



Stonewall Sports National Tournament Official Rulebook: BOWLING

(Last Updated: March 25, 2025)

Stonewall Sports is For All

Stonewall Sports is dedicated to creating a community of diverse participants via organized sports and activities that take place in inclusive spaces. We are founded on the pillars of respect, holistic wellness, open-mindedness and the appreciation of diverse backgrounds.

Our shared responsibility is to bring our community together, empower individuals, and provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment to learn and grow, thus uplifting those who are part of the Stonewall community and beyond.

We believe in uplifting and celebrating all individuals within the LGBTQIA+ community — including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, Two-Spirit and queer people, among others — and we welcome friends and allies into these spaces with open arms.

In pursuit of these values, we encourage each of our participating teams to embrace these principles with representation from members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Our Sports Operations team is empowered and encouraged to open a dialogue with teams when they see an opportunity to promote diversity and inclusivity within our spaces.

Please review and abide to the following throughout the tournament:

- [Stonewall Sports Player Code of Conduct](#)
- [Stonewall Sports National Tournament Uniform Policy](#)

Tournament Rules

1. In all situations where these rules do not address an issue, either USBC Competition Rules and/or the Bowling Manager's decision will apply.
2. Teams without at least three (3) bowlers may be assigned a bowler such that a full Divisional playing complement is achieved (three or four person teams).
3. Changing a bowling hand delivery is not allowed. Bowling Teams may be mixed.
4. Any bowler may express any preferred gender identification.
5. Bowling is a fun and social event, which allows for players to have healthy competition while supporting local LGBT charities. With the exception of the possible "Fun Games" play, tournament prize monies will not be paid.
6. All bowlers must use a USBC qualified bowling ball (e.g. balance/center hole filled, etc.).
7. For a legal team roster, at least one team member must be present at the scheduled start of the competition. Any team without a legal roster will be considered a Forfeit Team and will be eliminated from that game's competition. The team's score for that game will be registered as a zero (0). If one registered team bowler is present at the scheduled start of competition, and other registered team mates arrive before the beginning of the third frame that/those members may be considered Late Arrivals. If an absent bowler does not arrive by the start of the third (3rd) frame, the bowler is excluded from that game's competition and their score will be zero (0).
8. **Late Arrivals:** If a bowler arrives late, but before the third frame has begun, the player will be allowed to compete in that game's competition beginning with the third frame. The bowler's scores for the prior two (2) frames will be considered zero (0). Bowlers that arrive before the start of the second game may bowl their second and third games without penalty.
9. **Forfeit Teams:** If a team doesn't have the minimum team complement of one present at the competition's start, that team will be considered a Forfeit Team and their scores will not be counted for competition ranking.
10. Bowlers should remain ready and available to bowl until final rankings have been established.
11. Under unforeseen circumstances, a team may request a substitute bowler—subject to the Bowling Manager's approval. Requests will only be entertained if made no less than the day before competition play.
12. If a thrown bowling ball enters the gutter and then hits pins afterwards, the pin(s) that fall do not count and the roll is considered a gutter ball.
13. Claims of errors in scoring or other disputes must be brought to the Bowling Manager's attention immediately. The Bowling Manager's decision in the matter is final.
14. For a Blind or Absentee scoring see "Late Arrivals" above.

15. All decisions by the Bowling Manager are applicable and final.

Player Conduct

1. Zero Tolerance Policy – Stonewall Sports Inc. has a zero tolerance policy toward acts of aggression. Any bullying or harassment toward any player, bowling organizers, volunteers and spectators will not be tolerated. Harassment can be verbal, physical or visual, and may include all unwelcome conduct that negatively impacts another.
2. Please practice proper bowling etiquette. If your lane is ready to bowl on and you are ready, check the bowlers on each side of you. Do not take your bowling approach at the time when an adjacent bowler is taking their approach. Please defer to the bowler on the right. If your approach is clear, please bowl.
3. At the end of the competition please return any bowling center bowling balls to their rack and any complimentary shoes to the counter.
4. All bowlers must observe the rules and regulations of HP lanes. These include (not inclusive): no outside food or drink may be brought into the center and smoking is limited to designated areas.
5. Bowlers must exercise responsible use of the facility at all times.