



TBA Rule 302 defines that unless all Management functions are done by the Centre, every bowling league will have a Constitution/rules that provide for the league's regular activities. The Constitution/rules will provide for the election of its Officers and a Management Committee.



### **Did you know?**

Is it a requirement for leagues to change their Constitution (rules) once we (TBA) change a Rule?

**Yes**, if the revised or new rule is contravened by any existing league rule. If the change has no impact on current rules, they should let the league know of the Rule change.

Rule revisions can be found on the last pages of the Tenpin Bowling Australia Limited **League, Tournament & General Playing Rules** book (Rule Book Modification & Revision Record) available from [www.tenpin.org.au](http://www.tenpin.org.au) [here](#).

### **RULE 326 THE LEAGUE CONSTITUTION/RULES**

The league **at its formation meeting**, should consider carefully all of the variables and options available to ensure a sound basis for good, well run and enjoyable competition.

Unless the centre carries out all league management functions and supplies the league rules, the league members have the responsibility of writing into their league constitution/rules, all of those variables that will enable everybody to clearly understand what they can and cannot do within the scope of the rules.

Refer to Chapter 9 for suggestions and guidance on options.

### **WITHOUT BEING LIMITED, THE FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE CLEARLY SPELLED OUT IN THE LEAGUE CONSTITUTION/RULES:-**

**Size of league** - No. of teams - playing strength of each team - No. of team members - replacements - substitutes - minimum line-up.

**Length of season** - No. of weeks/rounds (refer to TBA Rule 301(c) - non-playing dates - starting date - Xmas/holiday break - finals.

**Points system** - game points - series points - league standings - equal points - ties.

**Averages** - entering averages - No. of games for handicap.

**Handicaps** - scratch/base figure - percentages.

#### **Style of play**

**Blind scores** - fixed or variable - which to use - when to use - alternatives.

#### **Vacancy Score**

**Fees** - game fees - prize fund - social fund - absentees - presentation function - secretary/score keeper's honorariums.

**Time of play** - Tardy players.

Pre Bowling – allowed or not allowed.

**Withdrawals and replacements.**



**PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILITY:**

Prior to commencement of play, each bowler should satisfy themselves as to their obligations and commitment to the League.

They have the right and opportunity to choose not to bowl if they are not satisfied with the established rules.

Refer to Rule 308 regarding changes to the rules once play has commenced. A copy of the league constitution/rules must be submitted to the Association secretary or Centre.

***IN THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC RULES SPELLED OUT IN THE LEAGUE'S OWN CONSTITUTION/RULES, RULES 325 TO 336 WILL BE APPLIED, AS APPROPRIATE, FOR LEAGUE PLAY.***



# CHAPTER 9

## SUGGESTED LEAGUE RULES

The following pages contain guidance and options which may be adopted by the League as part of the League's Constitution/rules – which will then be read as part of Rule 326.

Many of the following are suggested, "tailor made" rules which can be adopted by scratch or handicap leagues. Others can be modified to include any optional points that may be listed in Chapter three of the TBA Rule Book.

### GENERAL

- (a) The ..... Bowling League at .....Centre..... shall consist of up to ..... teams with a playing strength of ..... players. The number of team members allowed in a team is ..... The League will bowl on ..... for ..... weeks, commencing on ..... (One complete schedule is completed when each team has competed against each other team once. Leagues will decide on the number of schedules to be bowled in a season. Bowling will commence no later than .....am/pm for the selected schedule. The league will be recognised when Tenpin Bowling Australia Limited are provided with the details of the league via the Registered Centre League Information Sheet.
- (b) Lanes shall be turned on no later than ..... Each player may have only one practice ball on each of the Teams scheduled lanes, unless Management allows a specific warm up time.

### 1. MANAGEMENT

The Management of the League shall be vested in the Management Committee, which shall consist of the Officers and the Team Captains. The entire League membership shall elect Officers and adopt League rules. A majority of Teams shall constitute a quorum.

### 2. FEES

The amount to be paid by each bowler each night shall be bowling fees for ..... games plus ..... to the Secretary, ..... to the Prize fund and ..... to the Social fund. Each team shall pay the ....., made up of ..... Secretary, \$..... Prize and \$.....Social, each time it is scheduled to bowl, regardless of the number of members present. There shall be no arrearages. **The Team Captain is to pay all team bowling fees to the Treasurer before the commencement of play.**

### 3. FUNDS

A cheque or savings account shall be opened in the name of the league in a Recognised Banking Institution, in which funds will be deposited weekly. The President, Secretary and the Treasurer shall be signatories, with any two to sign cheques. The President shall verify the balance each week. Two members of an immediate family (legitimate or de facto) cannot be co-signatories for withdrawals from a league account.



4. PRIZES

- (a) The prize list will be as defined in Rule 21.
- (b) To qualify for individual average, game or series prizes, a bowler must have bowled in at least ..... percent of the scheduled games in the current season. (Excluding Most Improved Average).
- (c) To qualify for any Team trophy, a bowler in the team must have bowled in at least ..... percent of Leagues scheduled games for that team since the team joined the League.
- (d) Each team shall have the opportunity to purchase a trophy for any bowler in the team ineligible under the rules to receive a trophy, providing that the League must purchase a minimum of ..... trophies for any team award.
- (e) A team can qualify for only ..... special prize for series or game.
- (f) A bowler can qualify for ..... individual series and ..... individual game trophy.
- (g) A bowler can .....or cannot .....qualify for high game and high series prizes in the same series.
- (h) Pre Bowled and Postponed games can.... or cannot..... qualify for high game or series prizes.
- (h) Rules (e) and (f) do not include Premiership, Runner-up, Individual Team award, most improved average or high average trophies.

5. ENTERING AVERAGES

- (a) Previously Bowled 21 or More Games in this League:  
The previous seasons finishing average in this League.
- (b) Previously Bowled 21 or More Games but not in this League:  
Highest current average in any League in which 21 or more games have been played.
- (c) Previously Bowled, but not 21 Games in one League:  
Current average in the League in which the most games have been.
- (d) The above averages shall be used for the first nine (9) games of the new season. After nine games have been bowled, the total current seasons pinfall will be divided by nine (9) to determine the new average.
- (e) No Previous Experience:  
A Bowler shall bowl three (3) games and have the total pins divided by three (3) to determine the average to be used.
- (f) Premiership points will be allocated to teams from the beginning of the season using the above averages.

6. HANDICAP

The handicap allowance shall be ...80, 90 100 or 110..(TBA recommend 100)..... percent and shall be figured on the difference between each individuals average and ...200 or higher..... scratch. The scratch figure used should always be 10 pins or more higher than highest average in the league so every bowler has a positive handicap.

e.g. If the average calculated = 134  
For handicap calculation: 200. – 134 = 66  
Handicap (.....100....%) = 66

Decimal places are not used and therefore any are ignored.



7. TEAM ROSTERS

Captains will turn in rosters of team members to the Secretary on the first night of the season. New players cannot be added to a team roster after the start of the last schedule, without the approval of the Management Committee.

8. LEGAL LINE – UP

..... player/s from a team's current roster must be present at the start of any game or the game will be forfeited. Roving Substitutes and Pre Bowled scores will count towards a legal line-up.

9. ROVING SUBSTITUTE

- (a) Must be registered with the League as a roving substitute.
- (b) Any Captain, knowing he will not have a full line-up for any match, may ask a roving substitute to report for that match. Providing all teams have a legal line-up, the roving substitute shall be permitted to bowl in that team for that match.
- (c) The score of a roving substitute shall be used to calculate the results of a match.
- (d) League entering average rules shall apply.
- (e) Shall carry his own average in the League.
- (f) A Roving Substitute, once approved to replace a bowler in a scheduled match, is permitted to pre bowl should they then become unavailable for that approved match.
- (g) The Sub shall pay nothing and have no claim on any trophies or prizes. The person or team requesting the Roving Substitute must pay all relevant costs, such as Linage, Prize Fund, Social Fees, etc.
- (h) If a roving substitute is approved for a team that has a legal line-up without that roving substitute and another team needs a bowler for a legal line-up, that latter team should get first use of the roving substitute.
- (i) A Roving Substitute will have no voting rights at any meeting of the league

10. BLIND SCORES

A blind score shall be allowed when a team has a legal but less than full line-up at the start of any game in a series. The blind score shall be ...(10, 20 or 30 pins or a combination of those).... of any absent bowler on the team roster. The absent bowlers handicap must be added to the Blind Score. There shall be no limits on the number of times a Blind Score can be used. A Blind Score cannot win any points.

11. VACANCY SCORES

When a team is incomplete at the beginning of the schedule and cannot present a full line-up, a vacancy score of 120 shall be used if there is no bowler in the vacant position. A handicap shall be allotted to suit the vacancy score. If possible on the scoring system, the score used for the match result is taken as the Blind score set in the league rules of the Vacancy allowance plus handicap. That is so a vacancy pays the same 10 pin penalty as an actual absent bowler. A Vacancy Score cannot win any points.



12. TARDY (LATE) PLAYERS

- (a) A tardy player shall be permitted to begin bowling from the first frame with the score to count, provided the game has not progressed beyond the third frame.
- (b) Should a bowler have to take emergency leave, one tenth of the bowlers blind score shall be used for each frame not completed in that game and the bowlers blind score for each game after.
- (c) Games using any part of a blind score shall not be credited to the player's average.
- (d) A bowler who has to leave early, may, with the permission of both Captains, complete the game bowling frames on alternate lanes with one of the opposing players, providing the match has progressed up to the 5<sup>th</sup> frame of the third game.

13. POINT SYSTEM

The league may decide on any Point System that it feels will suit it. Some options are: The most commonly used Points System is the simplest method of allocating a Point (or number of Points) to the winner of each game in the series, plus an additional Point (or Points) for the series total of the Match. *A vast array of alternatives are available, but care should be taken when deciding upon systems which include "over average" and "bonus points" which may be difficult to audit at some later time.*

- a. **POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR:** (Select required options)
  - i. .... Point/s will be awarded to the winner of each Team game.
  - ii. .... Point/s will be awarded to the winner of the Team series.
  - iii. ... .. Points will be shared in the case of a tied game or series.
  - iv. .... Point/s will be awarded to the winner of each Individual game.
  - v. .... Point/s will be awarded to the winner of each Individual series.
- b. In "handicap leagues" results of all matches will include Handicap's unless otherwise specified.
- c. Blind Scores and Vacancy Scores will be included in all Team totals. (please refer to rule 314 & 316 regarding individual points which cannot be changed by a league's own rules)
- d. Where 'Individual' Points are offered, any Blind Scores and/or Vacancy Scores will be matched against the lowest average bowlers unless otherwise specified.

14. POSITION STANDINGS

Shall be determined on the basis of points won.

15. REPLACEMENT TEAMS

A team which enters the competition after the season is in progress shall assume a position equal to the team it replaces or the team on the bottom of the table.

16. BYES / FORFEITS

- (a) When a bye or a forfeit occurs, due to any reason whatsoever, the team present and not at fault must bowl all games as though they were actually contested.
- (b) Every member bowling on such team must have completed his frame on one lane before the team shall commence its frame on the adjoining lanes.
- (c) When a team forfeits a series, the members of the team are still responsible for all fees except actual bowling fees.



17. PRE-BOWLING

All "Pre-Bowled" League games will be bowled in accordance with Rule 334. TBA Awards are not available for any scores bowled in pre bowled or deferred/postponed matches. Handicaps/Averages existing at the date of play are to be used.

18. PLAY – OFFS

Total pinfall plus handicap in one game shall determine the winners of any play-off for the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place, on a pair of lanes to be selected by draw. Any ties in Minor placings will be decided by high overall team pinfall plus handicap.

19. PREMIERSHIP

The team with the highest number of points at the end of the completed schedule shall be the winner.

20. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

These rules have been adopted by a majority vote of the League members prior to the start of the schedule. After the start of competitive play, the rules may be amended as defined in Rule 308

21. TROPHIES (Cash, Prizes, etc)

The President shall arrange for a prize list, together with conditions and eligibility requirements, to be presented to the league's Management Committee for approval, within five (5) weeks of the start of the league schedule.

Most Improved Average trophy shall be awarded to the bowler who has the most improved average, calculated as follows:

- (a) A bowler's increase in average is determined by comparing his final average for the current competition and his final average of at least twenty one (21) games for the preceding competition in the same League.
- (b) For a bowler who entered the League with an average established in another league, compare his final average for the current competition with his highest average shown on the final standing sheet for his previous League/s.
- (c) For a bowler with no average for the preceding competition, compare his final average for the current competition with the average he established in his first twenty one (21) games during the current competition.
- (d) Decimal places must be taken into account in the event that two or more bowlers have the same increase in average.

To be eligible for Most Improved Average, a bowler must have bowled in at least two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the leagues scheduled games in the current season.