



Averages, Adjustments and Prize Winnings

Averages

Definitive average rules are important to a tournament. Any rules that refer to averages or have an effect on an entrant's average should be included in tournament rules. USBC averages of 21 or more games are considered official.

Note: Averages of 21 games or more, established in Canadian Tenpin Federation (CTF) leagues will be recognized by USBC for entry into USBC tournaments unless the tournament rules exclude CTF averages.

Youth Averages - Rule 318

For Youth tournaments entering averages are based on current averages after twelve (12) games, unless another rule is adopted

Entering Average Rules

A clear and concise entering average rule is essential in any handicap or classified tournament. Averages from the previous season are recommended as a first choice, because they can be verified via BOWL.com.

Define the entering average you want the participants to report first, but give an alternative in case they cannot meet the first rule. **The delegates recently changed Rule 319a. Highest book average now includes summer averages, unless the tournament rules state otherwise.**

SAMPLE ENTERING AVERAGE RULE:

Entering average:

- a. Last season highest USBC league average of 21 or more games.
- b. If no average last year, use highest current season USBC average at the time of entry for 21 or more games.
- c. Bowlers with neither of the above averages must bowl scratch. (Rule 319b.)
- d. If current season average for at least 21 games at the time of bowling exceeds last season's average by 10 or more pins, current season average must be used (Rule 319a, Item 2).

Average Adjustments – USBC Rule 319c

Tournament management has the authority to adjust any entrant's average upward prior to participation in any event. It is permissible to adjust an average between events.

If a bowler's average is adjusted, they have the right to decline the adjustment and receive a refund of entry fees paid for any and all events the adjustment is made for.

This Rule does apply to Youth.

Tournament Prize Winnings – USBC Rule 319d

Rule 319d allows tournament management the opportunity to adjust an entrant's average based on games bowled in a previous tournament(s) where the entrant won \$600 or more in any event in the last twelve (12) months. This rule automatically applies to all USBC handicap and classified tournaments unless waived by tournament rules.



Prize winnings from certified and uncertified tournaments including those using a modified format must be used in application of this rule. We recommend that tournament rules state whether or not Rule 319d will apply.

The last 12 months is defined as the date and time the tournament officially ended (completion of the last squad or round of competition) or payment of prizes whichever comes first.

Prize winnings are cash and/or merchandise prizes valued at \$600 or more in the position standings prize list in any one event in a tournament, including all events, special features, special prizes and donated prizes and optional events such as brackets, strike jackpots and any other side events. Each event is considered separately for reporting \$600.

319d Options - Tournament management also has the authority to modify the requirements of Rule 319d. For example, the \$600 amount could be lowered or raised to another amount such as \$100, \$500 or \$1,000 for example. The 12-month period timeframe also can be amended (six months, 24 months, etc.)

The obligation to report and the responsibility of compliance rests with the bowler. As part of the rule, all bowlers, regardless of average, are responsible for reporting any prior winnings of \$600 or more in an individual tournament/event earned within the past 12 months.

We recommend that prize winnings be reported to the tournament in writing and that tournament management issues a written receipt acknowledging acceptance of this information.

This rule also requires the bowler to list the name of the tournament, the amount won, the prize position, and the actual scores bowled to qualify for the prize. Bowlers must disclose this information prior to participation in the tournament for possible adjustment. If the bowler tells you they won a prize of \$600 or more, get the information needed prior to bowling to decide if you will adjust the bowler's entering average.

If a bowler neglects to report the information required in Rule 319d, they are subject to disqualification, forfeiture of entry fees and prize winnings.

This Rule does not apply to Youth, unless added to the tournament rules.

Average Adjustment – USBC Rule 319e

Rule 319e is an average adjustment rule that requires a bowler to change their entering average when their accumulative tournament average of 21 games or more is 15 pins higher within the previous 12 months. This rule applies to all tournaments, unless waived by tournament rule.

Whether Rule 319e is waived or applies, we recommend it be stated in the tournament rules.

Scores from certified and uncertified tournaments using an American Tenpins format must be used in application of this rule.

All bowlers are responsible for adjusting their entering average if their accumulated tournament average for 21 games or more exceeds the average to be used for entry by 15 or more pins within the previous 12 months. For example, the bowler has a league entering average of 150 and an accumulated tournament average of 170 for 21 or more tournament games. The bowler must use the 170 accumulative tournament average for entry into the tournament.



319e Options – Tournament management has the authority to modify the requirements of Rule 319e. For example, the 15 or more pin average requirement or 21-tournament game requirement could be changed to be more or less restrictive (five or more pins; 20 or more pins; 15 tournament games; 30 tournament games; etc.). The 12-month period timeline can also be amended (six months, 24 months, etc.)

A bowler whose tournament scores require an adjustment must submit the adjusted average in writing before the end of the first game in a tournament, unless tournament rules allow for such adjustment to be made within a specified time after bowling.

The bowler is responsible for keeping a record of the names, dates, scores and prize winnings in all tournaments entered in the previous 12 months, including those still running. On appeal, protest, or if tournament management believes there is a violation of the rule, the bowler can be requested to supply this information within a reasonable deadline.

Failure to use the adjusted average is cause for forfeiture of entry fees and prize winnings.

This Rule does not apply to Youth, unless added to the tournament rules.