

2025-26 EASTMAN RECREATION BOWLING LEAGUE RULES

1. All bowlers must be sanctioned by USBC to participate in the ERC Mixed Bowling League. Teams may be composed of both ERC bowling club members and non-ERC members, however at least one member of the team bowling each night must be an ERC bowling club roster. If a member of a team is not an ERC Bowling Club Member, they must pay the Sanction Fee to USBC unless they have already sanctioned in another league. It is the responsibility of the Team Captain to provide the necessary information to the ERC Representative on Non-ERC members.
2. All participants in the ERC Bowling League must be at least 18 years of age.
3. USBC and ERC rules will prevail.
4. No rule shall contradict any USBC established rules. Any rule not covered by ERC league rules shall revert to USBC rules.
5. The bowling time is set by the bowling establishment and ERC Bowling Club and will be followed as closely as possible. Only ERC reserves the right to postpone play of the entire league up until bowling time. If inclement weather occurs prior to the bowling time, ERC will contact the captains of each team by 3:00 p.m. and advise of any cancellations. If inclement weather occurs during bowling, the team captains will decide whether to continue (majority will rule).
6. To bowl catch-up for the first game, all late bowlers must be ready to bowl by 7:15pm. If the player is not ready to bowl by 7:15 p.m., a nemo will be used in the first game and a substitute can be inserted for the 2nd and 3rd games. Late bowlers will not be allowed any warm-up. Key times to remember: (6:35warm-up; 6:45-start; and 7:15-grace).
7. Any protest declared by any team must be submitted to the ERC Coordinator within 24 hours after the match in question. A decision will be made by one of the following: Eastman Recreation, Bowling Club officers, or a steering committee composed of bowling club officers, and team captains.
8. Rosters are limited to ten people; however, the team can still use subs as needed throughout the season. Roster members can't bowl for any other teams during the regular season; tournament doesn't apply.
9. For a player to voluntarily transfer from one team to another, a notice must be sent to the Recreation Coordinator. Only one (1) transfer per bowling year. If a team drops from the league, its players are automatically released to any other team.
10. A team must consist of at least four (4) Bowlers.
11. Teams may roll matches with no more than two (2) nemos. A team must bowl with at least two bowlers from their roster, and either two subs, or one sub, and one nemo.
12. The nemo score will be based on the absent team member's current average less than 10 pins plus full handicap. Identification of the absent team members is covered by USBC rules. Should a player be unable to complete a game because of disability, injury or emergency, the team shall count the actual score for the frames bowled plus one-tenth of the bowler's average less than 10 pins for each frame missed.
13. THIS IS A GUARANTEED LEAGUE AND SANCTIONED BY USBC RULES. For an individual to drop out from the league, a two-week notice must be given to the Recreation Coordinator. The team or individual is responsible for all monies owed to the bowling establishment for a two-week period. If no notice of withdrawal is given, the team or individual is responsible for all monies owed to the bowling establishment for the remainder of the season. It will be the

responsibility of the ERC Bowling Club to collect said monies. If monies are not paid, suspension from USBC, and ERC will be initiated.

14. Bowlers are responsible for paying their own bowling fee on each given bowling date unless they have made other arrangements. The captain is responsible for turning in their bowling fees each week before the second game.
15. Bowlers that participated in last year's ERC league will use their average, and handicap for the first nine games of the new season, then the handicap will be adjusted weekly by results each week. (Must have bowled at least 21 games in the previous season to be able to use the average/handicap from last year.) All other Bowlers will establish handicap on the first night they bowl. Handicaps will be updated each week. Handicaps will be based on 90% of the difference between the bowler's average and 220.
16. There shall be seven (7) points awarded per match, two (2) points for each game won and one (1) point for total pins. When a tie occurs, each of the teams shall be credited with one-half the value of the normal point award.
17. If there is an uneven number of teams in the league one of the league's teams will bowl unopposed. This team will be awarded (2) points for each game that their team bowls within 40 pins of their handicapped game average. This team will be awarded one additional point if they bowl within 120 pins of their handicapped series average. (This rule will apply for the 2025-26 bowling season because there is an odd number of teams)
18. The league will not bowl on 12/25/24 and 1/1/25 due to Christmas and New Years Day. This means that the last bowling date before Christmas Break will be December 15, 2024, and the day we resume after New Years is January 5, 2026.
19. The season shall produce two (2) bowling champions: a regular season champion and tournament winners.
20. The season will be divided into halves, each half consisting of 11 weeks.

First and second place teams from each half will qualify for the roll-off. If a team possesses multiple qualifying positions, the team with the best overall record will qualify for the fourth position in the Rolloff. In the case of a tie for second place, both teams would qualify for the roll-off. If a team finished third in both halves, that team would also qualify for the roll-off.

Typically, the roll-off will be held the week following the end of the regular season and a tournament will be held the following week. If a team involved in the roll-off cannot field a legal line-up because of shift schedules, the roll-off may be postponed or the roll-off and tournament weeks may be switched at the discretion of a steering committee composed of the bowling club officers and team captains.

Tournament winners will be determined by a tournament held the week following the roll-off. Everyone that wants to participate in the tournament must notify the ERC coordinator before the end of the regular season to determine the correct number of lanes to be reserved. The tournament shall consist of one set of three games with total pins plus handicap counting.

Rule 113 – Roll-offs/Playoffs/Special Contests

113a. Definition

1. Roll-off: A roll-off is a separate competition conducted to break ties or to determine league champions.

A roll-off must be conducted:

- a. To determine the champion when a tie exists for first place at the end of the league schedule, unless the league allows for co-champions.
- b. To determine first place when a tie occurs in any segment of a split season.

c. When the league decides to break a tie for any other position.

21. To be eligible for roll-off and tournament play, a bowler (or substitute) must have rolled in a minimum of 1/3 (26 games for current season) of the total games for the regular season.
22. A bowler (or substitute) must roll in at least 1/3 (22 games for current season based on 12 teams) of the total games for the regular season to be eligible for awards. A Substitute is not eligible for Team Awards. A bowler must bowl in at least 2/3 (44 games for the current season based on 12 teams) to be eligible for the 'bowler of the year' award. There will be one male "bowler of the year" and one "female bowler of the year".
23. Previous year's entries will have priority on openings in the league for the current year provided they contact the Recreation Coordinator or attend a bowling meeting prior to the start of the bowling season.
24. The ERC Bowling Club dues are \$3.00 per year per member. There are no ERC membership dues for any Eastman retiree. ERC will pay the USBC sanction fees for each ERC Bowling Club member that bowls in the Eastman Recreation Mixed League in the current season.
25. The ERC Coordinator, ERC Bowling Club Officer, or League Secretary can be contacted during play if there is a question to any bowling rule.
26. During warm-ups, bowlers can roll one ball per trip at a full rack. The pins will then be reset to a new full rack for the next bowler unless there is a mechanical malfunction.
27. Teams can pre-bowl or post-bowl, subject to the following restrictions: Please note that post bowling is strictly limited to an emergency. If a team post-bowls, the league coordinator must be notified for approval.
 1. Team pre- or post-bowling must be done as a team.
 2. The opposing team captain must be notified and given the opportunity to bowl in opposition.
 3. The bowling desk at Warpath Lanes must be notified of the intent to pre-bowl so that the scores can be recorded properly.
 4. Any post-bowled games must be made up 3 days after the scheduled week of bowling.
 5. Team pre- and post-bowling is not allowed during the roll-off or tournament.
28. Individuals can pre-bowl only, subject to the following restrictions:
 1. No more than three team roster members may pre-bowl in each week.
 2. The bowling desk at Warpath Lanes must be notified of the intent to pre-bowl so that the scores can be recorded properly.
 3. The league coordinator must be notified of the results of the pre-bowling prior to league competition. Email notification is sufficient at WendellS.Smith@eastman.com
 4. Individual pre-bowling is not allowed during the roll-off or tournament.

SPECIAL NOTE

Pre/Post Bowling fees must be paid at the time of bowling. Team Pre/Post Bowling will pick up pre-made envelopes from Warpath Lanes staff and fill out the required information on the envelope. Once it has been completed and the money is turned into the envelope, the pre/post team that is bowling will give the completed envelope and turn into Warpath Lanes staff.

29. As per USBC rules, any unopposed pre-bowled or post-bowled games do not qualify for High Score Awards (900, 800, 300, and 11 strikes in-a-row). The key word here is unopposed. All other Achievement Awards do apply to unopposed pre- and post-bowled games.

USBC Rule Changes for 2024-2025 Season

General Playing Rules Chapter 8, Rule 7, Bowling Ball Holes

Commonly Asked Questions – Bowling Ball – Holes Is a bowling ball with a thumb hole thrown by a nothumb or two-handed bowler legal? A bowler who doesn't use the thumb during a delivery cannot have a thumb or a balance hole. If the ball does, it is illegal, and games are subject to forfeiture. All holes drilled must be used for gripping purposes on every delivery.

What if a bowler does not use their thumb for a strike ball but does use their thumb for a spare shot? A bowler who doesn't use the thumb during a delivery cannot have a thumb or a balance hole. If the ball does, it is illegal, and games are subject to forfeiture. All holes drilled must be used for gripping purposes on every delivery. If the bowler covers the thumb hole with their palm, would that count as gripping? No, the bowler is not gripping the ball if they are just covering the hole with their palm.

Revised: August 2025

Reviewed and voted on August 21, 2025