RULES EXTRA

A Future FOR THE Sport

2026-2027 Playing Rules Book **November 2026**

Last month, we discussed:

- League Presidents' responsibilities
- USBC bonding coverage
- League committees and their roles
- Adding and dropping teams

If you missed last month's Rules Extra, please click **here**.

This month, we will cover:

- League finances
- Position rounds
- Prize fund adoption

Please forward Rules Extra via email to your fellow officers and league members. If you are no longer a league officer, please forward Rules Extra to newly elected officers.



League finances
Following the rules and procedures for league finances is essential. League funds must be deposited within seven days of receipt. The president must do the math monthly to verify the league account has the correct amount of money on deposit. Learn more about league finances.

Position rounds
What is a position round? A position round, as defined in Rule 107, is a session on the league schedule in which the match pairings are based on the current team standings. In most cases, the team in first place will bowl against the team in second place, third place will bowl fourth place and so on.

The most frequent questions submitted to Rules regarding position rounds are as follows:

1 – **How do we make the pairings when we have teams with the same records?**
Unless the league has adopted another procedure based on pinfall, ties to **determine position-round pairings** can be broken using the total scratch pinfall in scratch leagues and total pinfall with handicap in handicap leagues. Remember, this is only to break the ties to determine which teams will face each other in a position round…not to break ties of the position round matches.

2 - **Can a substitute be used in a position round?**
Yes, substitutes may be used unless the league rules state otherwise. USBC rules do not restrict the use of any individual during specific league contests. However, leagues may adopt special eligibility requirements to participate in positions rounds, such as requiring bowlers to have

completed a minimum number of games to participate or restrictions on the use of substitutes in these matches.

IN THE NEWS

Digital membership cards coming in 2027-28
With the 2026-2027 season underway, we want to share an update about USBC membership for future seasons.

Beginning with the 2027-2028 season, USBC membership cards will transition to a digital format. This change applies to the membership card itself and does not change how bowlers can purchase or apply for USBC membership.

Bowlers will continue to have the same membership options available today:

- **Online:** Purchase USBC membership at BOWL.com.
- **Through a certified league:** Join through your league using a paper membership application.

USBC will also continue to provide associations with membership applications and other necessary supplies each year for distribution to league officials.

Our goal is to make membership information and credentials more accessible digitally while continuing to support the established processes used by associations, leagues and bowlers.
For questions about USBC membership, please contact MA@Bowl.com.

Don't forget about adopting the prize fund. Rule 106a requires proposals to be presented for adoption by the fifth week of the schedule. League presidents, it is your duty to ensure a prize list is adopted in a timely manner. If this has not been done, please appoint a prize fund committee immediately and ask them to get at least one proposal submitted to the league for adoption as quickly as possible. Click how to adopt a prize list for more details.

ATHLETE SAFETY/RVP

Athlete Safety/RVP
The Registered Volunteer Program is designed to create awareness about emotional, physical and sexual abuse through education and prevention policies.

All league officers must be RVP-compliant if they are operating an **Adult/Youth** or a **Youth** league. These consist of any league in which a minor (17 years of age or younger) is allowed to participate. You will need to successfully complete SafeSport training and a background screen through NCSI. In addition, you must follow all policies in the Athlete Safety & RVP Handbook when your competition allows bowlers under the age of 18 to participate.

By certifying an event, you are responsible for ensuring compliance with USBC's policies and procedures as found in the USBC Playing Rules book, Athlete Safety & RVP Handbook and all other policies and procedures. Failing to do so could result in USBC revoking the certification status.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please be aware that the following courses will be updated Monday, Nov. 23, 2026:

- SafeSport Trained Core
- Refreshers 1, 2 and 3

Please complete the in-progress course by Sunday, Nov. 22 to avoid having your progress reset and having to restart the course from the beginning.

To learn more about the Athlete Safety/RVP Handbook, click here.

To become a Registered Volunteer, click here.



Mythbusters

Busted, Plausible, or Confirmed:
Myth #6: The league president must calculate weekly fees to verify the account.
Myth #11: I can put league funds into my personal account.
Myth #17: Substitutes cannot be used for a position match or playoff.

Get the answers to these and other bowling myths.

Have questions??? Submit questions regarding your league rules or USBC rules in general to us via email at **Rules@bowl.com.** If the question is about your specific league rules, please attach a copy of your rules for our reference.