

# STRIKE AND SPARE LEAGUE RULES 2025-2026

The **Strike and Spare Bowling League** shall consist of 8 teams with the playing strength of 4 women, 18 years or older, with rosters being limited to 6 women per team. The league will bowl on **Wednesday** for 28 weeks, starting on **September 3, 2025** and ending on **April 1, 2026** at **AMF Town & Country Lanes**. Bowling will begin promptly at **6:00 pm**. The league will not bowl on **November 26, 2025, December 24, 2025, December 31, 2025**. The year-end meeting will be **April 8, 2026**.

The league board of directors, which consist of the officers and team captains, shall manage this league. The full membership will adopt the league rules and elect the league officers.

President: **Sandy Ashlock**  
Vice-President: **Sue Caruthers**

Secretary-Treasurer: **Mary Atkisson**

The league shall be certified with **USBC** through the local association, **Col USBC**. Dues will be as follows: **\$15.00** for National, **\$14.00** for local, and **\$1.00** for state, for a total of **\$30.00**. A **USBC** card must be completed and paid for before the completion of the bowler's first series. If a regular or substitute bowler has paid these dues through another league, they must also complete a card to turn in to the secretary.

An account will be opened in the name of the league and deposits must be made within seven days of receipt. Withdrawals from the account may only be made with the joint signatures of at least two officers as designated by the league board of directors. The league president shall verify the account monthly.

A prize list, drawn up by a committee appointed by the league president, must be submitted for approval by a majority of the full membership within **5** weeks after the start of the schedule.

Fees:

- a. Weekly league fees, which must be paid by each member each session, shall be **\$17.00** of which **\$15.15** covers the cost of bowling, **\$0.50** per bowler per night for the secretary/treasurer's salary, and the balance of **\$1.35** to be entered into the prize fund. The secretary's salary shall be paid at the completion of the league schedule, after a committee, appointed by the president, has performed an audit.
- b. If a team has a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> member, those members are required to pay the league fees for that night, at that team's discretion.
- c. Bowling fees for the **last week** of the league must be paid by each member before the completion of the **third week** of bowling.
- d. Each team shall be required to pay a **\$60.00** sponsor fee, which is due within the first **5** weeks of bowling.
- e. Checks must be made payable to the **Strike and Spare League**.
- f. All money is to be turned in to the secretary by the **5<sup>th</sup> frame** of the **first** game.
- g. **No** shortages and arrears will be allowed. It is the responsibility of the team captains to see that their team members are current on all league fees. If a team member is in arrearages because of an emergency situation, the board of directors will have to approve, if not then that team will forfeit all points won while the shortage exists.
- h. If a member has satisfactory cause to resign from their team during the bowling season, **2 weeks** notice shall be given to the team captain and the league secretary. They may return as a substitute but not a regular bowler during the season. Weekly league fees, including the prize fund, secretary's fees etc., shall be paid by the resigning team member for **2 weeks** if the vacancy is not filled. The payment in advance of the last week of the league's schedule, does not meet this requirement.
- i. A member who withdraws from a team during the bowling season without giving the board of directors a satisfactory reason, or who is dismissed from the league for a sufficient cause shall forfeit any money paid into the league.

Team position standings shall be determined on a point basis with **1** point awarded for each game won, and **1** point for team high series in each match.

The league will determine wins and losses on the **individual** method of handicapping. Handicap will be **90%** of the difference between a bowler's average and a scratch figure of **200**.

Averages and handicaps shall be established on the first 3 games bowled in the league. See USBC Rule 108 to determine the average of a bowler who does not meet this requirement.

An absentee (blind) score shall be the absent members average less 10 pins. Handicap shall be based on the absent members current average. If more than one member is absent or there are additional players on the roster see USBC Rule 112.

For teams without a full roster, the vacancy score will be **120**.

At least one (1) regular team member and at least one (1) substitute must be present to constitute a legal lineup to complete the first frame of any game of a series. A Frame shall be considered completed when all bowlers present on each team have made their last deliveries in that frame.

When bowling in a known forfeit situation or with an uneven number of teams a team must bowl within **40** pins of the team's average in order to earn the points for each game/series.

A late bowler will be allowed to enter a game provided that no more than **3 frames** have been completed. The bowler will be allowed to make up the frames missed. A frame is considered complete when the bowler in the anchor position on each team has thrown the last ball in the frame.

No unreasonable delay in the progress of any game is permitted. If a player or team in a league or tournament refuses to proceed with a game after being directed to do so by a league official, the game or series shall be declared forfeited. League officials consist of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms.

Roving subs may be used with a regular team member responsible for payment of all fees. Subs will not qualify for any prize money and no new subs will be permitted in the lineup after the beginning of the last round of the schedule, which is the **24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>** week. A roving sub may not become a member of a team unless approved by the board of directors.

A bowler will not be allowed to finish (bowl out).

Pacers will not be allowed.

All league members must bowl at least **2/3** of the league's scheduled games to be eligible for individual league prizes or awards.

Prizes and Awards:

- a. Only one award will be given to an individual bowler. The next in line will receive the award if a bowler has already received an award in another category
- b. Individual and team awards will be awarded on the basis of value as follows: high average, individual high scratch series, individual high scratch game, team high handicap series, and team high handicap game.
- c. Most improved bowler award shall be taken from a **12** game average in the league.
- d. If there is a tie for first place, a co-championship will be awarded and prize money for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place added together and split between the two teams.

Etiquette:

- a. No children or non-bowlers will be allowed in the bowling area, the bowling area begins at the top of the stairs. This rule will be enforced.
- b. Bowlers should conduct themselves in a responsible, mature manner, so as not to be disruptive to other bowlers.
- c. Bowler should be alert and ready to bowl when it is their turn.
- d. Bowlers are not to stand in aisles behind seating areas so as to block other bowlers from accessing the lanes readily.

Bowling Unopposed:

- a. Teams only may requests to pre-bowl and those requests must be made to a league officer as soon as possible. The secretary must be notified of the need to pre-bowl prior to the league session, except in cases of emergency.
- b. Teams may request to pre-bowl before a scheduled match if they know in advance that they will not have a legal line up.
- c.. Teams only may request to post-bowl and will only be allowed for extenuating ("unforeseen combination of circumstances making it impossible for a team to field a legal lineup") and emergency circumstances and must be approved by the board (team captains and officers).
- d. All postponement requests must be made up before the next scheduled bowling match.
- e. Pre-bowled or post-bowled game scores will not be available to the opposing team.

The board will determine if bowling is cancelled due to inclement weather conditions, all team captains will be notified by 2:30 p.m., It is the team captains responsibility to notify the team. The bowling alley (573-442-4729) will be notified by 4:00 p.m. It will also be posted on Facebook (Columbia USBC). Make up games for missed weeks will be made up at the end of the season.

Each team captain or representative will notify the secretary at the final league meeting of the team's intentions to bowl the following season. If no notification is received, their position in the league will be forfeited.

**ANY RULES NOT COVERED BY THESE LEAGUE RULES WILL BE COVERED BY USBC RULES.  
ANY DISPUTES WILL BE HANDLED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**