

# Chapter 1: Introduction

## USBC Mission

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To provide benefits, resources and programs that enhance the bowling experience.

## Membership

### How Obtained

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Membership in USBC is composed of adults and youth who have paid the appropriate USBC, and if applicable, state and local association dues/**processing fee (youth)**. Membership in USBC may be obtained through a league, tournament, chartered association, Alliance-at-Large and via BOWL.com. Upon completing a membership application card and paying the appropriate dues, an individual becomes a member of USBC plus one USBC local and one USBC state association.

A new member who joins a summer league after March 15 of the current season shall, at the time the individual files his/her application for membership, pay only those annual USBC, state and local dues that are then known to be, or to become, effective for the next season. Upon payment of such dues, the individual shall be granted membership in USBC and applicable state and local associations for the balance of the current season and the next season.

A bowler must pay dues in each local association in which he/she applies for membership and/or bowls, except as provided in Rule 100e, Traveling leagues or Rule 100l, Mail-o-Graphic leagues or if the associations have a reciprocal agreement to waive dues. When a bowler joins a local association, he/she shall join the applicable state association. Regardless of the number of state and local associations in which an individual holds membership, he/she shall pay current USBC national membership dues only one time.

Upon obtaining membership in USBC each member agrees to be bound by all final decisions of USBC concerning application or interpretation of USBC Bylaws, playing rules and other matters relating to the sport of bowling as governed by USBC.

### Required Fees

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Each individual applying for USBC membership shall pay annual dues not to exceed:

Adult Dues		Youth Standard Dues	
USBC	\$10.00	USBC	\$ 14.50
Maximum State	\$ 1.00	State	\$ .50
Maximum Local	\$10.00	Local Processing	\$ 2.00
<b>Total Maximum</b>	<b>\$21.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 17.00</b>

State and local dues (adult only) amounts will not exceed the maximums established by USBC delegates. Youth dues may be different from adult dues.

Members of multiple local associations pay the appropriate state, if required, and local dues or processing fees (youth), unless the associations have a reciprocal agreement to waive or reduce dues.

If a youth purchases youth and adult membership, national dues are only paid once.

### **Effective Date**

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On receipt of a membership application and the appropriate dues, a membership card will be valid:

- a. For the season starting August 1 through July 31.
- b. Through October 1 of the following season for summer leagues and tournaments. Youth who turn 20 during the season are not granted the October 1 extension for tournament play; youth membership expires July 31 of the season in which they turn 20 years old. If a youth member bowling in a summer league turns 20 during the season and the league continues beyond July 31, the bowler may complete the league as a youth bowler. **For individuals authorized as mentally challenged, the age requirement is waived.**
- c. Through the balance of the current season and the following season when purchased after March 15 either through a summer league or associate membership.

For membership to be effective as of the date purchased in a league, the league secretary must forward the league membership dues, application cards and league application to the local association/**league processor (youth)** within 30 days. Otherwise, membership benefits are not effective until the date received at the local association office/**league processor (youth)**.

Possession of a valid membership card entitles the bowler to participate in all USBC competition for which they are otherwise qualified.

### **Changes in Dues**

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The maximum dues structure for adults may only be changed by the USBC delegation. The dues structure for youths may only be changed by the USBC Board based on recommendations from the Youth Committee.

## **Types of Membership**

### **Associate**

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Associate membership is available to individuals who do not obtain membership through a USBC league subject to the following:

- a. The associate membership dues shall be:
  1. Adult - National dues (\$10) plus the actual dues charged by the local and state association the bowler is joining. When local and state dues are not known, adult associate dues will be \$21 (\$10 national, \$10 local, \$1 state)
  2. Youth – \$17
- b. When associate membership is obtained after March 15, the individual shall become a member for the balance of the current season and the next season.
- c. The dues automatically will be adjusted whenever changes are made to the national, state and local dues.

## **Sport Bowling**

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All bowlers participating in USBC Sport Bowling leagues must pay or provide proof of payment of the Sport Bowling membership dues (\$15 for adults; \$10 for youth) in addition to all required standard USBC membership dues. Unless required by tournament rule, participants in Sport Bowling tournaments are not required to be Sport Bowling members.

Substitutes in USBC Sport Bowling leagues are permitted to participate in one league session per season without the requirement to purchase Sport Bowling membership if he/she already has purchased USBC standard membership for the current season. Only USBC Sport Bowling members are eligible for USBC Sport Bowling awards.

The standard USBC membership dues for USBC Lifetime members will be paid by USBC, but the bowler is responsible for paying the additional Sport Bowling dues.

## **Youth Basic Membership**

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The USBC Youth Basic membership will cost \$5 (\$4 national, \$1 processing fee) and be available to all youth who bowl in a league that meets for 12 or fewer sessions. Benefits include:

- a. USBC Youth membership card;
- b. USBC recognized average **of 12 or more games**;
- c. The ability to participate in USBC certified tournaments for that season ending July 31;
- d. Access to the USBC Youth Purchasable Awards program;
- e. **USBC High Score Awards**;
- f. **League Championship Award emblems**;
- g. **One issue of *US Youth Bowler* magazine.**

## **USBC Roll 'N Grow**

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The USBC Roll 'N Grow membership will cost \$8 (\$7 national, \$1 processing fee) and be available to all youth who bowl in bumper leagues or leagues consisting of youth ages 7 or younger. A member that bowls in an additional USBC Roll 'N Grow league in another center shall pay a \$1 processing fee. Benefits include:

- a. USBC Youth membership card;
- b. USBC recognized average of 12 or more games. Bumper averages are only recognized for other bumper competition. Bumper averages will be compiled and listed with bumper designation.
- c. The ability to participate in USBC certified tournaments for that season ending July 31;
- d. Access to the USBC Youth Purchasable Awards program;
- e. USBC Youth awards program;
- f. Bowlopolis DVD;
- g. One issue of Bowlopolis the MAG;
- h. Enrollment in the Bowlopolis Kids Club;
- i. Peeewe Progress Report Card.

## Junior Gold

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Membership consists of youth bowlers who must:

- a. Be a USBC Youth standard member in good standing and maintain compliance with Rule 400.
- b. Purchase an additional Junior Gold membership of \$30 separate from regular USBC Youth standard membership.
  1. Junior Gold members will receive a youth Sport membership.
  2. Junior Gold membership is valid:
    - a) For the season starting August 1 through July 31.
    - b) Through October 1 of the following season for summer leagues.
  3. Junior Gold membership must be purchased prior to entry into a qualifying event for the USBC Junior Gold Championships.

## High School

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**Individual:** USBC High School membership will cost \$5 (\$4 national, \$1 processing fee) and be available to all youth who bowl in recognized interscholastic competitions between two or more schools. Benefits include:

- a. USBC Youth membership card.
- b. USBC recognized average consisting of all complete games bowled by the member (minimum of 12 games) in eligible competitions.
- c. The ability to participate in USBC certified tournaments for that season ending July 31.
- d. USBC High Score Awards.
- e. Members are eligible for scholarships and awards available through the USBC Coaches Registration Program.

The membership is valid for recognized high school competitions. Should a member wish to participate in other USBC Youth league competition, he/she must obtain USBC membership and pay the necessary fees. USBC Standard members may participate in this program without payment of additional fees **and completing a USBC High School membership application.**

**The USBC High School Coaches Registration Program:** (formerly the High School Team Membership Program) is open to all Interscholastic Coaches free of charge. Coaches can register their high school bowlers and receive benefits from USBC.

The Coaches Registration Program is valid solely for recognized high school competitions during each individual teams' official high school bowling season. In order to participate in other USBC Youth competitions, (non-High School) the individual must obtain USBC membership by paying all required membership dues.

Averages from the USBC High School Coaches Registration Program will not be recognized for entry purposes into any other USBC leagues and/or tournaments.

## Collegiate

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USBC Collegiate membership is available to student-athletes participating on an intercollegiate team. Each intercollegiate team must complete an application for membership and submit the required dues for each student athlete. Each student-athlete must complete a USBC membership application.

By purchasing a membership through USBC Collegiate, collegiate members receive USBC National Membership and a Sport Membership upgrade only. USBC Collegiate membership entitles student-athletes to participate in certified USBC Collegiate competition. To participate in USBC standard or Sport competition, the applicable state/local membership dues must be paid.

### **USBC Lifetime**

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Former ABC Lifetime and WIBC Permanent Membership will be recognized by USBC Headquarters. Membership dues will be credited by USBC to the appropriate state and local association(s) upon submission of a membership application each season. In addition, USBC will reimburse membership dues for one local association and one state association per season.

### **Optional Benefits**

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USBC:

- a. May offer optional benefits for members at dues reflective of the value of services provided by USBC, state and/or local associations.
- b. May offer optional benefits for men, women and youth bowlers who choose to be identified with USBC. Dues will reflect the level of membership privileges, services and benefits provided.
- c. Determines dues for USBC and establishes the maximum amount of state and local dues only for optional benefits.

The association must offer all levels of membership as established by USBC.

USBC is authorized to test optional benefits prior to offering them, and to waive those specific bylaws, rules and regulations required for testing and implementation.

## **Youth Membership Eligibility - Rule 400**

**USBC Youth membership is available to individuals who have not reached their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to August 1 of the current bowling season and have maintained compliance with Item a below. Individuals who purchase Youth membership in a summer league and turn 20 prior to August 1 will be allowed to complete the summer league.** The age limitation is waived for those authorized as mentally challenged.

- a. Except as provided in Item b, a youth may not bowl, substitute or pace in any bowling activity which offers any of the following as prizes:
  1. Cash or bonds.
  2. Merchandise exceeding \$500 in value.
- b. Youth may bowl in singles competitions (including side competitions/brackets) offering such prizes, provided, prior to bowling:
  1. The competition agrees to award the youth's prize in the form of a scholarship; or
  2. The youth signs the USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver waiving his/her rights to any prize in violation of this rule.

In youth competition, youth members may participate in side competitions/brackets provided all entries are returned 100% in the form of scholarships only and awards comply with Item a above.

Buying or selling of earned prizes is prohibited.

Any youth bowler deemed in violation of this rule is subject to disciplinary action including the potential loss of youth membership.

**NOTE:** There are no limits on scholarship amounts or entry fees (must be paid directly to the tournament director/manager) and reimbursement of actual travel expenses into the next higher level of competition or any tournament or event. (Receipts must be provided upon request.)

The prizes authorized by a state high school athletic association or a collegiate athletic association recognized by USBC and USBC Collegiate are not subject to the limitations of this rule.

## **Amendment Procedures**

Amendments submitted by a member or chartered association to the USBC General Playing Rules, Adult League and Tournament Rules must be in writing to the USBC Executive Director by September 1 prior to the date of the next USBC Annual Meeting for action by the delegates.

The USBC Board, by a two-thirds vote, amends the USBC Awards and Youth League and Youth Tournament Rules. The USBC Board also has authority to adopt Resolutions.

The Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee, acting for and on behalf of the USBC Board, are authorized to have final authority to alter or change specifications. All proposed amendments to certification regulations or measurement specifications must be submitted in writing to USBC Headquarters.

## **Local Membership Meetings**

With the exception of affiliate status associations, the local association is required to hold at least one membership meeting each season.

At a membership meeting, elective positions are filled according to the provisions of Article V of the local association bylaws.

The meeting is open to the entire membership of the association and is under the direction of the board. All regular business is considered at the meeting.

The president may call other membership meetings as considered necessary, but shall call a meeting of the association upon written request of at least three board members or at least 25 members of the association.

The association manager forwards a written notice of all membership meetings to each league secretary and the association board. All notices should be forwarded to the league secretaries and association board at least 15 days in advance of the meeting. The league secretary shall notify the members of the league.

## Chapter 3: Awards

### Rule 50. Eligibility

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USBC will recognize the achievements listed in this chapter bowled by USBC members participating in USBC leagues and tournaments. To qualify for recognition all provisions of the USBC Bylaws, specifications and rules must have been complied with at the time the score was bowled. (See [Rule 100a](#) and [Rule 300b](#).) USBC High Score Awards designated with an (\*) cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed. Scores are determined on a scratch basis.

**NOTE:** A frame by frame print out of the scoresheet must be provided with all Award Applications submitted from a modified format.

### Rule 51a. Single Game Awards

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#### 1. Youth Awards.

USBC Youth Standard members participating in USBC Standard youth competition will be recognized for the following single game accomplishments:

- a. 300\*
- b. Eleven (11) strikes in a row when the score is 299 or less \*
- c. 125 to 299 games in 25 pin increments.
- d. Special awards available to youth ages 12 and below. 50 to 124 games in 25 pin increments. The bowler's average must be less than the game bowled. Awards are limited to once per season per achievement. Once an award has been earned in any classification, bowlers are only eligible for the higher awards on a progressive merit basis.

All USBC Youth members are eligible for USBC High Score Awards in USBC competition.

#### 2. Adult Awards.

A member is eligible for one award in each of the following single game categories during a fiscal year (August 1-July 31):

- a. 300\*
- b. 275 to 299 all averages are eligible
- c. 250 to 274 with a 215 average or below
- d. 225 to 249 with a 190 average or below
- e. 200 to 224 with a 165 average or below
- f. 175 to 199 with a 140 average or below
- g. 150 to 174 with a 120 average or below
- h. 125 to 149 with a 100 average or below
- i. Eleven (11) strikes in a row when the score is 299 or less\*
- j. 75 Pins Over Average in a single game

3. Where a choice of awards is available in any category the member is entitled to a choice of an award for the first score recorded. Any additional score in the same category that fiscal year will be officially recognized by USBC, but will not qualify for an award.

*\*Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.*

## Rule 51b. Series Awards

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### 1. Youth Awards

USBC Youth Standard members participating in USBC Standard youth competition will be recognized for the following accomplishments:

- a. 900\*
- b. 800\*
- c. 300 to 799 series in 50 pin increments.
- d. Special awards available to youth ages 12 and below. 100 to 349 series in 50 pin increments. The bowler's series average must be less than the series bowled. Awards are limited to once per season per achievement. Once an award has been earned in any classification, bowlers are only eligible for the higher awards on a progressive merit basis. A two game series format is eligible.

All USBC Youth members are eligible for USBC High Score Awards in USBC competition.

### 2. Adult Awards.

A member is eligible for one award in each of the following three game series categories during a fiscal year (August 1-July 31):

- a. 900 series\*
- b. 800 to 899\*
- c. 700 to 799 all averages eligible
- d. 600 to 699 with a 175 average or below
- e. 500 to 599 with a 145 average or below
- f. 400 to 499 with a 120 average or below
- g. 300 to 399 with a 90 average or below
- h. 140 Pins Over Average in a three-game series

### 3. Qualifications.

Three consecutive games must be bowled in USBC league or tournament play to qualify for series awards. For average requirements on average based awards, see [Rule 53](#).

- a. A series shall be figured as follows:
  - 1) If more than three but less than six games are bowled, use the first three games.
  - 2) If six or more games are bowled, use each succeeding set of three games following the first three games.
- b. In tournament play, each three game series must be bowled in the same block.
- c. A series of games can be bowled consecutively against one or more opponents.
- d. Games must be bowled on the same date.
- e. Where a choice of awards is available in any category the member is entitled to a choice of an award for the first score recorded. Any additional score in the same category that fiscal year will be officially recognized by USBC, but will not qualify for an award.

*\*Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.*

**Rule 51c. National Team High Game and Series\***

During each fiscal year USBC will issue an award to each member of the team who bowls the nation's highest scratch score in each of the following classifications. **Submit only scores that exceed those listed below.**

Men Only Teams	Game	Series
5-player	1325	3700
4-player	1050	2900
3-player	825	2250
2-player	550	1550

Mixed Teams	Game	Series
5-player	1250	3600
4-player	1000	2800
3-player	750	2200
2-player	500	1500

Women Only Teams	Game	Series
5-player	1175	3425
4-player	950	2750
3-player	725	2075
2-player	500	1350

**Youth Teams:**

To determine which age group, use the age of the oldest bowler.

Age	2-Player		3-Player		4-Player		5-Player	
	Game	Series	Game	Series	Game	Series	Game	Series
8 and Under	150	450	225	675	300	900	375	1125
9-12	250	750	375	1125	500	1500	625	1875
13-16	350	1050	525	1575	700	1900	875	2625
17-20	450	1350	675	2025	900	2300	1125	3375

**NOTE:** USBC Headquarters must receive applications for team score awards by September 1 to receive recognition.

\*Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.

**Rule 51d. Baker 300 Game Award\***

All teams utilizing the Baker System that bowl a game of 300 are eligible to receive a sponsor's award. Each team is eligible for one award during the fiscal year.

\*Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.

### **Rule 51e. Reporting Procedures**

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Scores of 300 game; 800 series or better by an individual in a three-game series; a Baker team game of 300; or a qualifying National Team High Game or Series, must be reported.

1. The following procedures apply for reporting such scores:
  - a. The league secretary or tournament manager shall notify the local association/**league processor** within 48 hours and submit a completed high score award application within 20 days.
  - b. The association manager/**league processor** shall submit a completed high score application to USBC Headquarters within seven (7) days after receipt of application.
  - c. **900 series, 300 Baker team game and National Team High Game and Series applications are submitted to USBC Headquarters.**
  - d. **300 game and 800 series award applications are submitted to the local association, local processor or USBC Headquarters.**
2. If an award is not approved administratively, the applicant will be notified in writing explaining the reason(s) for denial. If within 15 days of receipt of the written notice the applicant files a written appeal, the claim will be submitted for final decision to USBC Headquarters.

### **Rule 52a. Merit Awards\***

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The highest average, single game and three game series for a male, female, youth male and youth female in each local association will be issued a merit award under the following conditions:

1. The average, game or series was bowled by a member of the association in a USBC league or tournament within the jurisdiction of the association. The average must be based on a minimum of 66 games, and the winner of the award is decided on the percentage of a full pin.
2. The final average sheet, or the average sheet as of a date set by the association, is filed with the association.
3. The score was bowled between August 1 and July 31, except associations that publish an average book may adopt a specific date for determining award winners. Scores bowled after that date will be counted toward the next season's competition.
4. Duplicate awards shall be presented in case of ties.
5. The single game merit award will not be issued in an association when a member, during the same season or within the dates set by the association, has bowled a 300 that has or will be recognized by USBC.
6. No claim will be considered if submitted more than 30 days after the close of the bowling season in which the score was bowled.

*\*Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.*

### **Rule 52b. National High Average**

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Each fiscal year, recognition will be given to the USBC male, female, youth male and youth female member having the highest USBC average based on 66 or more games bowled as a USBC member in a USBC league.

1. Qualifying averages are reported to the local association on the final average sheet submitted to the association by the league secretary.
2. The association is to forward information concerning those members who have attained a qualifying average to USBC Headquarters.

3. To be eligible for recognition, all qualifying averages must be received by USBC Headquarters on or before October 1 of the next fiscal year.

### **Rule 52c. National High Series\***

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Each fiscal year, recognition will be given to the USBC male, female, youth male and youth female member having the highest USBC series bowled as a USBC member in a USBC league or tournament. To be eligible for recognition, all qualifying scores must be received by USBC Headquarters on or before October 1 of the next fiscal year.

*\*Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.*

### **Rule 53. Average Based Awards - Qualifying Rules**

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Qualifications for averaged based awards apply in the following order:

- a. League:
  1. If 12 games or more have been bowled in the league in the current season, use the current average.
  2. If less than 12 games in the current season, use last season's final average **of 21 games or more (12 games or more for youth)** from the same league.
  3. For a new bowler in the league with less than 12 games, use last season's highest USBC average **of 21 games or more (12 games or more for youth)** in any USBC league.
  4. For a bowler who has not established an average in the preceding season, the highest USBC average **of 21 games or more (12 games or more for youth)** from the summer league just completed shall be used.
  5. In a summer league, when a bowler has not established an average in the preceding season, the highest USBC average **of 21 games or more (12 games or more for youth)** from the regular season just completed shall be used.
  6. A new bowler in a league who has not bowled 12 games in the current season can use a current USBC average of 12 games or more from another league.
  7. A bowler who does not have an acceptable USBC average for comparison is not eligible for recognition.
- b. Tournament:
  1. In handicap or classified tournaments, compare the score with the USBC average used in the tournament.
  2. In scratch tournaments:
    - a) Compare the score with the bowler's highest current USBC average of 12 games or more.
    - b) If less than 12 games in the current season, compare the score with the preceding season's highest USBC average **of 21 games or more (12 games or more for youth)**.
    - c) A bowler who does not have an acceptable USBC average for comparison is not eligible for recognition.

### Rule 54a. Most Improved Bowler Award

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Each league will be issued an award(s) annually based on the type of league to provide recognition for the male, female, youth male, and/or youth female member who shows the greatest improvement in average in the league during its season.

1. The award is to be given to the bowler who is eligible, regardless of how many league awards the bowler qualified for.
2. The following rules apply unless the league adopts its own rules to decide the award winner:
  - a. To qualify for the award, a member must bowl at least two-thirds of the games scheduled during the league's current season.
  - b. A bowler's increase in average is determined by comparing the bowler's final average for the current season with that bowler's final or book average of at least 21 games (12 games or more for youth) for the preceding season in the same league.
  - c. For a new member with an established average, compare the bowler's final average for the current season with that bowler's highest final or book average, based on at least 21 games (12 games or more for youth) for the preceding season.
  - d. For a bowler with no average for the preceding season, compare the bowler's final average for the current season with that bowler's average for the first 12 games during the current season.
  - e. When two or more members have the same full pin increase, the winner of the award is decided on the basis of the percentage of a full pin.

**NOTE:** When the full pin increase is the same extend the decimal until the tie is broken. The bowler with the highest fractional increase is the winner.as shown below.

	Starting Average (Use full pins only)	No. of Games	Total Pins	Current Season Final Average	Increase
Jones	170	90	15,810	175.666	5.666 *Winner
Smith	162	105	17,600	167.619	5.619

### Rule 54b. Youth League High Series

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Each league will be issued awards annually based on the type of league to provide recognition for the youth male and/or youth female member who bowls the highest series during the season.

1. The award is to be given to the bowler who is eligible, regardless of how many league awards they qualified for.
2. The following rules apply unless the league adopts its own rules to decide the award winner:
  - a. The USBC member must have bowled at least two-thirds of the games scheduled during the league's current season as a USBC member.
    - 1) If a substitute later becomes a regular member of the league, the games bowled as a substitute shall be included in the required number of games.
    - 2) The scores bowled as a substitute shall not qualify for this award.
  - b. Actual scores are to count in scratch leagues and for leagues using the team method of handicapping.
  - c. Handicap scores are to count in leagues using the individual method of handicapping.