	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	_____	_____

RULES PROPOSAL NO. LR 1

PRESENT RULE...

USBC Playing Rules

Chapter 4: League Rules

Rule 108b, How Established

Rule 108b, How Established

Each league shall adopt a rule to determine the number of games required to establish an average in that league. The following applies when establishing an average:

1. A right-handed bowler must always bowl right-handed. Similarly, a left-handed bowler must always bowl left-handed.
Penalty: Forfeiture of game.
2. No combination of scores bowled both right- and left-handed can be used to compute an average, except as stipulated in Rule 4c.
3. The league's board of directors may, by majority vote, adjust a player's average before the player bowls in the league or during the season due to injury or disability. Separate averages must be maintained.
4. **Adult leagues:** The league's board of directors may, with two-thirds vote, adjust a player's average upward during the season. Separate averages must be maintained. The bowler must use the adjusted average or established league average (whichever is higher) for the remainder of the season.
5. **Youth leagues:** A bowler using a two-handed delivery will establish an average with two hands. When the bowler changes to a one-handed delivery, they must establish a new average using that hand.

PROPOSAL...

In Item 1, delete "always bowl" in the first and second sentences and replace with "make all first-ball deliveries".

Delete current Item 2 and replace with a new Item 2 to state:

"Attempts at spares can be made with either hand at the discretion of the bowler."

If adopted, Rule 108b will read:

Rule 108b, How Established

Each league shall adopt a rule to determine the number of games required to establish an average in that league. The following applies when establishing an average:

1. A right-handed bowler must make all first-ball deliveries right-handed. Similarly, a left-handed bowler must make all first-ball deliveries left-handed.
Penalty: Forfeiture of game.
2. Attempts at spares can be made with either hand at the discretion of the bowler.
3. The league's board of directors may, by majority vote, adjust a player's average before the player bowls in the league or during the season due to injury or disability. Separate averages must be maintained.
4. **Adult leagues:** The league's board of directors may, with two-thirds vote, adjust a player's average upward during the season. Separate averages must be maintained. The bowler must use the adjusted average or established league average (whichever is higher) for the remainder of the season.
5. **Youth leagues:** A bowler using a two-handed delivery will establish an average with two hands. When the bowler changes to a one-handed delivery, they must establish a new average using that hand.

REASON FOR PROPOSAL...

Isn't the objective in bowling to knock down as many pins as possible in order to achieve the highest score? If a bowler is athletic and skilled enough to use their opposite hand to increase their spare conversion rate, why shouldn't they be allowed to?

Consider this: a right-handed bowler leaves a 2-8-10 split—a notoriously difficult spare with a conversion rate of less than 1%. A left-handed bowler, however, would have a significantly higher chance of converting that same spare. If a right-handed bowler is athletic enough and has the ability to throw with their left hand to improve their odds, shouldn't that be encouraged rather than penalized?

In virtually every other sport, athletes are permitted to switch hands or use their non-dominant side when it benefits their performance:

- In baseball, batters may hit right- or left-handed depending on the situation.
- In soccer, players routinely kick with either their left or right foot.
- In football, Patrick Mahomes - primarily a right-handed quarterback - has thrown successful left-handed passes when the play demanded it.
- In golf, a right-handed golfer whose ball rests against a tree may legally strike the ball left-handed to advance it.

None of these athletes are penalized for adapting to the moment. Bowling should be no different.

I respectfully propose that Rule 108b be amended to allow bowlers to use whichever hand they deem necessary for their second throw in a frame, specifically for spare conversions. This change would honor athleticism, strategy, and the core objective of the sport: maximizing pinfall.

Presented by: Jeff Shircel
Sheboygan, WI

Recommended for rejection by the USBC Board of Directors

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION - This change benefits a small minority of members who are able to bowl well with either hand while allowing all other members to exploit the rule and threaten the integrity of their average. There are also concerns about how well the rule could be enforced by a league, if it is workable, and the impact it could have with pace of play.