

# Odd Couples

## BY-LAWS

2011-2012  
SEASON

**Intro:** The **Odd Couples League** shall consist of no more than 12 teams, with a playing strength of at least four people. This league will bowl on Friday nights for 33 weeks starting on September 9, 2011 at 6:30pm. This league will be certified by the **USBC** through the Lewiston-Auburn USBC Association. This league will bowl a split season. The 16<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> weeks will be used for roll-offs, with the championship and sweepstakes being on the 33<sup>rd</sup> week.

- **1 Management:** The management of this league shall be vested in the **Board of Directors**, which consists of the **Officers** and **Team Captains**. The board shall adopt the league rules and the membership at large shall elect the officers. At least one officer must be of the opposite sex. A majority must be present to constitute a quorum.
- **2 League Voting:** Voting on the lanes is permitted, but vote must be a majority unless otherwise specified in these laws.
- **3 Secretary/Treasurer Salary:** The secretary/treasurer salary shall be \$550 and will not be paid until the final averages have been submitted to the local association.
- **4 Franchise:** The franchise shall be retained by the team captains, or any member of the team, as long as the captain is acceptable to the majority of the board of directors.
- **5 Fees:** The amount of **\$14** is to be paid by each bowler each night of the league. This amount will cover the lineage, with the balance being placed in the league treasury. There shall be **NO ARREARAGES!!** It shall be the responsibility of the team captain and/or some member of the team to collect \$56 each week from team bowlers and forward to the treasurer. Bowlers will be allowed one-week grace period under all circumstances. If a person is in arrears, that bowler is not eligible to bowl until such arrearage is paid. If the bowler remains in arrears and does bowl, the team will forfeit all of its points. All envelopes must be returned to the treasurer by the end of the first game.
- **6 Advanced Payments:** All teams will pay the last week of bowling (\$52) by the 16<sup>th</sup> week of the bowling season. If a member has cause to resign from a team during the season, two weeks notice shall be given to the team captain and league secretary. If the resigning bowler has paid for the last week, a refund will be issued. Weekly fees shall be paid by the resigning member for two weeks if the position is not filled.
- **7 League Funds:** This league shall maintain an account in the name of this league at Great Falls Credit Union in Auburn. The league funds will be deposited each week. The President and Treasurer shall both sign for all withdrawals. The President shall verify the league account monthly.
- **8 Prizes:** To qualify for individual league awards, a bowler must have bowled in at least 75 games. A bowler or team can only be awarded one league prize, high game/high series, excluding High Average and Most Improved. Awards for handicap scores will be tracked after the individual has completed fifteen games. All awards from USBC, State and Local Associations will be given to those who earned them regardless of any league award they may win. Pins and or other awards will be submitted to the local association.
- **9 Entering Averages & Most Improved:** Bowlers will use their previous year's average for the first night of bowling. If a bowler does not have a previous year's established average, he/she will establish an average the first night of bowling and re-establish an average in the second and third week of bowling. Beginning in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of bowling, such bowler will begin using the true average from the current season. For the sole purpose of determining most improved bowler awards, qualifications will begin after 33 games.

- **10 Handicap:** The handicap allowance shall be One Hundred Percent (100%) of two hundred twenty (220). Handicap will be based on current season average from this league, subject to Rule 9.
- **11 Captains Duties:** Each Team Captain shall be responsible for the: weekly fee collection, last week bowling fee collection, roster order, verifying individual and team scores, verifying team standings and selecting a non-core bowler for an absent bowler. The captain should be an active part of the Board of Directors. The captain shall notify a league officer of an event that would potentially break or has broken any League By-Laws, USBC rules and other regulations.
- **12 Team Roster:** Captains will turn in rosters of team members to the secretary prior to the start of the schedule. Rosters will be limited to eight players and shall consist of at least **one** member of the opposite sex as a core bowling member. New players without an established average cannot be added to the team roster or bowl in the last three weeks of either half of the schedule with out the written approval of every member of the Board of Directors.
- **13 Non-Core bowlers, Pacers and Fees:** This league does not use substitute bowlers. The team captain may opt to use a non-core member when a core member is absent, but there should still be at least one member of each sex each night. The non-core bowler will be responsible for paying all league fees. Upon the agreement of the opposing team captain, a pacer may fill in to balance the rotation of the team. The pacer will be responsible for paying the bowling fees (\$10.15 a night), not the prize fund.
- **14 Legal Line-Up:** Two players from a team's roster constitutes a legal line-up. Hence at least two players must be present and ready to bowl at the beginning of the first frame of game one or Rule #24 will be enforced.
- **15 Postponements:** The League's Board of Directors will determine what shall be sufficient cause to grant a postponement, with a 2/3<sup>rd</sup>'s majority in agreement. The team requesting the postponement **MUST** contact a league Officer prior to that nights bowling, 48 hours if possible for personal/family reasons **OR** at least two weeks for a scheduled event.
- **16 Unopposed Bowling:** No Unopposed bowling is allowed in this league without unanimous consent.
- **17 Absentee Scores:** The absentee score for each game shall be the absent bowlers average minus ten (-10) pins. The handicap will be based on the absent bowlers average. When a team has an absent member without an established average, a vacancy score will be used (see Rule #18).
- **18 Vacancy Scores:** The vacancy score for this league is **150** for all bowlers.
- **19 Tardy Players:** A tardy player shall be permitted to begin bowling from the first frame with the score to count **providing the late arriving bowler is ready to bowl when his/her turn comes up in the third frame**. This applies to game one only. Players should be present and ready for the first frame of the second and third games, otherwise they **will be declared absent**.
- **20 Points & Position Standings:** This league uses an eight point system. Two points for each game won and two points for series total. All points are awarded on a handicap basis.
- **21 Roll-Offs:** Roll-Offs for the first and second half champions will be bowled on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> weeks, with the 2 division winners and 2 wild card teams bowling for total pins to determine positions **1-4**. All other teams will bowl for **\$10** for each game won and **\$10** for series based on handicap totals. A tie for first place during roll-off will be settled with a one game roll-off on a pair of lanes that neither team bowled on that night (the 16<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> weeks). The first place team from each half of the season will bowl for Overall League Champions on the 33<sup>rd</sup> week (sweepstakes night). All scores bowled on sweepstakes night will count towards season average and league records. **All bowlers in a roll off contest must have bowled enough games to qualify for USBC high achievement awards (currently 12 games), otherwise the bowler(s) will be ineligible to bowl for score in the roll off contest.**
- **22 Sweepstakes Money:** All sweepstakes money will be returned (100%) in each of five categories: Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles

- **23 Certification Dues:** All bowlers must pay their certification dues prior to play on the first night of bowling!! **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!** Any games bowled by a bowler that did not pay will not count towards team totals or the bowler's totals. A vacancy score will be used instead. USBC dues are \$20 for all persons not already certified.
  - **24 Forfeits:** No team shall be awarded forfeited points. They must beat **their own** absentee scores. All unearned points will not be awarded to either team.
  - **25 Professional Bowlers:** PBA and WPBA members are allowed to bowl in this league.
  - **26 Retaining Team Franchise:** All teams that are currently in this league can reserve a slot in future seasons, but they **MUST** have a team representative at the start up meeting. **Or** contact a league officer prior to the start up meeting.
  - **27 USBC Rules:** The USBC Rule Book shall be used for determining guides and rules not covered by these By-Laws. The more restrictive of the two will govern (USBC).
  - **28 League Raffle:** (to be determined at meeting of the first week of bowling) The league shall supply the tickets for the raffle, and all teams will be required to take turns selling them each night (the team which happens to be bowling the bye team, or the team bowling on lane 13 if no bye team, will be responsible). The proceeds will be applied to the banquet costs or point money if a banquet is not going to be held. On weeks 16, 32, and 33 all money collected will be awarded out.
  - **29 Non Bowlers.** Persons who are not bowling may not loiter in the pit area (area between the ball return and the scoring kiosks).
  - **30 Position Round.** Position rounds will be 1<sup>st</sup> place verses 2<sup>nd</sup> place, 3<sup>rd</sup> place versus 4<sup>th</sup> place, and so on. If there are divisions with odd numbers of teams, the last place teams in each division will bowl each other in position rounds.
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