



# ***RULES***

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE REOPENING OF CENTERS AND COVID-19**

Many leagues and tournaments were stopped with the closure of bowling centers because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact center management to discuss league and tournament options and the center's policies for competition.

- 1. Once an agreement for scheduling is reached, who must be contacted regarding the new end date for a league or tournament?**  
Leagues should contact the local association and tournaments need to contact USBC/Rules.
- 2. Can a league or tournament adapt the schedule to accommodate social distancing?**  
Yes. Tournament management or the league board of directors (officers and team captains) may make scheduling changes to comply with governmental restrictions. The league board makes the decision by a majority of the votes cast.
- 3. Can opponents be scheduled on different lanes?**  
Yes. A league or tournament may change the schedule to allow this.
- 4. Can the league or tournament set a schedule so there are open lanes between teams?**  
Yes, this would be acceptable. We suggest you work with bowling center management before deciding how to schedule teams.
- 5. Can a tournament allow walk-ins during the newly scheduled squads?**  
If the closing date has not passed, walk-ins are allowed.
- 6. Can a league compete at different times or days to accommodate the schedule changes?**  
Yes. Bowling at different times or days is acceptable and will be considered one scheduled league session.
- 7. If the league bowls separate days or times, will high score awards be recognized?**  
USBC High Scores bowled during either shift will be recognized because these are considered the same match.
- 8. Can a team bowl on a one lane only, instead of alternating on a pair?**  
Yes. USBC has waived the rules that state two lanes must be used for competition and bowlers must alternate lanes, so a team can bowl on one lane.
- 9. Are league officers bonded if the schedule is extended?**  
Yes. Please notify the local association of the new end date.

**10. A league or tournament continuing its schedule adopts a format for lane assignment that is unacceptable to some league members or tournament entrants. Can members withdraw from the league or tournament?**

Yes. USBC holds that any member who withdraws from a league because of changes in the schedule during the COVID-19 pandemic has sufficient cause for withdrawal per Rule 121a.

The individual must give notice to the league and the league could hold him/her responsible for the two-week withdrawal fees. However, USBC will not hold one accountable in paying the fees for the two-week notice requirement should the league proceed with Rule 122b proceedings. USBC would only hold the person responsible for payment of fees owed prior to the two-week notice.

As the player has sufficient cause for withdrawal, they would be entitled to a prorated share of prize money based on the number of league sessions for which they paid.

Tournament entrants who decide to withdraw are entitled to a full refund of entry fees or an entry to the next tournament may be offered.

**11. Since COVID-19 remains on hard surfaces, can bowling balls be cleaned during play?**

Yes. USBC has made an exception for Rule 18, which restricts the use of liquid cleaners to clean the outer surface of the bowling ball during USBC certified competition. Bowlers temporarily will be allowed to use isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) to clean their bowling ball during competition. The exception for Rule 18 applies only to isopropyl alcohol – no other USBC-approved cleaners will be allowed during competition.