

## **SMOW HNS - WALT SCHMIT BOWLING LEAGUE RULES 2025-2026 SEASON**

### **Mission Statement -**

The SMOW Bowling League exists to foster fellowship, sportsmanship and friendly competition through a tradition-rich, handicap bowling format that welcomes all skill levels.

### **Section A - Definitions**

1. Board of Directors (The Board) - composed of the Executive Committee and the 12 team Captains.
2. Executive Committee (EC) - composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Member-at-large.
3. Team - Minimum of 5 and Maximum of 8 members in good standing.
4. Member - person who is 18+ years of age, out high school and has completed all required paperwork and paid any and all dues and weekly fees in full.
5. Match - Weekly competition consists of three games each worth 2 points and the series score worth 1 point.
6. Book Average - a bowlers average as recorded in SMOW records or submitted from another USBC sanctioned league.

### **Section B - Organization**

1. This league will be sanctioned by the USBC and will be governed by its regulations. Unless otherwise amended as allowed in their rules.
2. The League year will be from July 1 to June 30. The EC are volunteer positions that are filled as vacancies occur. Captains are chosen by the members of each individual team.
3. The EC will call for an Annual meeting, to be held in August prior to the start of play, to review the rules and other matters as brought up by the membership. Matters at that meeting will be voted on by the 17 Board members, with a simple majority (9) needed to carry a vote. EC members that are Captains must name an acting Captain for this meeting. Only one vote per Board member.
4. Attendance at the Annual Meeting shall be mandatory. Acting Captains may be named for the purposes of attendance.
5. The EC is authorized to make decisions for the League once the season has started. They can meet and vote in person, via telephone, text and email as necessary. They reserve the right to call for a full Board meeting to consider matters that may have a significant impact on the League.
6. If a position becomes open on the EC during the season, the President can appoint a replacement from the membership for the remainder of the season, subject to the approval of the EC. A person may be on the EC and be team Captain.
7. On or before April 1st of each season the current members of the EC shall declare if they will continue to serve in the following year. Notification of vacancies shall be offered to the membership in writing. Candidates will be evaluated by the EC and the EC shall select from that pool to fill the EC for the next season. The incoming EC shall be announced at the end of season banquet.

### **Section C - Dues and Fees**

1. Each member will pay \$20 of the \$32 USBC entry fee to the Treasurer before he is eligible to compete.
2. Bowling fee is \$25 per man per night. Pacer's fee is \$20. Each team is responsible for \$100 plus any money for the pacer. If a bowler is absent or pre-bowls, the bowler MUST pay those fees the NEXT TIME that he bowls. Each bowler has the primary responsibility for paying the bowling fees and the Captain has the responsibility to ensure that all fees are paid on a timely basis.

3. Bowlers indicated absent on the nightly match play recording sheet are responsible for the \$25 for that night's play. Captains are responsible for submitting the correct names for that match.
4. Captains must indicate on the payment envelope the bowler who owes the \$25 bowling fee as well.
5. Bowlers are inactive and not allowed to participate if they owe the League \$50 or more. The Treasurer shall notify the Captain when this occurs.
6. If a bowler has unpaid fees at the end of the season, the unpaid fees will be deducted from the bowler's prize money. If the bowler's prize money is not sufficient to satisfy the unpaid fees, the remainder of the unpaid fees will be deducted from the team's prize money allocation.
7. Prize money will be distributed based on the final team standings and individual performance categories. The Treasurer will present the breakdown to the EC before the end of the year banquet.

#### **Section D - Teams/Players**

1. Number of active bowlers per Team - 5 minimum and 8 maximum. If a team loses a player a new player may be added, subject to rule D3 below.
2. Adding bowlers to the roster - It is the sole responsibility of the League Secretary to assign a bowler to a team, and the League Secretary will produce the rosters of the teams at the beginning of each season.
3. If a new bowler is recruited to join a specific team during the season, a request to add a player must be sent to the League Secretary, which must include all the data on the SMOW bowler information sheet located on the Website. The completed request must be received by the League Secretary by Friday at noon, in order for the new bowler to be eligible to bowl on the following Tuesday. Under no circumstances will a new bowler show up on a Tuesday night and be able to bowl in that night's match.
4. Handicap will be calculated weekly on the basis of 95% of the difference between individual average and 240.
5. Last season's average and handicap will be used for regular members to determine wins and losses on their first night of bowling. Subject to the 10-pin drop rule listed in D6 below.
6. A new member must bowl 3 games to establish handicap, however an average of a new bowler from another league will be accepted if verified under USBC rules by the other league secretary.
7. Bowlers must bowl 21 games in order to participate in the playoffs, 15 games to be eligible for the end of season prize for Individual High Score or High Series.
8. No team or individual can win more than one specialized prize. (i.e. High Score, High Series, etc.)
9. Pre Bowling - if a bowler pre-bowls, his scores must be used for that night's match. **Pre-bowling is not allowed in the playoffs.** An entire team may ask the EC to be allowed to pre-bowl once during the season. The request must be made in advance of the actual night of the request. The EC will consider the request and decide, based on the circumstances.
10. Pacing - a bowler is allowed to pace when not scheduled to bowl. The \$20 fee must be included in the weekly payment envelope. The pacer must be a member of one of the two teams bowling in that match. No more than 5 bowlers on each lane. The opposing Captain can decline the addition of a pacer who is not a member of his team.
11. Team rosters provided by the League Secretary are the active members of that team for that season. The Captain will decide which 4 bowlers are participating in each night's match. The Captain is responsible for notifying his members who is scheduled to play. Any scheduled ABSENT bowler's score will be shown as 10 pins less than his average. Whenever possible, the nights off scheduling page available on the League website should be used to show who is bowling and who is off.

12. Tardy bowlers must be ready to enter before teams have finished the 5th frame of the first game. Otherwise he will be considered absent for that game. He may bowl in any remaining games of that match, provided he is there for the first frame any remaining games.
13. Forfeits - Teams will forfeit if less than two members are physically present the night of the match, unless granted an exception as stipulated in D10 or the last night of the trimester if these games influence the winner of said trimester. Then this match should be rescheduled as soon as possible by the League Secretary.
  - A. The forfeiting team is not to receive any points.
  - B. Teams earning the forfeit must bowl at least their team average less 10 pins per player (40 pins) to capture the points of the forfeited games.
  - C. Points not won by the team for failing to bowl the target score should be recorded on the standing sheet as unearned points.
  - D. The player present may bowl, but the scores he bowls shall not be included in the team's total pins. Scores bowled in accordance with this procedure shall be counted toward averages and qualify for league prizes. Scores shall qualify for USBC awards.
15. Bowlers are expected to uphold the league's values of respect and friendly competition. Any conduct deemed inappropriate by the EC may result in warnings, suspension or removal from the league.
16. As a courtesy to the League Secretary scoring recap sheets should be COMPLETE, LEGIBLE and NEAT. They should be returned to the Secretary each night of bowling. In case of a malfunction let the Secretary know immediately so he can get necessary recaps.

#### **Section E - Match Play**

1. Each night's match play will be three games. Standing will be determined on a point basis; two points per game won, one for series. Tie game, each team gets one point. Tie series gets half point each. 7 points maximum per night.
2. The season will be 35 weeks. Three 11-week trimesters with an additional 2 weeks for playoffs. the last week of each Trimester shall be a position round, scheduled as 1 vs 2, 3 vs 4, etc. These scores would be included in each Trimesters totals.
3. The three trimester winners qualify for the playoffs.
4. The team (Trimester winners not included) with highest overall points for the season will qualify as the wild card.
5. If a team wins two trimesters, that team gets a bye during the first week of the playoffs and is automatically in the Championship match.
6. If a team wins all three trimesters, they get a bye in the first week of the playoffs and a second wild card team is added to the playoffs, based on highest point total for the season.
7. If teams have identical point totals for a Trimester, the following tiebreaker is applied:
  - A. A one game roll off following match play on the last week of that trimester.
  - B. If two or more teams have identical point totals for the season (for determining Wild Cards), there will be a one game roll off (as needed) on the last night of the regular season (before the playoffs), right after the regular three games have been completed. Handicap is the same as it was for the regular three games already bowled that night.
  - C. Every attempt will be made to use neutral lanes, those not already bowled on that night, for any and all roll offs.

## **Section F - Playoffs**

1. All playoff matches will be 5 on 5. Consequently, no high team game or team series will be awarded. Individuals are eligible for sweepstakes, high game and high series
2. Week one (semifinals) has Trimester winners 1,2 and 3 being seeded as 1,2 and 3 based on overall point total for the year. Highest point total being 1st seed, etc. The wild card will be the 4th seed.
3. If a team wins two Trimesters the other Trimester winner and the wild card team will bowl in the semifinal week. Seed 1 gets a bye, Seed 2 vs Seed 3.
4. If a team wins all 3 trimesters the two wild-card teams will be seeded 2 and 3 as above and bowl in the semifinal week.
5. Losers in the first round will bowl for places 3 and 4. If due to circumstances there are not 4 teams in the playoffs the EC will make the necessary adjustments to the schedule.
6. Teams 5 thru 12 will bowl the first playoff week with seedings based on Tri 3-point totals. For Championship week seedings will be based on point totals for the entire season. These teams will bowl 4 on 4.
7. Captains will determine who bowls in the playoff matches. Every effort should be made to include all team members in the playoff matches.

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