



How to adopt a league prize list

Prize lists are estimated. The amount available to create proposals is based on the league's estimated income less estimated expenses.

When to adopt

The prize list must be adopted within five (5) weeks of the start of the league schedule (Rule 117a). The president appoints a committee (Rule 104b) of one or more league members to prepare one or more prize list proposals for the league to choose from. The committee must abide by any league rules when creating a prize list. It is acceptable to adopt a prize list at the league organizational meeting.

What to consider

A prize list should be fair and consider all teams and bowlers. Remember, everyone is contributing to the prize fund and should receive a reasonable amount in return. Some prize lists pay team prizes only while others pay team prizes and special individual/team prizes. Popular prize list formats include the drop down, where the dollar amount decreases with the standings, a base amount for each team plus point money or just point money.

USBC Rule 106b allows a bowler or team to win once in each special prize category. This means a bowler can win a prize for each accomplishment but only once in a category. For example, one bowler bowls the highest scratch and handicap game in the league and also the third-highest scratch game in the league. The bowler, according to Rule 106b, is eligible for the first-place prize for both the high scratch game and high handicap game categories but not the third-place prize in the high scratch game category.

Leagues often adopt rules to limit one prize per bowler to allow more bowlers to earn prize money for accomplishments. In this case, the league should adopt a rule to determine what category takes precedence, scratch or handicap, game or series.

How to vote

A meeting should be held to discuss and vote on prize list proposals. This gives league members or the board (whichever has the authority to vote on the prize list) the opportunity to discuss and possibly amend the prize lists presented prior to voting.

Prize lists are adopted by a majority of the votes cast, not the most votes. A majority is one more than half the votes cast. In instances where a league passes prize lists during bowling with directions to vote for one, the voting members should be told to vote no if none of the proposals are satisfactory. A lower number of votes cast creates a lower majority, which could result in adoption of a prize list favored by a minority of the league.

For example, there are 22 members on the league board. If all 22 members cast a vote, one proposal must receive 12 yes votes to be adopted. However, let's say half of the board members do not like the prize list and abstain, causing only 11 votes to be cast. With only 11 votes cast, the majority needed to approve the prize list now drops to six votes. If the 11 captains who abstained had voted no instead, the majority would've remained at 12 votes to pass or defeat the proposal.

If after multiple vote attempts none of the proposals can obtain a majority of votes for adoption, the board can authorize the prize committee to amend the prize lists currently under consideration or submit additional proposals to the league for consideration. At that point, the voting process would start over again.

