

Freedom League 2024 - 2025  
Rules & Regulations

President: Ricky Rogers 205-492-6301  
Treasurer: Royce Tyree 508-330-1395  
Secretary: William Sims 205-914-9166

The Freedom League shall consist of (x teams) with a playing strength of 3 bowlers + a vacant or 4 bowlers per team. The league will bowl on Sunday afternoons with practice starting at 1:20pm, followed by league play starting at 1:30pm.

The first night of league will be September 8, 2024 and the league will bowl for 12 weeks with the last night of regular play on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The roll off will be held Nov 24<sup>th</sup> for placement and the 9-pin No Tap/Pay out will be held Dec 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm.

The league will not have any off weeks throughout the playing period.

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

Bowling Fee's:      \$13.50 Lineage  
                             \$8.50 Prize fund and admin costs\*  
                             \$1.00\*\* Officer Salaries  
                             \$23.00 per week per bowler

Additional Fee's:  
                             \$29 USBC Sanction Fee\*\*\* (One Time Fee for all new bowlers or the start of a new fall season)

- \*Administrative costs for printing materials, trophies, and miscellaneous expenses
- \*\* Secretary and Treasurer salaries consists of \$.50 per bowler per week

This is a guaranteed league and fee's must be paid whether present or not. It is the responsibility of the team captain to see that each member of their team has paid and that the proper sanction forms and fee's are turned over to the league secretary by the end of 1<sup>st</sup> game.

\*\*All bowlers must pay the last 2 weeks of league fee's by the 4<sup>th</sup> week (September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024)\*\*

If a bowler is currently in arrears and league dues are not paid to make that bowler legal (no more than \$69 in arrears), a score of "0" will be used for all games for that bowler. When the

absent bowler returns, he/she MUST pay enough league dues to be no more than \$0 in arrears; this includes the last 2 weeks.

If a bowler is paying by check, please make checks payable to: Vestavia Bowl

- All returned checks will incur an extra fee of \$15. Any bowler with a returned check will be required to pay all remaining fees by cash or card only.

## **League Rules and Guidelines**

### **1. League Membership**

- 1.1. Freedom League is sanctioned by the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) and IGBO (International Gay Bowling Organization). All bowlers (both regular and substitutes) must be sanctioned with this body on the first night of bowling
- 1.2. The USBC Book of Playing Rules (Rulebook) shall apply to all rules not covered under the Freedom League Bylaws and will be provided to each team captain.
- 1.3. Membership is open to any interested individual 18 years of age or older
- 1.4. "Members in good standing" are individuals who have bowled or supported the league in their presence and participated in the activities of the league at least one season of the current year (i.e. keeping scoresheets, selling raffle tickets, etc.) who have NOT been removed from the league in accordance with rule 21.

### **2. League Management**

- 2.1. League officers shall consist of 4 elected officials who are USBC sanctioned. These positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Their duties are outlined in the current edition of the rulebook.
- 2.2. Each team will have a team captain. The team captains represent their team each night of bowling and at all Board meetings. Their duties are outlined in the rulebook.
- 2.3. Officers do not have to be bowlers but must be in "good standing" and be sanctioned with USBC.
- 2.4. Two members of an immediate family, couple, or household may not hold office of the president and treasurer at the same time or co-sign for withdrawals from a league account.
- 2.5. At least 1 officer shall be present at least 15 minutes prior to the start of each night of league bowling.
- 2.6. Elected officers have the right to interpret rules based on established Freedom League rules and USBC Playing rules.

### **3. Officer Elections**

- 3.1. Nominations, acceptance of nominations, and vote for office shall be made during regular bowling the week prior to the final night of the season.
- 3.2. Any individual considered a "member in good standing" will be allowed to nominate and vote in the election.

### **4. Roster and Legal Line up**

- 4.1. Captains will turn in the roster of team members to the secretary prior to the first game of bowling of the first week of bowling.
- 4.2. Rosters will be limited to 4 players per team.

- 4.3. Any changes will be reported to the secretary or league officers prior to league bowling. Otherwise, a bowler may be added at any time prior to the last 5 weeks of league play. Only those bowlers on the roster will be allowed to bowl the night of a positions round.
- 4.4. A player who is in arrears will be removed from legal line up on week 5 of being in arrears and that spot will become a vacant spot.

## 5. Scoring System

- 5.1. The league will be scored on a nine-point system:
- 5.1.1. Two points per game + 3 point for total pins
- 5.1.2. If both teams tie for total pins, then each team will receive 1.5 points each for total pins

## 6. Entering Averages

- 6.1. A bowler's entering average will be determined in the following order:
- 6.1.1. Yearbook average from the immediate prior Freedom League Season.
- 6.1.2. If a bowler joins who has not bowled with the Freedom League in the prior seasons, their average will be used from the Greater Birmingham USBC 2023-2024 season.
- 6.1.3. For new bowlers or returning bowlers with no book average from GBUSBC, the bowler will establish an average on the first night of league play by bowling 3 games consecutively.
- 6.2. All averages not from Freedom League are subject to a re-rate.

## 7. Handicap Scores

- 7.1. Individual handicap will be based on 90% of the difference between the bowlers current average and 190. There will be no maximum handicap. An individual will not be penalized by the use of a negative handicap. Team handicap will be the total of all the individual player's handicaps.
- 7.2. If any individual has a negative handicap, a score of 0 will be assigned as their handicap.

## 8. Vacancy Scores

- 8.1. When a team does not have enough players on the roster for a full line-up, a vacancy score of 190 with an actual score of 120 will be used for computing handicap and individual points won for the game and series.
- 8.2. A vacant handicap will be composed of  $190 - 120 = 70 \times .9 = 63$

## 9. Absent Scores

- 9.1. Absent scores will be allowed when a team has a legal line-up, but less than a full team present. The absentee score will be the bowlers current average less 10 pins.
- 9.2. Handicap score will need to be figured out on absent bowler manually.

## 10. Bye Teams

- 10.1. If at any point during the league an odd number of teams exists, the following method will be used. The team bowling the BYE will bowl against the scores of the team to their immediate left, and teams on the first two lanes will bowl against the scores of the team on the last lane.
- 10.2. If the team bowling the BYE team loses, the points won will be considered unassigned points and will not count toward overall standings.

## 11. Forfeit:

- 11.1. See USBC Rule 119 for general rules

11.2. If a team is scheduled to bowl any league team (BYE included), but does not show up to bowl, the team automatically forfeits.

## 12. Tardy Bowlers

12.1. If for any reason a team member is going to be late, it is their responsibility to reach out to their team captain to inform of the tardiness.

12.2. The tardy frame will be the 4<sup>th</sup> frame. A tardy bowler may catch up, provided the opposing anchor bowler has not completed the 4<sup>th</sup> frame. In the case the opposing anchor has completed the 4<sup>th</sup> frame, an absent score will be assigned to the tardy bowler for that game.

12.3. A tardy bowler cannot miss game 1 and game 2 and then bowl game 3, if you miss game 1 and game 2, an absent score will be automatically assigned to game 3.

12.4. If members of a team are late, at least 1 one member of that team must be present before the 4<sup>th</sup> frame of the first game, or the team will forfeit game one.

12.5. If no one is present by the 4<sup>th</sup> frame of game one, all three games will be counted as forfeit and team scores will be considered absent scores.

## 13. Substitute Players

13.1. All substitute bowlers must be sanctioned with USBC in order to bowl.

13.2. Substitutions may be allowed, but may not be made in the middle of a game, except in the case of an injury to the original bowler.

13.3. The new bowler must take the replaced bowler's position in the line-up.

13.4. No more than 2 replacements per series, and once a bowler is out, they may not re-enter.

13.5. NO PACE~~ERS~~RS allowed

13.6. Substitute bowlers are not required to pay lineage, but will owe \$8.50 which will go into the league prize fund. Payment of the weekly league fees is required of the bowler being replaced by the substitute.

13.7. A bowler who is currently in arrears more than \$69, may not use a substitute to bowl in their place. Their score will count as a 0 in this case.

13.8. If by chance a substitute bowls in the place of a vacant member, the substitute must pay the full weekly fees required that week.

## 14. Breaks between Games

14.1. You are allowed a 5-minute break between games.

14.2. Tardy rules will apply if you are later than 5 minutes.

## 15. Pre-bowl / Post bowl Rules

15.1. Pre-bowling is only allowed as a team due to restrictions within the house. NO individual pre or post bowl games allowed.

15.2. A match may be pre-bowled only when there is sufficient cause. A committee of 3 members (President, Secretary, and Opposing team captain) shall determine what is sufficient cause and a 2/3 vote will be required to grant a pre-bowl.

15.3. **CALLING THE BOWLING CENTER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE OBTAINING A PRE-BOWL OR POST BOWL AGREEMENT**

15.4. **ALL post bowl games must be made up within 2 weeks of the missed league night and must be done as a team. ALL games must be caught up before position**

**rounds. If not made up prior to position rounds, points will be forfeited and moved to unassigned points**

- 15.5.** Teams can only pre-bowl / post-bowl one week at a time with a maximum of 2 pre-bowl or post bowls being allowed. Anything outside of 2 will be considered absent and absent scores rules will apply. See Rule 9 for Absent scores.
- 15.6.** IF a team cannot pre-bowl or post bowl – a substitute team/player may be allowed to bowl in their place (See Rule 13 for Substitute Rules)
- 15.7.** All pre-bowl or post-bowl scores will be displayed on the score sheets in the beginning of league play.
- 15.8.** Pre-bowling is not allowed the last two weeks of bowling (the week before position rounds and the week of position rounds).
  - 15.8.1.** If you cannot bowl these weeks, you will be considered absent and absent scores will be assigned (See Rule 9)

## **16. League Standings**

- 16.1.** Total points earned will determine team standings until the last week of bowling. On the last week, teams will participate in a position round to determine final placement. At the position round, their place will not exceed or fall below placement earned to that point. If it is an odd number of teams, last place team will remain in last place.
- 16.2.** Teams with the most points before the position round (or total pins in the case of a tie in total points) will bowl against the team with the 2<sup>nd</sup> most points. So on for team 3 and 4 and so on. This will determine who wins first place or 2<sup>nd</sup> place and so on for the season.
- 16.3.** In order for you to win your position round, your team MUST win 2 out of the 3 games to take that position. The opposing team will take the next position.

## **17. New Teams**

- 17.1.** Teams may be added no later than the third week of each season. Teams' which signup late will not receive any wins for the missed weeks. New bowlers may fill a vacancy through week 6. After week 6, all vacant spots will remain vacant.
- 17.2.** All new individual and teams will be required to pay prize fund for all weeks of league play regardless of when they join.

## **18. Prize fund Eligibility/Pay Out**

- 18.1.** In order for a bowler to be eligible for prize fund payout, the bowler must have bowled and paid for at least three quarters of league play.
- 18.2.** If a bowler is not eligible for prize fund payout, then the team captain will determine team prize fund payout based on eligible team players and must confirm this with the treasurer BEFORE prize fund calculations begin.
- 18.3.** Prize Fund distribution proposal will be distributed by week 5 and Team Captains will vote for the prize fund payout. Once voting is done, team captains will turn in the votes to the Treasurer who will then announce the prize fund pay out distribution to the league.
- 18.4.** Prize funds will be distributed to the league the night of the 9-pin No Tap and not before. If you are absent the night of the 9-pin no tap game, it is your team captain's responsibility to work out a plan with the individual bowler on what will happen with

the prize funds. Treasurer will not be responsible for holding on to the prize funds of individual players after Prize Fund Pay out.

**18.5.** Prize Fund Committee will consist of the following:

**18.5.1.** Chairman: Treasurer

**18.5.2.** Committee Members: Team Captains

**18.6.** Prize money will be distributed based on eligible positions. Teams with vacancies will not receive money for the vacant bowler positions.

**18.7.** Substitutes are not eligible for prize fund payouts.

## **19. League Funds**

**19.1.** The secretary and treasurer will be paid upon completion of the league. Funds will be deposited on a weekly basis using the In-House Banking Account at Vestavia Bowl. The President will receive a monthly statement on the account balance.

## **20. Prizes and Awards**

**20.1.** Prior to the start of the schedule, the president will appoint a committee consisting of at least 3 league members to draw up a prize list. The prize list must be approved by the board of directors and posted within 5 weeks after the start of the schedule and must include Team and Individual Awards.

**20.2.** To be eligible for Individual awards, a player must be in good standing with the league and have bowled and paid for the entire season.

## **21. Misconduct**

**21.1.** Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

**21.2.** Complaints of inappropriate behavior by a league member, substitute bowler, or their guest(s) should be brought to the attention of an officer. The respective issue will then be addressed with the governing body which will act on majority.

**SPECTATORS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE BOWLING FLOOR AT ANY  
TIME  
ALTHOUGH FOOD AND DRINKS ARE ALLOWED – PLEASE BE CAUTIOUS  
OF SPILLS AND IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY TEAM CAPTAINS AND THE  
HOUSE OF ANY SPILLS  
FACE COVERINGS ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF EACH BOWLER**