

Chapter 5: Sport Bowling

Introduction

The rules included in this chapter are unique to Sport Bowling, an optional upgrade to standard membership. Sport Bowling is recognized as the highest level of competitive bowling and takes place on more challenging lane patterns designed to emphasize a bowler's consistency and ability to deal with changing lane conditions. To be officially recognized, a USBC Sport Bowling league or tournament must be registered on the Sport Bowling section of BOWL.com prior to the start of competition.

The following rules for Sport Bowling were approved by USBC in accordance with the authority granted it in *Article 4, Section E of the USBC Bylaws*. In the absence of a rule or specification, the USBC rules and specifications governing standard leagues and tournaments shall be followed for Sport Bowling competition.

(More information on Sport Bowling can be found on BOWL.com.)

Rule 200 – Definition

200a. League

A Sport Bowling league is defined as a league meeting the following requirements:

1. The league is registered with USBC prior to the start of competition.
2. The league's entire schedule takes place in a center in compliance with Rule 206b.
3. All rules and specifications for Sport Bowling are adhered to.

200b. Tournament

A Sport Bowling tournament is defined as a tournament meeting the following requirements:

1. The tournament is registered with USBC prior to the start of competition.
2. All competition takes place in a center in compliance with Rule 206b.
3. All rules and specifications for Sport Bowling are adhered to.

Rule 201 - Membership

All bowlers participating in USBC Sport Bowling leagues must pay or provide proof of payment of the Sport Bowling membership dues (\$15 for adults; \$10 for youth) in addition to all required standard USBC membership dues. Unless required by tournament rule, participants in Sport Bowling tournaments are not required to be Sport Bowling members.

Substitutes in USBC Sport Bowling leagues are permitted to participate in one league session per season without the requirement to purchase Sport Bowling membership if they have already purchased USBC standard membership for the current season. Only USBC Sport Bowling members are eligible for USBC Sport Bowling awards.

Basic USBC membership dues for USBC Lifetime members will be paid by the organization, but the bowler is responsible for paying the additional Sport Bowling dues.



Rule 202 – Average Adjustment

202a. Scale

The scale below would be used to adjust Sport Bowling averages upward, as required, for use in standard competition.

SPORT AVERAGE ADJUSTMENT SCALE

Sport Bowling League Average Adjustment to Standard Average

Sport League Average	Adjusted Average	Sport League Average	Adjusted Average	Sport League Average	Adjusted Average	Sport League Average	Adjusted Average
0-110	Same	138	160	167	191	196	212
111	113	139	161	168	192	197	213
112	116	140	162	169	192	198	213
113	118	141	163	170	193	199	214
114	121	142	164	171	194	200	214
115	123	143	166	172	195	201	215
116	126	144	167	173	196	202	215
117	128	145	168	174	197	203	216
118	131	146	169	175	197	204	216
119	133	147	170	176	198	205	217
120	136	148	171	177	199	206	217
121	137	149	173	178	200	207	218
122	139	150	174	179	201	208	218
123	140	151	175	180	201	209	219
124	141	152	176	181	202	210	219
125	143	153	177	182	203	211	220
126	144	154	178	183	204	212	220
127	145	155	179	184	204	213	220
128	147	156	180	185	205	214	221
129	148	157	181	186	206	215	221
130	149	158	182	187	206	216	221
131	151	159	183	188	207	217	222
132	152	160	184	189	208	218	222
133	153	161	185	190	208	219	222
134	155	162	186	191	209	220	223
135	156	163	187	192	210	221	223
136	157	164	188	193	210	222	223
137	158	165	189	194	211	223	224
		166	190	195	212	224 and up	same



Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 202a.

202a/1 What is a Sport Bowling Average Adjustment Scale?

- a. The Sport Average Adjustment Scale has been formulated through evaluation of Sport League bowlers on various Sport lane conditions. As additional data is obtained, slight changes to the scale may occur yearly. If so, the updated scale will be appropriately distributed.
- b. The Sport Average Adjustment Scale has been statistically designed to correct 95% of the Sport League bowlers' averages to within 5% of their standard average.
- c. The Sport Average Adjustment Scale is not considered a "re-rate" of the bowler; it is to allow for a fair adjustment to what would be expected of the bowler during competition on a typical league and tournament condition.
- d. The Sport Average Adjustment Scale does not supersede the abilities of a tournament director to further adjust a bowler's entering average upward prior to participation in a tournament. (See Rule 319c.)

(See Rules 202b, 202c, 202d and 202e.)

202a/2 If I have an established USBC standard average and a USBC Sport Bowling average, what entering average is used in a standard tournament/league?

If a bowler has an established standard average, that average shall be used for all standard tournaments/leagues unless the tournament/league entering average rules state otherwise.

202b. Sport to Standard League

A bowler must submit and use his/her adjusted Sport Bowling league average utilizing the Sport Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a) and identify themselves as a Sport Bowler if the:

1. Bowler is entering a standard league; and
2. League's entering average rule requires the bowler to use the average; and
3. Bowler does not have a standard league average from the same season(s) specified in the league's entering average rule as the Sport Bowling average.

A bowler is required to submit his/her adjusted Sport Bowling league average utilizing the Sport Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a) in leagues that use composite averages for entering and/or handicap purposes.

Nothing in this rule supersedes the league's authority to raise a bowler's adjusted average prior to entering. A bowler's failure to comply with these provisions could result in forfeiture of games bowled.

Commonly Asked Question – Rule 202b.

202b/1 If a bowler only bowls in a Sport Bowling league, how is his/her average adjusted for standard leagues and tournaments?

Because Sport Bowling conditions are more challenging than typical standard conditions, a bowler's average under Sport conditions will typically be lower. We have confirmed this through the analysis of scores from Sport Bowling leagues and tournaments. In an effort to equalize competition during standard tournaments, a Sport Average Adjustment Scale has been formulated for bowlers who ONLY have a Sport Bowling average. (See Rule 202a for the Sport Average Adjustment Scale.)

202c. Standard to Sport League

In Sport Bowling leagues, prior to participation, the entering average of a participant with only a standard league average may be adjusted downward by the league's board of directors utilizing the Sport Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a). If such an average is adjusted downward, the league board of directors cannot adjust it lower than the corresponding Sport league average listed in the scale.

202d. Sport to Standard Tournament

A bowler must submit and use his/her adjusted Sport Bowling league average utilizing the USBC Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a) and identify themselves as a Sport Bowler if the:

1. Bowler is participating in a standard tournament; and
2. Tournament's entering average rule requires the bowler to use the average; and
3. Bowler does not have a standard league average from the same season(s) specified in the tournament's entering average rule as the Sport Bowling average.



A bowler is required to submit his/her adjusted Sport Bowling league average utilizing the Sport Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a) in tournaments that use composite averages for entering and/or handicap purposes.

Compliance with Rule 319a, Item 2 and Rule 319e will be determined based on the bowler's adjusted Sport Bowling league average using the Sport Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a) or his/her standard league average, whichever applies.

Nothing in this rule supersedes tournament management's authority to raise the bowler's adjusted average prior to bowling. A bowler's failure to comply with these provisions could result in disqualification.

Commonly Asked Question – Rule 202d.

202d/1 If I bowl in a USBC standard tournament and my Sport Bowling average is adjusted, will I qualify for USBC standard tournament awards?

Yes, providing all of the tournament eligibility requirements are met.

202e. Standard to Sport Tournament

In Sport Bowling tournaments, prior to participation, the entering average of a participant with only a standard league average may be adjusted downward by tournament management utilizing the Sport Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a). If such an average is adjusted downward, tournament management cannot adjust it lower than the corresponding Sport league average listed in the scale.

Rule 203 - Lane Dressing/Lane Dressing Inspections

Each league or tournament is responsible for arranging lane dressing inspections as required by USBC for Sport Bowling leagues and tournaments. Games bowled on conditions not properly inspected or not complying with Sport Bowling lane dressing requirements are not eligible for Sport Bowling awards and shall be issued standard USBC awards. (See the USBC *Sport Bowling Manual* in the Sport Bowling section of BOWL.com for details.)

Rule 204 - Awards

Special enhanced awards will be issued to Sport Bowling members who participate in Sport Bowling competition, when the provisions of Rule 203 and Rule 205 have been met, for the following accomplishments:

Series	Game	Elite Average
900*	300*, 299*	215 and greater, Adult Male (21 games)
800-899*	75 pins over average	195 and greater, Adult Female (21 games)
Clean Series	11 strikes in a row in a game of 298 or less	200 and greater, Youth Male (21 games)
		180 and greater, Youth Female (21 games)

**Cannot be earned while pre- or post-bowling unopposed.*

In the application of Rule 53, Sport Bowling averages can only be used when bowling in Sport Bowling competition.

A Sport Bowling member is eligible for one of each of the above awards per season except for the 300 game. (Members receive the Sport Bowling 300 game "Add a Stone" ring for their first Sport 300 game. Diamonds for the ring are issued for each successive 300 Sport game.) Standard USBC awards will be issued for all accomplishments not covered above. Scores bowled on non-complying Sport Bowling conditions will be issued standard USBC awards.

Sport National High Average*

1. Each fiscal year, recognition will be given to the USBC male, female, youth male and youth female Sport Bowling member having the highest USBC sport average based on 48 or more games bowled as a USBC Sport Bowling member in a USBC Sport league.
2. The association is to forward information concerning these members who have attained a qualifying average to USBC Headquarters, Attn. Sport Bowling.
3. To be eligible for recognition, all qualifying averages must be received by USBC Headquarters on or before October 1 of the next fiscal year.

**Cannot be earned while pre- or post-bowling unopposed.*



Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 204.

204/1 Will I receive a Sport award if the lanes do not meet the minimum requirements for a Sport Bowling pattern?

If the lane conditions do not comply with Sport Bowling lane dressing requirements, an award from the standard USBC program will be issued where applicable. See Rules 203 and 204 for further reference.

204/2 If I bowl in a Sport League and also bowl in a standard league, will I earn both a Sport award and a standard award?

USBC Sport bowlers remain eligible to receive regular recognition in standard leagues/tournaments for the same achievement in accordance with the USBC rules governing standard bowling. For example, a member bowling a 300 game in a Sport Bowling league will receive the Sport 300 award. If at another time the same member bowls a 300 game in standard competition, they would also receive the standard 300 award.

204/3 If I bowl a 600 series in a standard league, may I also get a 600 in a Sport League?

USBC does not offer a separate Sport award for a 600 series. If a Sport Bowling member qualifies for both a 600 series in Sport Bowling competition and standard competition, he/she will only receive the award for the first qualifying 600 series.

Rule 205 - Equipment Restrictions

Equipment designated by USBC as not approved for use in Sport Bowling leagues and tournaments cannot be used. Games bowled with unapproved Sport Bowling equipment are not eligible for USBC Sport Bowling awards and shall be subject to forfeiture/disqualification.

Commonly Asked Question – Rule 205.

205/1 Are there any equipment restrictions for Sport Bowling?

As part of the technical requirements for Sport Bowling, the program has no equipment restrictions at this time. However, league rules may be adopted to restrict equipment, i.e., two-ball leagues, plastic ball leagues. Visit the league formats section on the Sport Bowling page on BOWL.com for some great league format ideas.

Rule 206 – Sport Certified Centers

206a. Requirements to Host Sport Bowling

To obtain and retain a Sport center certificate to host Sport Bowling competition, the center must:

1. Be USBC certified.
2. Have access to a tape take-up device.
3. Have registered the center online on BOWL.com/sportbowling.
4. Have an approved Sport Bowling lane dressing inspection on file with USBC Headquarters.
5. Submit graphs and/or tapes every week for every competition.
6. Be in compliance with all USBC certification requirements in addition to all Sport Bowling lane dressing requirements.

(See the *USBC Sport Bowling Manual* in the Sport Bowling section of BOWL.com for details).

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 206a.

206a/1 What is the process for submitting tapes/graphs for leagues?

Tapes or graphs are required to be submitted to USBC Headquarters for your league on a weekly basis.

Sport Bowling tapes/graphs may be sent to USBC Headquarters as follows:

- a. Graphs:
 1. Faxed to 817-385-8260; or
 2. Emailed to sportbowling@BOWL.com
- b. Tapes are mailed to:

United States Bowling Congress
Attn. Sport Bowling
621 Six Flags Drive
Arlington, Texas 76011



206a/2 What happens if we fail to submit weekly tapes or graphs?

Failure to submit tapes or graphs may result in your bowling center's Sport Bowling certification being pulled. Sport Bowling retains the right to withdraw a center/league's Sport Certification:

- a. If the center fails to meet the requirements of Rule 206a, which includes submitting graphs or tapes every week of competition.
- b. If the center accumulates two warnings within a 12-month period for noncompliance.

(See Rule 206b and the *USBC Sport Bowling Manual, Chapter 5, Section 5.3.5*, for the complete directive.)

206b. Retention of Sport Center Certificates

Once a bowling center has demonstrated compliance with the requirements of Rule 206a, a certificate will be issued. The certificate is required for the center to host Sport Bowling competition. USBC retains the authority to withdraw the certificate at its discretion and/or if the center fails to continue to meet the requirements of Rule 206a. When USBC finds noncompliance with any of the requirements, the following will apply:

1. Failure to Submit Tapes/Graphs.

- a. A league that fails to submit graphs/tapes for two (2) consecutive weeks will be contacted by USBC to determine the problem and assist with a resolution.
- b. If USBC does not receive tapes for four (4) weeks, a warning letter will be issued providing 14 days to come into compliance.
- c. After six (6) consecutive weeks of no tapes, the league's Sport certification for that season will be pulled.

2. Noncompliant Sport Conditions.

If a league submits graphs/tapes and are noncompliant:

- a. 0-15% weeks of the league schedule, USBC Headquarters will contact the league contact/center to discuss noncompliance and assist with resolution.
- b. 16-35% weeks of the league schedule, USBC Headquarters will determine the extent of noncompliant issues and, at its discretion, make a decision which could be pulling the Sport Bowling certification of the league.
- c. 36% or more weeks of the league schedule, the league Sport Bowling certification automatically will be pulled for the remainder of that league schedule.

(See the *USBC Sport Bowling Manual* in the Sport Bowling section of BOWL.com.)

Rule 207 - Submission of Scores/Prize Winnings

For Sport Bowling tournaments, the tournament manager shall be responsible for submitting all scores and a prize list to USBC Headquarters within 30 days of the tournament's conclusion.

