



## Vacancy scores

Teams without full rosters receive a vacancy score.

In adult leagues, unless league rules state otherwise, the vacancy score is 120.

In youth leagues, unless league rules state otherwise, the vacancy score shall be the average of the lowest average bowler on the opposing team's roster. If two or more vacancy scores are required, the average of the next-to-the-lowest bowler on the opposing team's roster shall be used for the second vacancy score. Youth leagues also may set their own vacancy score.

**1. Can the league adopt a vacancy score other than 120?**

Yes, without a rule the default for the vacancy score is 120.

**2. Can a league adopt a rule that limits handicap for the vacancy score?**

Although USBC does not recommend limiting handicap for the vacancy scores, leagues may do so by rule. Rule 100d, item d.

**3. Can a league adopt a rule stating there will be no handicap given for a vacancy score?**

Yes, the league can adopt a rule restricting handicap for a vacancy score. While USBC recommends the vacancy score receive the same handicap percentage the league utilizes for its regular members, Rule 112, Item d allows the league by rule to determine the percentage of handicap the vacancy score will receive.

**4. Can a league adopt a rule penalizing the vacancy score?**

Yes, a league may adopt such a rule.

**5. If a team has a vacancy for the entire season and no prize money was paid for that position how is the team prize money paid?**

The team prize payment is prorated on the actual number of paying players. For example, if a league has a playing strength of four players and a team that has three bowlers, prize money (based on four players) is \$400; the team receives \$300. Conversely, if the team paid prize money for the fourth bowler, the team receives full payment.

**6. How is prize money paid when a player withdraws properly creating a vacant position?**

Prize money in this situation is prorated based on the number of weeks the player pays into the prize list, the team would not receive any additional funds if the spot was not paid.

For example, a league bowls 25 weeks and each team has four players. The team prize money is \$400.00 or \$100 per bowler. When a bowler leaves during the season and the spot is unpaid, you divide the individual prize money by the number of weeks to get the amount per week ( $100/25 = \$4.00$  per week). This amount is then multiplied by the number of weeks the bowler paid into the prize fund and is the amount the team receives for that bowler.

**7. If a bowler on the roster is absent the first night is the vacancy score used?**

An absentee score is used unless otherwise provided by league rules or past precedent established in the league. If there is a question as to whether the individual absent is a member of the team's roster, the league board of directors decides the matter.

**8. Can a vacancy score be used when the roster meets or exceeds the playing strength of the league?**

No. When bowlers are listed on the team roster, there is no vacancy. The absentee score of the absent bowler with the most games bowled is used.





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**9. Can a league adopt a rule stating the vacancy counts toward a legal lineup?**

No. A legal lineup must be present before the vacancy score can be used. There is no option in Rule 112 to allow a league to adopt such a rule.

**10. Can the vacancy score be used to replace scores bowled by an ineligible player?**

No, this is not an option for a league board or officer to consider in a situation where an ineligible player is used.