

LEAGUE DESIGNATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **There are numbers on the conversion scale that are missing, i.e. 134 for Standard. What do I do if I have that average and am converting to Sport?**

The “missing” numbers are due to the fluctuations in average differences based upon skill level for bowlers competing on Standard conditions versus Sport or Challenge conditions. If your raw average is not on the chart, move up one pin and then utilize the chart. Similarly, if your adjusted average has multiple scores, you will use the higher of the options.

2. **Why is there a new conversion chart for Standard averages converting to Sport?**

The previous Sport Adjustment Chart only factored going from Sport averages to Standard averages; it did not incorporate going from Standard to Sport. Data proved there were significant differences for bowlers at the high and low ends, which previously was not taken into consideration. For example, a bowler with a 240 Standard average previously equated to a 240 Sport average, as any average over 228 was the same. This is not the case, as the new chart takes both directions of conversion into consideration.

3. **If I must use a converted Sport or Challenge average in a tournament, is this considered an adjustment under Rule 319c?**

The Sport and Challenge classifications are automatic conversions, just as converting averages from Sport to Standard were in the past. They are not adjustments.

4. **How does this affect our league if we use a Red, White or Blue pattern?**

Leagues will choose one of three designations for lane conditions – Standard, Challenge, or Sport. Leagues utilizing a variety of conditions, none of which meet the difficulty of Sport, should choose Challenge.

5. **How is the determination made to investigate a “house shot” league’s averages to see if the league should be reclassified as a Sport or Challenge condition?**

Information has come from a variety of places, most commonly from fellow bowlers or tournaments reporting a suspicious average of a bowler. The membership team then researches the league, including comparing averages of bowlers who also have a Standard average.

6. **What is the procedure for initiating an investigation into determining if a league’s classification is correct?**

An email to sportbowling@bowl.com is the easiest way.

7. When do the new average conversion charts take effect?

The classification for leagues will be reported on the league application for 2017-2018 leagues, which is any league beginning after Aug. 1, 2017. Leagues in the 2016-2017 season will be re-classified, as well, as it will impact participation in tournaments and leagues for the 2017-2018 season and beyond.

8. What if a bowling center's averages are lower across the board, compared to another center in our association? Will every bowler from that center be subject to average conversion?

The difference from center to center, in terms of difficulty, is an issue that bowling has always faced. The introduction of the Challenge lane condition classification does not resolve this issue. If the disparity among averages from one center to another is large enough to be reflective of the Challenge conversion chart, those leagues should be marked as such to then show proper average reflection when bowlers from various centers compete against one another.

9. Will all leagues have their averages analyzed to ensure they are selecting the correct classification?

An end-of-season analysis of leagues will be run, once averages are turned in for most all leagues.

10. Should leagues and tournaments review their entering average rule(s) to include both conversion charts?

Yes, leagues and tournaments should look at their rules to ensure conversion of averages is covered.

11. Can a league or tournament use "regular" averages only and not utilize Challenge or Sport Averages?

The default USBC rule indicates the bowler's highest average is to be their entering average. There is the small possibility a bowler's highest average is in a Sport or Challenge league. A tournament can choose to accept the highest of either the highest average, with the adjustment being considered as well for a Sport or Challenge league.

12. What will be the new designations for leagues going forward?

Standard (house), Challenge, and Sport. Standard averages will be averages without an icon on Find A Member.

13. I feel my league has been improperly classified. What is the procedure for appealing the designation?

An email should be sent to Rules@bowl.com with all supporting documentation for the claim.