

Senior Sweepers 2025-26 Winter League Bylaws

**Adopted by the League on
August 12, 2025**

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Signatures

Date: _____
Ron Ware
President
218 Knotting Pl
Madison, AL 35758

Date: _____
Charles Freeman
Vice President
14672 Demarie Ln
Athens, AL 35613

Date: _____
Brian Burnham
Treasurer/Secretary
123 Wickstone Rd
Meridianville, AL 35759

Senior Sweepers

2025-26 Winter League Bylaws

Officers

President: Ron Ware, 256-424-2328, ron.ware777@gmail.com

Vice President: Charles Freeman, 650-270-7238, Fginup@aol.com

Treasurer/Secretary: Brian Burnham, 256-684-2827, burnhamb@bellsouth.net

Rule 1 – Schedule

The Senior Sweepers Bowling League shall be sanctioned with the USBC through the Huntsville, Alabama Association (HUSBC). The league will consist of 10 teams with a playing strength of 4 members. The league will bowl on Tuesday mornings for 32 weeks, commencing on 8/19/2025 and ending on 4/21/2026. Bowling will start promptly at 9:25 a.m. with a 15-minute practice followed by scheduled matches. The league will meet on 4/28/2026 for prize payout and optional No Tap. Two position rounds will be included in the schedule and will be bowled on Week 16 (12/16/2025) and Week 32 (4/21/2026). The league will not bowl on 11/11/2025 (Veterans Day), 11/25/2025 (Thanksgiving week), 12/23/2025 and 12/30/2025 (holiday season),

RULE 2 – Management

The management of this league shall be vested in the Board of Directors, which will consist of the officers and team captains. A majority of teams/individuals shall constitute a quorum. The entire membership shall elect officers and adopt the league rules.

RULE 3 – Fees

The amount to be paid by each bowler each week shall be \$15.00, of which \$8.00 will cover the cost of bowling; \$6.00 will go towards the prize fund, and \$1.00 will go to the treasurer/secretary. The bowling fees for the last two weeks shall be paid by each member before the completion of the fifth week of the schedule. Games may be forfeited by any team whose participating members are not current in league payments. Determination of forfeited games will be made by the League Officers. There will be no arrearages unless authorized by the Board of Directors. Team captains are responsible for the collection of any and all league fees and must turn in the money to the League Treasurer before completion of the second game.

A team with vacancies will still be responsible for payment of the prize fund and treasurer/secretary fees for those vacancies (\$7.00 per vacancy per week). The team and the league will make every effort to assist in filling all vacancies.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Senior Sweepers.

RULE 4 – Salaries/Expenses

The treasurer/secretary will be paid \$1.00 per team member per week bowled. Payment will be after completion of the league and submission of final averages to HUSBC association manager.

RULE 5 – Franchise

The franchise (team spot) shall be held by the team captain as long as the captain is acceptable to the majority of the Board of Directors, except that a franchise cannot be recalled during the season without sufficient cause.

RULE 6 – League Funds

The Senior Sweepers league authorizes the league treasurer to open an account at Redstone Federal Credit Union for the purposes of depositing league funds and paying league lineage. Two officers must sign each check drawn against league funds whether for sanctions, lineage, prize fund, treasurer/secretary fee or any other approved purpose.

RULE 7 – Prizes and Awards

All USBC sanctioned bowlers (team members and substitutes) will qualify for National USBC awards and all the local Huntsville USBC awards. Bowlers, starting with game 1 of the season, qualify for special recognition awards (300 game, 800 scratch series, Dutch 200, 7-10 split, Big 4, Triplicate, Cleans Series, and All Spares). However, bowlers must have bowled 12 games before they qualify for awards that are based on bowler averages (Clean Game, High Game, and High Series). Bowlers can qualify for only one of each award in a one-year period. The bowling year begins August 1 and ends July 31.

Within four weeks of the start of the schedule, the President shall appoint a committee of at least two members to draw up a minimum of three different prize list options. The prize list options shall be distributed to each team captain within eight weeks after the start of the schedule. The prize list will be selected from the committee options by a majority vote of the league teams.

To qualify for individual prizes, a bowler must have bowled 63 of the scheduled games. A bowler or team can qualify for only one special prize for high series or game. When a team or individual qualifies for a prize in each category, and prizes are of equal value, the series prize will be awarded. In all other cases, the prize of highest value will be awarded. Series will take precedence over game and Handicap will take precedence over scratch (select “One only: HS, HG, SS, SG” in the BLS program). The most improved average prize will be determined by finding the highest pin count difference as a result of subtracting members’ first 21-game averages from their final season averages. Standing sheet tracking of season high scores (team and individual) will start after 12 games.

RULE 8 – Entering Averages

Book averages will be used for the first 9 games a league member bowls. If the 9th game bowled is in the middle of a series, the average will not be adjusted until the following series. Book averages will be obtained from leagues in which a member bowled a minimum of 21 games. Book averages will be determined using the following hierarchy.

- (a) A member returning from the 2025 Summer Senior Sweepers shall use her/his 2025 Summer Senior Sweepers final average.
- (b) A member not meeting Rule 8(a) and returning from the 2024-25 Winter Senior Sweepers shall use her/his 2024-25 Winter Senior Sweepers book average.
- (c) A member not meeting Rule 8(b) shall use her/his highest 2024-25 winter league book average.
- (d) A member not meeting Rule 8(c) will establish an average using her/his first 3 games of the season; his/her average will be recalculated each week thereafter.

RULE 9 – Handicaps

The handicap allowance shall be 90% and shall be based on the difference between each individual's averages and a scratch figure of 230. The individual method of handicapping will be used.

RULE 10 – Team Rosters

Team captains will turn in rosters of team members to the secretary prior to the start of the schedule. Members must be 50 years of age or older. This is a mixed league in which teams may be composed of all women, all men, or both women and men. Rosters will be limited to four players. Any roster change shall be reported to the league secretary prior to the time any new team member bowls.

RULE 11 – Substitutes

A list of roving substitutes will be maintained by the league. Entering averages for substitutes will be determined per Rule 8. Substitutes may bowl for any absent bowler, regardless of gender. No one substitute may bowl with more than one team for the regularly scheduled games each week. Substitutes will not be eligible for league prize money. Substitute scores will count toward team awards. Substitutes will not be permitted to bowl position rounds or the last two weeks (Weeks 16, 31, and Week 32).

RULE 12 – Legal Lineup

A legal lineup shall consist of at least one regular member. A team will forfeit (Rule 13) any game in which a legal lineup is not present at the beginning of the first frame of the first game.

Substitutes cannot bowl any game where a legal lineup is not present.

RULE 13 – Forfeitures

When any game is declared forfeited, the team present shall bowl as though the game is actually contested. Each game point shall be awarded to the team which is present provided they bowl at least their current team average minus 40 pins.

RULE 14 – Absentee and Vacancy Scores

Absentee scores shall be allowed when a team has a legal lineup but less than a full lineup. The absentee score shall be the absent member's average less 10 pins. The regular member will be responsible for the payment of all fees.

When a team does not have enough players on its roster for a full lineup, a vacancy score of 120 shall be used with a handicap of 99. If the league has an uneven number of teams, the team scheduled against the BYE team shall not be credited with the points by forfeit. A team bowling unopposed must bowl at least the team average less forty (40) pins to win a point for a game. To win the point for the series, a team must have a minimum series total of three times the team average minus 120 pins.

RULE 15 – Pre-bowls and Postponements

The league officers shall determine what constitutes sufficient cause to grant a pre-bowl or postponement. Pre-bowls will not be allowed when a legal lineup (refer to Rule 12) is available on the actual day of league bowling. In emergencies, as determined by the league officers, the captain of the team unable to attend shall notify the opposing team captain and the secretary of the league. Such notification should be made twenty-four hours in advance, unless an extreme emergency exists. All makeups should be bowled within one week, unless an extreme emergency exists. An Officer of the league does not have to be present. Bowling unopposed will be allowed for teams

only. Pre-bowl scores shall be made available to the unopposed team during league play at the completion of each game by the secretary. However, no scores will be made available to the team that is bowling in post league play.

RULE 16 – Tardy Players

If a team has a legal lineup, other team bowlers shall be present by the beginning of the fourth frame of the first game to compete in that game, and be present by the first frame of each subsequent game in order to compete in those games. Tardy bowlers will be permitted to make up any frames missed in accordance with this rule.

RULE 17 – Position Standings

Position standings shall be determined on a 4-point basis, with one point awarded for each game won and one point for total pins. A replacement team shall assume the position standing of the original team that has dropped out.

RULE 18 – Position Ties

On the final day of the league schedule, if there is a tie for first place, a one-game roll-off shall be bowled immediately. Scores bowled in a roll-off shall not count toward special prize awards offered by the league. The roll-off shall be bowled on a different set of lanes than those bowled by the tied teams and under the same conditions and rules governing league play during the regular season. If a tie exists at the end of the roll-off, each team will bowl an additional 10th frame until the tie is broken.

If there is a tie for other than first place, prize money for the tied places shall be added together and distributed equally to the teams tied.

RULE 19 – Team and Individual Withdrawals

A two-week notice with sufficient cause shall be given to the secretary and/or president when a team or individual withdraws from the league. Until a two-week notice is received, the team or individual is still considered a team or member of the league. Absentee scores will be carried for two weeks before a vacancy score will be used if a team or member has not been replaced. If an individual withdraws with proper notice and sufficient cause, their name is moved to the substitute list. If proper notice and sufficient cause is not given, all franchise, prize and any money for which the team or individual may have been eligible will be forfeited. In addition, the individual or members of the team shall be subject to suspension of USBC membership.

RULE 20 – USBC Rules and Rules Not Covered by These Bylaws

Any bylaw in conflict with a USBC rule will be overridden by the USBC rule book. Any rule not covered by this set of bylaws shall be in accordance with the interpretation/recommendation cited by the USBC rules department. All such communication is to be copied to the HUSBC Association Manager.