

## BAMA LANES YOUTH LEAGUE RULES

### General Overview:

The Youth Bowling League shall consist of teams with a playing strength and youth ages as defined below. In some instances, where the minimum number of teams has not been achieved per league, the Bantams and Preps can be combined to form a joint "Bantam Prep" league. It is generally accepted, therefore, that the age and team strength shall be broken down as follows:

<i>League</i>	<i>Ages</i>	<i>Playing Strength Minimum /Maximum # of bowlers</i>
Bumpers	4 – 6	1 min / 2 max
Bantams	7 – 9	1 min / 4 max
Preps	9 – 11	1 min / 4 max
Jr./Maj./Sr	12 – 21	1 min / 4 max

Bowler's age will be determined as of August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current league year. Bowlers may be allowed to move up in league, based on the recommendation by the Head Coach to the Youth Director. Once a bowler moves up in divisions, s/he may not move down to the younger league.

1. The Rules for USBC shall be used in order to resolve any disputes
2. The Bama Lanes Center Proprietor shall appoint a Youth Director. The Youth Director will appoint a Bama Lanes Head Coach and will also appoint a Bama Lanes Coach to collect lineage fees.
3. **League Sessions:** The leagues will bowl at Bama Lanes on Saturday mornings with three (3) sessions. A Fall Session, Winter/Spring Session and a Summer Session will be bowled. The length of the session will depend on the calendar.
  - Fall Session: Typically 14 - 15 weeks. Begins two Saturdays before Labor Day and will end the second or third Saturday in December with the End of Session No-tap Tournament, Pizza party and Awards Ceremony.
  - Winter/Spring Session: Typically 18 - 19 weeks. Usually begins the first Saturday after New Years Day unless the first Saturday is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January and will end the first or second Saturday in May with the End of Session No-tap Tournament, Pizza party and Awards Ceremony.
  - Summer Session: Typically 13 weeks. Usually Begins the Saturday before or after Memorial Day and ends the third or fourth Saturday in August.

The coaches or Youth Director will inform the members of the leagues about dates that will be bowled and holidays.

Should the scheduled week of bowling be canceled due to extenuating circumstances (IE: canceled due to a tournament interfering with league play or inclement weather), the league will not be extended to make up the cancellation. However if we may schedule make up dates for the missed week(s) as long as it fits within the normal beginning and ending scheduled dates.

4. **League Start Times:** All scheduled matches will begin promptly at the scheduled time. Practice bowling will begin 15 minutes before the start time. Starting times will be as stated, unless the prior league has not finished or there are extenuating circumstances.

- Bumpers Start time: Promptly at 9:30 a.m.
- Bantams, and Preps: Start time: Promptly at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior/Major/Senior: Start time: Promptly at 11:00 a.m.

5. **Certification:** Bantams, Preps, and the Jr/Maj/Sr leagues shall be certified with the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) through the Central Alabama Association (CAA).

Each member of the league will be a member in good standing with the USBC. Certification fees must be paid to USBC prior to each bowler beginning the league.

6. **Management:** The management of this league shall be vested in the Coaches and Youth Director. League rules will be the USBC rules and the supplemental Youth Policy Guidelines unless otherwise specified. The decision of the Youth Director shall be final.

7. **Captain:** Each team shall elect its own captain, who will be responsible for:

- Collecting the bowling fees from each team member and remitting them to the league official in charge of collecting the lineage fees. If possible, a parent will be assigned to each team to assist in the collection of the lineage fees and to help keep the scores.
- The captain (in the captain's absence, the captain's representative) shall sign the opponent's score sheet verifying the accuracy of the scores.

8. **Fees:** The bowling fee for each member in the Bantam, Prep, and JMS league shall be \$8.00, of which \$7.00 is lineage and \$1.00 is for the prize fund. Bowlers in these leagues are required to pay the fees each week, regardless if they bowl or not.

The bowling fee for each member in the Bumper league shall be \$5.00, of which \$5.00 is lineage. Bowlers in this league are only required to pay the fees for weeks they actually bowl.

9. **Funds:** League Funds, if any, shall be deposited in a local bank. Bama Lanes Center Proprietor shall control and sign for all withdrawals. All funds shall remain in a combined (JMS, Bantam, Prep and Bumper) Bama Lanes USBC account and used for Bama Lanes USBC Youth Leagues.

10. **Prizes (non Bumper Leagues):** To qualify for an individual award, a bowler must have bowled 50% of the scheduled games for a session. Awards will be given on a handicap and scratch basis. A bowler may qualify for only one individual award with the exception of HIGH AVERAGE and MOST IMPROVED. The Most Improved award will be based on the increase between the bowler's average after 12 games and the bowler's average at the end of the session. In the Spring session, a bowler's average from the Fall session will be carried over to compute the most improved, provided that average is based on 12 or more games. Otherwise, it will be computed from when the bowler completes 12 games.

- Team Awards:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team (When 12 or more Teams)

- Individual Awards by Ranking:
  - High Series Handicap – Boy/Girl
  - High Game Handicap – Boy/Girl
  - High Series Scratch – Boy/Girl
  - High Game Scratch – Boy/Girl
  - High Average – Boy/Girl
  - Most Improved – Boy/Girl
- Participation award – For all Bantams and Preps who have not received an individual or team award.

- Prizes (Bumper Leagues):** All Bumper bowlers shall receive a participation award. No individual awards will be given.
- Averages:** Each bowler will establish an average in this league with the first three (3) games bowled.
- Handicap:** The handicap shall be 90 percent of 200.
- Legal Lineup:** For Bumpers, Bantams, and Preps, a legal line up shall be at least one bowler, which is a regular member of the team. For JMS, a legal line up shall be at least two bowlers, of which there must be at least one regular member of the team and a substitute or another regular member of the team.
- Vacancy and Absentee (Blind) Scores:** A vacancy score may be used when a team does not have a full roster. This score shall be 120 plus a handicap of 72. An absentee (or blind) score may be used when a regular bowler is unable to bowl. This score shall be the bowler's average less 10 pins plus handicap.
- Tardy Players:** Any bowler arriving prior to the completion of the third frame will be permitted to make up the frames missed. The natural flow of bowling shall not be interrupted. The frames will be made up as the computer filters the late bowler on to a lane until all missed frames are completed. Bowlers arriving after both teams have completed the third from will be allowed to bowl from that frame onward with the blind frame scores previously recorded counting toward their score. The game will be recorded as an incomplete game and not credited to the bowler's average.
- Forfeitures:** When a game is declared forfeit, the team present must bowl as though the game is actually contested. The points shall be awarded to the team that is present, provided the team present bowls within 30 pins of the team average (based on 3 active members) for each game that is forfeited in order to win. *[20 pins for teams of 2; 40 pins for teams of 4]*
- Postponement:** Post-bowling will not be allowed except under extreme circumstances.
  - Examples of extreme circumstances: When there is a death in the family; when an accident occurs on the way to the regular scheduled bowling; when admitted to the hospital or when a family member has an immediate medical emergency that prevents you from being able to bowl. (Not feeling well, having a headache, oversleeping, prior athletic commitments or lunch dates are not valid reasons)
  - You must contact your Youth Director personally to explain the situation and s/he will determine if the situation warrants Post Bowling.

19. **Pre-Bowling:** Bowling is a team sport and bowling as a team is expected. However, because this is a youth league, individual pre-bowling will be allowed under the following guidelines:

- Reasons for pre-bowling are outlined in the USBC policy handbook.
- Weekly fees must be paid to the front counter prior to pre-bowling. No bowler will be allowed to pre-bowl without paying the weekly fees first.
- You must make arrangements with the Bowling Center prior to pre-bowling to schedule lanes. This should be done far enough in advance so that you will not be turned away. If you do not pre-schedule an appointment with the Center, you will not be allowed to bowl. No Exceptions.
- If a full team is pre-bowling the opposing team must be given the opportunity to bowl at the same time. It is recommended that a full team pre-bowl if more than one member of the team needs to pre-bowl for any given week.
- All bowlers will receive 5 minutes of practice time only.
- Pre-Bowl scores will consist of the first three games bowled. Any bowler caught cheating or substituting a score from another game will be immediately suspended from bowling for one week. All fees will be required to be paid during suspension.
- Bowlers will exit the pre-assigned lanes after the end of the third game. If a bowler wishes to practice on regular practice days after pre-bowling, they must move to a lane designated for practice only by the counter attendant, provided there are lanes available. If no lanes are available, the bowling session is then over.
- In the event that a correction needs to be made, the control counter attendant must make the change and they must initial the print out sheet that they made the correction. Under no circumstances is a youth bowler to correct a score on the machine or on the score sheet.
- You must make sure that the recap sheet is filled out, including your full name and scratch scores and the date that you are pre-bowling for.
- You must make sure that the control counter attendant prints the computer recap sheet and attaches it to your recap sheet and it is placed in the league cubby hole. If no computer recap is attached to your handwritten recap sheet, your scores will not count for the week you are bowling for.

20. **Unopposed:** In the event that any teams scheduled to bowl against each other are unable to do so for any reason, bowling unopposed shall be permitted.

21. **Bowling a Bye:** Will be bowled in the same fashion as forfeitures. (See Rule 15)

22. **Substitutes:** The league will maintain a list of roving substitutes.

- Any substitute during the last two (2) weeks of the bowling session must have an average in this league and must have bowled at least six (6) games.
- Substitutes will count towards a legal line-up.

- Substitute bowlers must be sanctioned.
- A substitute can not bowl in place of a vacancy.
- Substitutes are not eligible for league awards.
- A substitute will be permitted to bowl in the end of season no-tap provided the substitute has an average base on at least 12 games. They will be required to pay the Tournament entry fee of \$8.00.

23. **Position Standing:** The eight-point (8) system will be used for wins and losses, 2 points per game and 2 points for total pins). Position standing shall be determined on the basis of games won and lost. If a team joins after the 2<sup>nd</sup> week, percentage won-loss will be used to determine position standing. Games competed for during the first two week will not be made up. If a team joins the league in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week and there were an odd number of teams in the league, the new team will be permitted to post bowl for the first week and the scores will be recorded as if they were posting bowling against the team that bowled the vacant team. If the league had an even number of teams, the new team will bowl against a bye team in the second week and the make-up week will also be competed against the bye team. If an even number of teams joins the league in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week, they will bowl each other for the second week and also in the make up week. If more that three join in second week, a combination of the above will be used for the make-up week, preventing the teams from bowling each other more than once. No new teams will be added after the sixth week.

24. **Championship Roll-Offs:** Championship roll-off for a session, if needed, will be scheduled on the Saturday of the end of session pizza party.

- If two teams (2) are tied for first place at the end of the session, then a three (3) game roll off will take place, with total pin count, including handicap, determining the winner.
- If three teams (3) are tied, three (3) pairs of lanes would be used. Starting lanes would be selected by draw and teams would rotate after each game as follows:

<i>Game</i>	<i>Lanes A &amp; B</i>	<i>Lanes C &amp; D</i>	<i>Lanes E &amp; F</i>
First Game	Team 3	Team 1	Team 2
Second Game	Team 2	Team 3	Team 1
Third Game	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3

- If more than three teams are tied for first place, then a pair of lanes will be added and the Head Coach will revise the above schedule to incorporate the additional teams. Starting lanes would be selected by draw, and teams would rotate according to the revised schedule.
- In all instances, if a tie still exists after the three games, then the teams will bowl a 10<sup>th</sup> frame roll-off, with one tenth (1/10) of the total handicap being applied to the score of each individual on the team.

25. **Behavior and Etiquette:** Discipline for infractions will be strictly enforced. The objective of administering penalties to infractions is to educate the youth bowlers in the proper etiquette of bowling in order to develop better adult bowlers. Teaching the “do’s” and “don’ts” and then enforcing the rules in our USBC leagues is the only way to produce better adult

bowlers. The following is a list of penalties that will be administered for violations of the Bama Lanes USBC and League rules. The penalties are listed in the order they should be administered, remembering they should be administered with common sense:

- A “tag” warning. This will be considered a verbal warning. For reference, a “tag” will be a slip of paper indicating “Rule Violation”.
- Probation – 1 week of bowling blind
- Repeat offenses shall be handled by the Head Coach, the Coach/Official involved (if any) and the Youth Director. The decision of the Youth Director shall be final.

If a parent or bowler feels that a penalty has been applied inappropriately, they may appeal the decision in the following order: First to the Head Coach, secondly to the Youth Director, and finally to the proprietor of the Center. (See the Youth Policy Supplemental for more on Behavior and Etiquette)

26. **Score Correction:** A coach or bowling alley representative is the only authorized individual to make score corrections. If corrections are made by anyone other than those mentioned, the coaching staff will review the print outs of the game or games to determine if inappropriate changes were made and the forfeiture of the game or games in question. If games are forfeited because the coaches determined an inappropriate change was made, the games rolled (as corrected) will continue to count for an individual’s average.