

## **2014-15 SEASON HIGH SCORE AWARDS CHANGES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Starting August 1, 2014, the high score awards given to USBC adult members for a 300 game, 800 series or 900 series will become once-in-a-lifetime awards. This change comes as part of USBC's strategy to focus resources on national governing body services. As part of the change to the high score awards program, any USBC member who received an award in one of the high score achievement categories as an adult prior to August 1, 2014, will not receive an award for that achievement again.

### **Q. Why are the high score awards changing to once-in-a-lifetime awards?**

**A.** A high score achievement, such as a 300 game or 800 series, is an outstanding accomplishment and should be recognized at the national level when the milestone is reached for the first time. However, it is not an appropriate role of the National Governing Body to repeatedly recognize bowlers for the same milestone. As the National Governing Body of the sport, USBC's mission is to provide resources and standards for bowling, not to serve as a supplier of awards.

### **Q. I have an adult award for a 300 game and 800 series. Will I get another award if I bowl another 300 game or 800 series after Aug. 1, 2014?**

**A.** No. If you have received an adult high score award prior to August 1, 2014, you cannot receive an award for that achievement again. Once you have received an adult high score award from USBC, you will have the ability to purchase an award for the same subsequent high scores.

### **Q. If high score awards are now once-in-a-lifetime awards, are the awards being upgraded?**

**A.** No. The awards will be similar to the current awards offered. You still will have the option to purchase upgrades to your award.

### **Q. I have an adult 300 game, but now I'm bowling in a Sport league. Will I get an award for bowling a Sport 300 game or Sport 800 series?**

**A.** Yes. Awards for Sport Bowling, which uses lane conditions that are more challenging and requires a membership upgrade, will not change, with the exception of the 11-in-a-row award, which no longer is a recognized achievement. Sport Bowling members will continue to be eligible for high score awards once each season.

### **Q. Are there any other ways to receive a high score award?**

**A.** Yes, if you bowl a high score in the USBC Open Championships or USBC Women's Championships. Because these tournaments are the most prestigious and challenging events for USBC members each year, USBC will continue to provide unique high score awards for the tournaments.

### **Q. Does this change involve youth bowlers?**

**A.** No. USBC Youth membership is a completely separate program governed by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee.

**Q. Will my high scores still be recognized in my USBC record?**

**A.** Yes. It is important for bowlers to submit high score award forms so their record can be updated with each high score achievement. The records of bowlers are used by local and state associations when determining yearly honors or evaluating Hall of Fame nominees. The International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame also uses the information for the Hometown Heroics archive.

**Q. Why is the 11-in-a-row award being discontinued?**

**A.** The best achievement in a single game of bowling, and the ultimate goal of a bowler in each game, should be to bowl a 300 game. While 11 strikes in a row is impressive, USBC no longer will recognize falling short of the ultimate goal in a game. Also, for bowlers with multiple 300 games, this removes any incentive to fall short intentionally in order to receive an additional award.

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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – LEAGUE RULES**

**102a/1 I was at our league’s organizational meeting and the league elected the treasurer’s husband as their president. Is this legal?**

No, two immediate family members cannot hold the offices of president or vice-president and secretary-treasurer or treasurer in the same league. Therefore, one of these officers must resign and the league board (officers and team captains) proceeds in voting in a new officer.

**102a/2 How should a league handle complaints regarding problems within the center?**

When the league has concerns regarding lanes, equipment, loud music, etc., the league officers, or a committee appointed by the league president, may discuss the problem with center management in an effort to resolve the matter.

**102a/3 Who is considered immediate family?**

Members of an immediate family include mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, husbands, sons, brothers, fathers, stepsisters, stepbrothers, stepmothers, stepfathers and in-laws. Two members of an immediate family cannot serve as president or vice-president and secretary-treasurer or treasurer of the same league or co-sign

**102c/1 Our league president and treasurer are best friends. Due to their relationship, is the president still required to verify the league’s bank balance on a monthly basis?**

Yes, the friendship or relationship does not excuse the president from his/her responsibility of personally verifying the league account each month. Failure to verify this information monthly could affect the league’s bonding coverage.

**102c/2 As president, I receive our league account bank statement each month and verify the league’s bank balance. Do I have to do anything else?**

Yes, you must also look at the treasurer’s records to determine if all funds paid are accounted for. For example, some individuals may be behind in fees, while others may have paid for the entire season. The amount on deposit must be the amount received by the league. Also, you

need to appoint an audit committee. The audit committee should check the treasurer's records at specified times during the season to verify that incomes, expenditures, balances and records have been accurately kept.

**102c/3 Who has the right to request an audit?**

Any member of the league has the right to request an audit. The request should be done in writing to the league president along with information to support or justify the audit.

**102c/4 Can a league conduct more than one audit?**

Yes, the minimum requirement for audits is one audit must be completed no earlier than one month prior to the end of the league schedule. A league may conduct an earlier audit(s) but still must have the end of season audit within the last month of the league schedule.

**102e/1 Who has the right to see the league records?**

Although the secretary and treasurer are responsible for maintaining an accurate and complete account of scores and finances, the records are league property. Therefore, all league members have the right to see the records. However, so as not to disrupt bowling, arrangements should be made to view the records either before or after bowling, or at some other time agreeable to the officer(s).

**102e/2 Our bowling league utilizes the center's secretarial service. Do we still need to elect a league secretary?**

Yes, Rule 102a requires each league to elect a secretary. Since the league utilizes the center's secretarial service, the league secretary should work together with the bowling center and is responsible for ensuring that all duties listed under Rule 102e are being properly fulfilled.

**102e/3 Can a proprietor require our league to use and pay for the secretarial services provided by the center?**

Yes. This and other proprietor provided services are issues negotiated between the league and the center. Although a proprietor can provide the service, it is up to the board of directors to determine if the league will utilize it. However, whether the league uses the service or not, the proprietor may still require payment. In cases where the league utilizes a secretarial service provided by the bowling center, the league is still required to appoint a secretary and treasurer. These officials are required to ensure that all duties as specified in Rule 102e and Rule 102f are fulfilled.

**102e/4 How long must league records be maintained?**

USBC does not have any rule regarding how long the secretary's records (i.e., minutes, prize lists, copies of recaps and standings sheets, league rules, etc.) should be kept. This is an issue to be determined by each league. Recaps can be destroyed after the season has been completed and all records have been finalized. However, Rule 102e, Item 8, requires this information to be turned over to the newly elected officer when there is a change in league officers. As to the treasurer's records, Rule 102f, Item 7, requires all financial records, whether in the possession of the former officer or newly elected officer, be retained for at least one year following the completion of the schedule.

**118b/1 If a bowler uses his/her opposite hand to make a delivery during a game, what happens?**

If an individual does not have permission from the league board of directors, a league officer or the league board would then have the following options within the timelines as stated in Rule 119.

Option 1: Declare the individual's game forfeited: The bowler would receive zero for the game. *(Note: Scores bowled by the other team members not in violation stand as bowled.)*

Option 2: Declare the team's game forfeited: The team would receive zero for the game. *(Note: The individual in violation would receive zero. However, scores bowled by the other team members count toward their individual averages and league awards unless the league rules state otherwise.)*

**118b/2 A bowler decides to throw at a spare by delivering their bowling ball between their legs. Would this be considered a change in delivery and a violation of Rule 118b?**

The bowler has changed or deviated from their normal delivery which is a violation of Rule 118b. This rule provides a penalty of forfeiture of the individual's/team's game in which this action occurred.

**118b/3 A bowler is using the two-handed approach. The bowler's dominate hand is the right hand. Can the bowler use the right hand for spares?**

Yes, since both deliveries are with the same dominate hand, the bowler did not change delivery and, therefore, is not in violation of any USBC rules.

**118b/4 A player started league bowling right-handed, but later decided to use a two-handed approach. Is this a change of delivery and in violation of Rule 118b?**

No, as long as all deliveries are made with the right hand, this would not be a violation of Rule 118b.

**118b/5 What are the requirements of a delivery for a two-handed approach?**

A two-handed bowler is required to use the same dominant hand during their delivery on both their first and second shots (this refers to the hand in which the bowling ball rests). They also have the option of utilizing a thumb hole or not—both are acceptable. However, only one set of gripping holes is allowed.

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# IMPORTANT USBC INFORMATION – LEAGUES

## LEAGUE PRIZE LISTS

Prize lists are estimated. The amount available to create proposals is based on the league's estimated income less estimated expenses. **The prize list must be adopted within FIVE (5) weeks of the start of the league schedule (Rule 117a).** The president appoints a committee (Rule 102c) of one or more league members to prepare one or more prize list proposals for the league to approve. The committee must abide by any league rules when creating a prize list. It is acceptable to adopt a prize list at the league organizational meeting.

## WHAT TO CONSIDER

A prize list should be fair and consider all teams and bowlers. Remember, everyone is contributing to the prize fund and should receive a reasonable amount in return. Some prize lists pay team prizes only while others pay team prizes and special individual/team prizes. Popular prize lists are the drop down, in which the dollar amount decreases with the standings, or base amount for each team plus point money, or just point money. USBC Rule 117b allows a bowler or team to win once in each special prize category. This means a bowler can win a prize for each accomplishment but only once in a category. For example, a bowler bowls the highest scratch and handicap game in the league and also the third highest scratch game in the league. The bowler, according to Rule 117b, is eligible for the first place prize for both the high scratch game and high handicap game categories, but not the third place prize in the high scratch game category. Leagues often adopt rules to limit one prize per bowler to allow more bowlers to earn prize money for accomplishments. In this case, the league should adopt a rule to determine what category takes precedence; scratch or handicap, game or series.

## HOW TO VOTE

A meeting should be held to discuss and vote on prize list proposals. This gives league members or the board (whichever has the authority to vote on the prize list) the opportunity to discuss and possibly amend the prize lists presented prior to voting. Prize lists are adopted by a majority of the votes cast, not the most votes.

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## LEAGUE SECRETARY OFFICIAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The secretary has many important responsibilities, which are outlined fully in the USBC Playing Rules.

### RULES/SCHEDULE/PRIZE LIST

- Update the rules and distribute a copy of the league rules soon after the first league meeting.
- Post the full league schedule or provide a copy for each captain.
- **Once approved by the league, provide a copy of the adopted prize list to each team captain and officer within FIVE (5) weeks of the start of the league schedule.**
- Provide the final league standings to the league treasurer so the prizes can be properly distributed and reported with the financial report.

## **USBC MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

- Pass out individual USBC membership applications to each league member as they join and collecting completed cards and membership dues.
- **Forward the completed membership application cards, membership dues and USBC league application to the respective USBC association secretary WITHIN 30 DAYS of the start of the season.**
- Membership card applications and applicable fees for new members shall also be forwarded to the local association manager(s) within 30 days of receipt.

### ***Membership card Helpful hints***

- Check the application forms as they are returned to you. It is easier to find errors and have them corrected rather than to submit incomplete information, which could cause a delay in the member receiving their card.
- If bowlers indicate paid in another league on the membership card, ask for a receipt, if no receipt collect the fees, they can be refunded upon proof of previous payment.
- Have the bowlers carefully complete their home address (and apartment number if applicable) and national membership ID if it does not already appear on the card.
- In an effort to improve communications with members, please make sure that bowlers include their e-mail addresses on the form.

## **NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ID NUMBERS ARE IMPORTANT**

The national membership ID number enables USBC to create a history on the member's league and tournament competition and their award achievements. If the bowler does not currently have a national ID number (for example a new bowler), the local bowling association will assign a number.

Let your members know their national membership ID number will be printed on their membership card and mailed by headquarters directly to their home. This is a permanent number, individually assigned, to be used every season in all USBC competition and will be required when applying for awards.

If a member of your league notifies you that their membership card was lost, stolen or damaged, they can download a copy of their current membership card by logging on to our web site, BOWL.com and going to the Find-A-Member feature. If further assistance is needed, the member or league official can contact their local association or USBC Headquarters by calling (800) 514-BOWL, ext. 3151.

## **AWARDS**

**Submit applications for awards WITHIN 20 DAYS of the accomplishment.** Award presentations should take place before the entire league and as soon as possible after the feat is accomplished and the award is available. A long delay, such as waiting for the league's season-ending banquet, can reduce bowlers' excitement about earning awards and their appreciation of their membership benefits

## **FINAL AVERAGES**

Turn in season-ending averages to the local USBC association as **soon as the league ends**. This is how averages upload to BOWL.com.