

# Huntsville Men's Classic Bowling League 2025-2026

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE 1

#### NAME

This organization shall be known as the  
**Huntsville Men's Classic.**

### ARTICLE 2

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of the league is to conduct ten-pin activities and determine annual team and individual champions. It shall foster and maintain the spirit of good fellowship and true sportsmanship. The league shall be sanctioned through the Huntsville United States Bowling Congress (HUSBC).

### ARTICLE 3

#### MEMBERSHIP

##### **Section 1.**

Membership in this league is open to all USBC sanctioned *male* bowlers. The league shall be composed of (15) teams. Each team shall be composed of four (4) regular, and not more than *two (2)* substitute players, who must individually and collectively qualify under the constitution Rules and Regulations of the USBC and the HUSBC. Membership may be granted to individuals who are qualified and acceptable to the Board of Directors. No individual who has been refused membership in USBC, or who is under suspension by that body, shall be permitted to bowl in this league. (USBC Rule 16b).

##### **Section 2.**

A player shall become a member of a team's roster upon his initial appearance as a bowler with that team. A player may be added to a team's roster at the request of the team captain, provided all sanction fees are paid.

##### **Section 3.**

A team captain will notify the secretary whenever he desires to remove a player from his roster. Such actions will become effective upon notification.

##### **Section 4.**

A player removed from a team roster may rejoin that roster if approved by the Board of Directors. A player removed from a team roster may join another team with the approval of both affected team captains and the Board of Directors.

##### **Section 5.**

Roving substitutes are allowed provided the bowler meets applicable USBC criteria listed in Article 3 Section 1. Substitutes are not required to pay league dues. Roving substitute average will be based on same criteria as league bowlers.

# ARTICLE 4

## OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Section 1.**

The officers of the league shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms who shall be elected annually. The President Elect (or his designated alternate) shall serve as HUSBC Representative. In the event that any officer is unable to serve after he has been duly elected, the Board of Directors shall elect a replacement.

### **Section 2.**

The duties of the Officers shall be such as usually pertain to Officers of any similar organization. (See USBC Rule 102c-f).

### **Section 3.**

The President shall preside at all meetings and appoint all committees as required, with a Board of Directors consisting of the captains of each team plus Officers. It will be the duty of the Board of Directors to have general supervision of all things pertaining to the welfare of the league. The Board of Directors will be the final authority for the adjustment of all disputes. The President shall also make monthly verification of the league deposits made by the Treasurer to determine the correctness of the bank balance to the credit of the league.

### **Section 4.**

The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep a record of all proceedings of the league and conduct the correspondence. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all monies received by him and deposit it in a designated bank under the account of the **Classic Bowling League**. Such accounts must be under a joint signature arrangement subject to withdrawal only upon the signature of any two of the President, Vice-President, or Secretary/Treasurer of the league.

### **Section 5.**

The team captain shall be responsible for the collection of the league fees from each member of his team each week. An individual may be in the arrears in the amount of *two (2)* week's fees. If an individual has arrears above said amount, he will not be allowed to bowl until the fees are collected.

### **Section 6.**

The HUSBC Representative shall represent the league at all regular scheduled meetings of the Huntsville United States Bowling Congress (HUSBC). (Notify all bowlers)  
He will take an active part in the meetings, and bring back to the league the functions of the City Association.

### **Section 7.**

The Board of Directors must pass all suggestions for changes of rules. Two-thirds of the votes of the members of the Board of Directors is necessary to pass a change.

# ARTICLE 5

## FEES, PRIZES, AND AWARDS

### Section 1.

Each team member will pay the **\$25.00** weekly participation fees.

Each individual bowler in the league must pay or have paid the required USBC and/or local association dues. This fee must be paid the **first night an individual bowls** and any team using a bowler who is not a member of USBC and the local association, subjects the games in which the ineligible player bowls to **forfeiture**.

The Secretary/Treasurer will pay the alley proprietor the **\$12.50** lineage fee for each league member every week. The Secretary/Treasurer will receive an honorarium **\$1.00** per bowler per night.

The last two weeks of the season shall be paid by the 1st Tuesday in February. Any team not having paid the fees for the last two weeks by the 1st Tuesday in February shall forfeit all subsequent games until the fees are paid.

### Section 2.

Before the start of the schedule, the President shall appoint a committee of three (3) members to draw up a prize list. The prize list must be approved by a majority of the league members and posted within **five (5) weeks** after the start of the schedule. To qualify for individual prizes, a bowler must have bowled in at least **one-half (1/2)** of the scheduled games. A bowler or team can qualify for only one (1) special prize for high series (handicap or scratch) or high game (handicap or scratch). The following guidelines for establishing which prize is to be awarded in cases where a bowler or team qualifies for two or more special prizes is to be used.

- (1) For awarding of these special prizes, it is necessary to rank them. The ranking of these special prizes are (a) High Scratch Series, (b) High Handicap Series, (c) High Scratch Game and (d) High Handicap Game.
- (2) Example: Bowler "A" is qualified for High Scratch Series and High Handicap Series. Bowler "A" will receive the High Scratch Series Award.
- (3) Example: Bowler "B" is qualified for High Scratch Game and High Handicap Series. Bowler "B" will receive the High Handicap Series Award.

The rankings indicated above also apply to team awards. This rule does not apply to Individual High Average or Most Improved.

NOTE: CASH AWARDS WILL NOT BE AWARDED TO INDIVIDUAL BOWLERS.

### Section 3.

Scores bowled after **twenty-one (21)** games by an individual will be counted for special handicap awards. Team Handicap awards will be counted from the **seventh (7<sup>th</sup>)** night of bowling.

# ARTICLE 6

## GAMES, SCHEDULES, AND ALLEY PROCEDURE

### Section 1.

All league games will be bowled on each league night as per the **34-week** schedule. No game may be postponed unless by mutual agreement of both captains concerned. Arrangements for postponements must be made by opposing team captains and given to the league Secretary at least forty-eight (48) hours previous to the scheduled match.

**In the event of pre or post bowling, the second team bowling shall not be allowed to see the scores bowled by the first team.**

### Section 2. League Format:

(3) 11 week sessions. There are 3 winners from that and a wild card being the team that has most wins without a trimester win.

If a team wins more than 1 trimester, the team with most overall wins at end of season advances to the finals. If the same team wins all 3 trimesters then that team plus the 3 teams with most overall wins are the 4 teams in the play offs.

There will be (1) position round each session, week 11; week 22; week and week 33.

Week 34 is a roll off. It will be 1-4, 2-3. Rankings come from overall wins so wild-card could be top seed.

During that position round, week 34, the other teams will be bowling a total season win position round for total wins overall (yearly totals)

Week 35, the play off winners bowl for league championship. We do pay out. All others can bowl in no tap tourney.

If a member of the 1st or 2nd trimester winning team has an average of 10 or more pins less at week 34, their average used at their winning trimester will be used at week 34 and 35.

### Section 3.

This league shall bowl on a handicap basis. The handicap allowance shall be **90%**. Handicaps will be figured on the difference between an individual's average and **two hundred and twenty (220)** pins scratch. There is not a limit for individual or team handicap. On the first night of bowling, teams shall be paired according to their standing at the end of the previous season. Should any team not return, then the new team that replaces it would assume its position.

### Section 4.

Individual starting average will be based as follows in the order shown for the first three (3) matches or 9 games bowled, which ever is less. All handicaps will be consistent for a match.

Order of use:

1. Use last season Huntsville Men's Classic league average if 21 games or more were bowled.
2. Use book average with most games
3. Establish average first time bowling.

A member bowling less than a full series in his first appearance will bowl without benefit of a handicap, and the partial series will be added to the first full series bowled for determining handicap.

### Section 5.

In case of substitution of players in the middle of a game, the score of such game shall count only towards the team score (USBC Rule 107c). When a player is unable to complete a game because of disability, injury, or an emergency, the team of which he is a member of shall count his actual score for the frames completed in the total, plus one-tenth (1/10) of his blind score for each of the remaining frames in the game. The frames bowled shall not be used in determining the bowler's average. Any eligible team member or substitute may bowl any remaining games. No intra-game substitutes are allowed. Bowling ahead to complete a game will be permitted for special circumstances, but will be restricted to the game being bowled. (USBC Rule 106e).

### Section 6.

No new bowler can be added to a team and / or the league during the final **three (3) weeks** of each trimester without first getting the unanimous consent of the Board of Directors (all team captains and Officers). During the last (3) weeks of each trimester all bowlers must have bowled at least 9 games thus having an average established in this league. Any player who arrives late may be permitted to make up missed frames of game one (1) provided he is present and ready to bowl before beginning the **fifth (5<sup>th</sup>)** frame of that game. Any player who arrives after the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) frame may bowl the second or third game provided he is ready to bowl when it is his turn in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) frame. When a legal line-up of **two (2)** or more eligible players are not present to start any game of a series at the time scheduled by the league, that game shall be forfeited, which would automatically forfeit the one (2) points for total pins.

### Section 7.

Position rounds: Floating substitutes are not eligible. In order to compete in a "position round", all bowlers must have bowled a minimum amount of games.

Week 11, 12 games. Week 22, 21 games. Week 33 and balance of season, 33 games. This rule can be rescinded on an individual basis if approved by 2/3 of the Board of Directors in a secret paper ballot vote prior to the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> position round game. It is the responsibility of the team captain to notify league officers if a vote is necessary. If a team allows a non eligible to bowl with out approval of the Board of Directors, that bowlers score will be replaced with the blind score of an absent team member with the highest amount of games. If no other eligible bowler, a vacancy blind score will be used. Voting for ineligible bowlers must be done at every position round.

### Section 8.

Blind scores shall be allowed when a team has a legal line-up but less than a full line-up at the start of any game in a series. The blind score shall be the average, less ten (10) pins, of the absent bowler on the team roster having rolled most of the games. If two (2) blind scores are needed, the average less ten (10) pins, of the bowler with the next highest number of games shall be used for the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) blind score. **When two absentees have the same number of games, the lower average shall be used.**

Vacancy blind score shall be 140 and 72 pins handicap.

### Section 9.

League records will be based on the point system: One (1) point for each game and one (2) points for the total pins. When a tie game occurs, each team of the two (2) teams involved in the tie shall be accredited in the standings with having won one-half (1/2) game and with a the loss of one-half (1/2) game. No roll-off of the tie shall be necessary.

### Section 10.

All postponed games must be rolled off within **one (1) week** immediately following the week of that postponed game unless an extension is granted by the league President. The league Secretary will schedule a roll-off date. Failure to roll-off within this time will automatically give the offending team a four (4) point loss, and give the opposing team a four (4) point win. Postponed games that would have bearing on the league championship must be bowled within seven (7) days after the league schedule closes.

### **Section 11.**

In the event of a tie for first place between two or more teams at the end of the split season, these teams shall roll a series of three (3) games with the highest team handicap series determining the winner. The roll-off of the tie will be completed as soon as possible but not later than thirty (30) days past the end of the session

### **Section 12.**

All score sheets must be signed by both captains or their representatives at completion of the match for scores to become final.

### **Section 13.**

Any protest affecting eligibility or general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to a responsible league or local association official or the United States Bowling Congress not later than fifteen (15) days after the series in which the infraction occurred has been bowled. If no written protest is entered prior to the expiration of the fifteen (15) day period, the series must stand as bowled. Protests resulting out of competition in the final two (2) weeks of a league's schedule must be filed in forty-eight (48) hours of the concluding night of league schedule. Errors in scoring or errors in calculation in league play must be corrected by a responsible league official immediately upon discovery of such error. Questionable errors shall be decided upon by the league's Board of Directors. Once the recap sheet is signed by both team captains (or their representatives) the telescore sheets are null and void.

### **Section 14.**

USBC rules shall govern league play unless superseded in the articles of this constitution.

### **Section 15.**

After league lanes are oiled and made ready for league play, OPEN BOWLING IS NOT ALLOWED ON LEAGUE LANES. Open bowling is allowed on break down pair or any other lanes not scheduled for use by HMC bowling league.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP**

#### **Section 1.**

The league championship will be determined by an end of season playoff, see Article 6, section 2 of this document. The championship will be determined by the *highest team handicap score for a three (3) game series*.

#### **Section 2.**

All roll-off or championship matches will not be considered as a part of the regular season and any team or individual scores rolled in these matches will not count toward league prizes or awards. Scores will count for USBC awards and averages.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **EARLY END OF LEAGUE**

#### **Section 1.**

In the event the league ends early due to pandemic or other catastrophic event, the prize money will be distributed based on total wins for the season not by trimester winners.

**This constitution was adopted by league vote on 20 August 2025.**

**Norwood Cutter, President**

**Vernon Saunders, Vice President**

**Don Millitello, Secretary/Treasurer**

**Gregory Dollar, Sergeant at Arms**