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United States Bowling Congress

**2019 Legislative Review**  
BOWL.com/RULES

# 2019 INDEX OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

## League Rules

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*USBC Playing Rules*  
Chapter 4, League Rules  
Rule 102e, Duties of the Secretary, Item 9

Averages on BOWL.com are the official bowlers average and the importance of an average showing on BOWL.com is essential. Consequently, the faster the average is submitted to the association, the more accurate information will be for the player.

**Proposer:** USBC Legal and Legislative Committee

### Rules Proposal No. LR 3.....Page 04

*USBC Playing Rules*  
Chapter 4, League Rules  
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Requires every team captain to vote on rule changes, with approval of a majority.

**Proposer:** Nadine Steinmetz  
Junction City, OR

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**Proposer:** Scott Resnick  
Fort Salonga, NY

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**Proposer:** Ed Cotter  
Levant, ME

## Bylaws

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**Proposer:** Douglas Sass  
Walkersville, MD

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Puts limits on the submission of an amendment from previous year.

**Proposer:** USBC Legal and Legislative Committee



**USBC State Bylaws**  
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Allows state delegates to determine if HOF members should have voting rights at the state annual meeting

**Proposers:** Mark Jensen      Sharon Billman  
                  Wichita, KS         Parsons, KS

**USBC Local Bylaws**  
**Article IV, Membership and Dues**

Allows membership bought in a summer league to extend through July 31 of the following year.

**Proposer:** San Diego USBC (CA)

# RULES PROPOSAL NO. LR 1

Delegate Action	Vote Count	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	_____	_____

## **PRESENT RULE...**

**USBC Playing Rules  
Chapter 4, League Rules  
Rule 102e, Duties of the Secretary, Item 9**

Furnish a list of individual averages to the local association manager(s), when requested. The list must show the full names and ID numbers of all bowlers who competed in the league, the number of games bowled, total pinfall and average for each bowler.

## **PROPOSAL...**

Delete "(s)"

Add "and within 15 days of the end of the league." after "requested".

**If adopted**, Item 9 will state:

Furnish a list of individual averages to the local association manager when requested, and within 15 days of the end of the league. The list must show the full names and ID numbers of all bowlers who competed in the league, the number of games bowled, total pinfall and average for each bowler.

## **REASON FOR PROPOSAL....**

Averages on BOWL.com are the official bowlers average and the importance of an average showing on BOWL.com is essential. Consequently, the faster the average is submitted to the association, the more accurate information will be for the player.

Presented by: USBC Legal and Legislative Committee

**Recommended for adoption by the USBC Board of Directors**

## RULES PROPOSAL NO. LR 2

Delegate Action	Vote Count	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	_____	_____

### PRESENT RULE...

**USBC Playing Rules  
Chapter 4, League Rules  
Rule 108b, Without Cause**

When a player does not complete a game for reasons other than disability, injury or emergency, the player's team shall count zero for each remaining frame in the game. (See Rule 118a for average information.) If there is any doubt of a player's reason for not being able to continue a game, the league board of directors shall decide. A player who leaves a game without cause cannot return to bowl in the same game.

### PROPOSAL...

Add "The player will also receive a zero for any remaining games. The following shall also apply:" as a new second sentence.

Move the last sentence to a new Item 1 and add "Until such a decision is reached, all frames for all remaining games shall be counted as zero."

Add new Items 2 and 3:

2. The inquiry shall include any players and staff at the location in case they have information that will help with the decision. Perjury at the time of inquiry can result in ejection from the league.
3. The person quitting shall be given one chance to remain in the game by the board of directors before the inquiry and decision is made.

Replace "in the same game" with "for the rest of the series" in the last sentence.

**If adopted,** Rule 108b will state:

When a player does not complete a game for reasons other than disability, injury or emergency, the player's team shall count zero for each remaining frame in the game. (See Rule 118a for average information.) The player will also receive a zero for any remaining games. The following shall also apply:

1. If there is any doubt of a player's reason for not being able to continue a game, the league board of directors shall decide. Until such a decision is reached, all frames for all remaining games shall be counted as zero.
2. The inquiry shall include any players and staff at the location in case they have information that will help with the decision. Perjury at the time of inquiry can result in ejection from the league. (See Rule 115a for dismissal procedures.)
3. The person quitting shall be given one chance to remain in the game by the board of directors before the inquiry and decision is made.

A player who leaves a game without cause cannot return to bowl for the rest of the series.

### REASON FOR PROPOSAL....

If someone is having a bad night, they can't just quit and be rewarded with an absentee score. If the lane conditions are bad, and you quit but everyone else is bowling 30 points below their average, quitting results in an unfair advantage to your team since you get your absentee score.

Quitting:

- Is not good sportsmanship.
- Should not be rewarded.
- Sends the wrong message to the youth of our league.
- Shows that winning at all costs is not more important than integrity.

While I realize that all someone has to do is say they sprained their little toenail, in which case, the injury rule would apply etc., at least the rule would be corrected to send the right message.

Presented by: Scott Resnick  
Fort Salonga, NY

**Recommended for rejection by the USBC Board of Directors**

***REASON FOR REJECTION....***

When a bowler removes him/herself from a game and the league does not believe there was cause, only the game in question should be penalized with zero for remaining frames. The bowler is paying their league fees for three games and should not be denied the right to bowl remaining games.

This change will also require an immediate board meeting, which will be disruptive to bowling and unfair to all bowlers. Depending on how long the meeting is, or how many meetings a night, this could extend bowling and disrupt the next league.

# RULES PROPOSAL NO. LR 3

Delegate Action	Vote Count	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	_____	_____

## PRESENT RULE...

### USBC Playing Rules Chapter 4, League Rules Rule 122, Meetings

League meetings are conducted under the following requirements:

- a. The secretary shall notify the members or team captains of all league meetings.
- b. To conduct business, a quorum must be in attendance. In youth leagues, the league supervisor or official must also be in attendance.
- c. Absentee and proxy votes are not acceptable. Only members present are eligible to vote.

Rules shall be adopted at a meeting prior to the start of the league schedule by the board of directors, unless the league elects to have its rules adopted by the membership. After the league schedule begins, a change in the league rules and approved prize list can be made only with the written consent of every team captain or designated representative.

## PROPOSAL...

Delete “consent” and replace with “vote” in the last sentence of the last paragraph.

Add a new sentence at the end of the last paragraph to state:

“Approval will be by majority vote.”

**If adopted**, Rule 122 will state:

League meetings are conducted under the following requirements:

- a. The secretary shall notify the members or team captains of all league meetings.
- b. To conduct business, a quorum must be in attendance. In youth leagues, the league supervisor or official must also be in attendance.
- c. Absentee and proxy votes are not acceptable. Only members present are eligible to vote.

Rules shall be adopted at a meeting prior to the start of the league schedule by the board of directors, unless the league elects to have its rules adopted by the membership. After the league schedule begins, a change in the league rules and approved prize list can be made only with the written vote of every team captain or designated representative. Approval will be by majority vote.

## REASON FOR PROPOSAL....

Any vote taken to change a rule can be an ultimate rejection because it takes only one dissenting vote to reject a change. The weight of that one vote is huge and can be instrumental in the rejection of any proposed rule change. The requirement of a unanimous vote could discourage a bowler from voting if he/she is aware of a looming dissenting vote.

A statement in the USBC response to our original request referred to league rules being a contract for those in the league and all parties involved need to agree to a change in the contract. In essence and a parallel, if a person hires on to a job with a labor union contract and a change i.e. an increase in wages, is proposed, it could be rejected because it takes only one vote to reject a proposal.

In a democracy, a majority rules in any votes taken. The U.S. Congress needs only 66% of a vote to amend or overturn an amendment. Even a requirement of a percentage less than 100% being necessary makes more sense and seems more fair than a 100% approval for a change.

Every year we are told we should recruit more bowlers and should do whatever we can to keep those bowlers. Is it not counterproductive to turn away a bowler because one member of a league votes against a change to a rule which would keep that bowler?

In the times of decreasing membership, it would seem encouraging membership far outweighs keeping a rule which can carry a negative outcome. In 2017, "Bowling is for Everyone" was a slogan prompted by USBC. Continuation of Rule 122, as currently written, therefore seems a contradiction to that slogan.

Presented by: Nadine Steinmetz  
Junction City, OR

**Recommended for rejection by the USBC Board of Directors**

***REASON FOR REJECTION....***

When a member joins a league he/she joins under the conditions of the rules. To allow a change to the rules, prize list or league schedule with less than unanimous written consent of all team captains is changing the conditions under which the bowler joined.

# RULES PROPOSAL NO. TR 1

Delegate Action	Vote Count	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	_____	_____

## PRESENT RULE...

### USBC Playing Rules Chapter 6, Tournament Rules Rule 319a, Conditions that Apply

The following conditions apply to averages in handicap or classified tournaments, unless the tournament rules state otherwise, except that only USBC league averages shall be accepted. (See Rule 319c for average adjustment.)

1. The bowler is required to submit the previous season's highest average of:
  - a. A single USBC league average based on a minimum of 21 games; or
  - b. A composite average of all USBC leagues, including leagues with less than 21 games bowled.
2. When the previous season's average is used, and at the time of bowling an entrant has a current average for 21 or more games that is 10 pins or more higher than the prior season's average, the current average must be used.
3. Bowlers are responsible for verifying his/her own average, whether submitted by the bowler, the team captain or others. If the submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower classification or more handicap, the bowler's score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average. In the case of a team of two or more bowlers, the averages will be combined to determine if the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total.
4. Average corrections can be made up to the end of the bowler's first game of a series. Or, if an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the first game of a series, the correction can be made within 48 hours after the end of the series.

## PROPOSAL...

Add a new Item 2 to state:

"Bowlers with documented averages for each hand, must use the highest average for the chosen hand."

**If adopted,** Rule 319a will read:

The following conditions apply to averages in handicap or classified tournaments, unless the tournament rules state otherwise, except that only USBC league averages shall be accepted. (See Rule 319c for average adjustment.)

1. The bowler is required to submit the previous season's highest average of:
  - a. A single USBC league average based on a minimum of 21 games; or
  - b. A composite average of all USBC leagues, including leagues with less than 21 games bowled.
2. Bowlers with documented averages for each hand, must use the highest average for the chosen hand.
3. When the previous season's average is used, and at the time of bowling an entrant has a current average for 21 or more games that is 10 pins or more higher than the prior season's average, the current average must be used.
4. Bowlers are responsible for verifying his/her own average, whether submitted by the bowler, the team captain or others. If the submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower classification or more handicap, the bowler's score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average. In the case of a team of two or more bowlers, the averages will be combined to determine if the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total.
5. Average corrections can be made up to the end of the bowler's first game of a series. Or, if an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the first game of a series, the correction can be made within 48 hours after the end of the series.

## REASON FOR PROPOSAL....

Bowlers capable of bowling with either hand or changing hands due to injury should be allowed to select the desired hand/average combination for a tournament just as they did for the league. Forcing a bowler to utilize their highest average period regardless of the hand bowled isn't 'fair play' it's penalizing the bowler and restricting their choice. Forcing bowlers to provide medical support for the hand change from their provider

doesn't allow them choice or flexibility. This rule basically structures USBC averages to be the hand you start bowling with is the hand you'll use for life. We need to allow bowler flexibility and choice. Bowlers are allowed to have a right-hand average for one league and a left-hand average for another league, they should be allowed to select the hand/average combination they want to utilize for the tournament.

Presented by: Ed Cotter  
Levant, ME

**Recommended for rejection by the USBC Board of Directors**

***REASON FOR REJECTION....***

Tournaments can adopt a rule to allow an individual to bowl with a designated hand and use the average established by that hand. Creating a rule to allow what already can be done, would require those who want to stay status quo to adopt a rule to disallow the practice.

## BYLAWS PROPOSAL NO. B 1

Delegate Action	Vote Count	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	_____	_____

### PRESENT BYLAW...

#### USBC National Bylaws

#### Article VI, Meetings

#### Section A., Annual Meeting

An Annual Meeting of USBC is held at a time and place approved by the Board of Directors.

Attendance is open to all members.

1. **Delegates.** "Delegates" are defined as individuals, who hold USBC membership, 18 years of age or older at the time of election, who are elected from associations according to these Bylaws. Delegate's term of office is from August 1 through July 31 of each year.
2. **Voting and Speaking.** Voting at the USBC Annual Meeting is by Delegates, USBC Officers and Directors who are not elected Delegates may nevertheless vote as Delegates at the USBC Annual Meeting. All votes of the Voting Members at the Annual Meeting shall be cast by electronic ballot which shall be the sole method for determining votes at the Annual Meeting unless the President in his or her sole discretion determines the circumstances reasonably require a different method of voting. All members (including the Voting Members) in good standing as of the date of the Annual Meeting may be permitted to address the members at the Annual Meeting. Other USBC members may address the USBC Annual Meeting but may not vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
3. **Delegate Representation.**
  - a. State associations in good standing representing men, women and youth, may elect two Delegates and two Alternate Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting;
  - b. The number of Delegates to which a local association is entitled will be based on USBC's records of the association's fiscal year membership as of July 31, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting. Each local association in good standing with USBC, with the exception of affiliate associations, are entitled to Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting. Youth membership is based on USBC Youth members bowling in USBC Leagues within the association's jurisdiction, as follows:
    - 1) Less than 500 members - two Delegates and one Alternate Delegate;
    - 2) 500 members or more - two Delegates and one Alternate Delegate for the first 500 members and one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate for each additional 500 members or major fraction thereof with a maximum of 30 Delegates;
  - c. Newly-chartered local bowling associations, with no membership numbers recorded by July 31st, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting, may elect one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the USBC Annual Meeting;
  - d. A state or local association whose charter has been suspended or revoked, or an association that is delinquent in processing dues for the current bowling season, is not considered "in good standing" for purposes of Delegates or Alternate Delegates attending the USBC Annual Meeting;
  - e. Athletes, as defined in these Bylaws, are eligible to serve as Delegates.
  - f. USBC Hall of Fame members;
  - g. USBC Board of Directors;
  - h. For all purposes, voting power is the sum of items a. through g.
4. **Delegate Responsibilities.** Delegates vote to:
  - a. Amend and approve the National, state and local mandatory bylaws, with the exception of provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations, provisions related to Athletes and Youth, and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law;
  - b. Establish standard maximum adult dues for National and state;
  - c. Elect Directors to fill open positions on the Board that are subject to election by the Delegates;
  - d. Approve adult league rules, and adult tournament rules for the sport of bowling.
5. **Meeting Notice.** Written notice of the USBC Annual Meeting is provided to Delegates and chartered state and local bowling associations in good standing at least 30 days in advance of the USBC Annual Meeting.
6. **Quorum.** The presence of 100 Delegates establishes a quorum for the transaction of business at the USBC Annual Meeting.
7. **Action.** Elections by the Delegates are conducted according to policies and procedures established by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board. The action of a majority of Delegates present and voting, when a quorum has been established, carries a motion unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws. Absentee and proxy voting and other types of voting agreements are not permitted.

## **PROPOSAL...**

Replace “electronic ballot which shall be the sole method for determining votes at the Annual Meeting unless the President in his or her sole discretion determines the circumstances reasonably require a different method of voting.” with “a method prescribed by the President and approved by the board provided that absentee or proxy ballots must be a part of said method.” in Item 2.

Delete “Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.” in Item 2.

Change “30” to 60 days in Item 5.

Add “Said notice shall include instructions for delegates wishing to vote, via absentee or proxy ballot.” to Item 5.

Add “physical” and “(not including delegates voting via absentee or proxy ballot)” to Item 6.

Add “, provided that absentee or proxy ballots must be a part of said policies and procedures.” to the end of the first sentence in Item 7

Delete “present and” in Item 7.

Delete “Absentee and proxy voting and other types of voting agreements are not permitted.” in Item 7.

**If adopted**, Section A, will state:

An Annual Meeting of USBC is held at a time and place approved by the Board of Directors.

Attendance is open to all members.

1. **Delegates.** "Delegates" are defined as individuals, who hold USBC membership, 18 years of age or older at the time of election, who are elected from associations according to these Bylaws. Delegate's term of office is from August 1 through July 31 of each year.
2. **Voting and Speaking.** Voting at the USBC Annual Meeting is by Delegates, USBC Officers and Directors who are not elected Delegates may nevertheless vote as Delegates at the USBC Annual Meeting. All votes of the Voting Members at the Annual Meeting shall be cast by a method prescribed by the President and approved by the board provided that absentee or proxy ballots must be a part of said method. All members (including the Voting Members) in good standing as of the date of the Annual Meeting may be permitted to address the members at the Annual Meeting. Other USBC members may address the USBC Annual Meeting but may not vote.
3. **Delegate Representation.**
  - a. State associations in good standing representing men, women and youth, may elect two Delegates and two Alternate Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting;
  - b. The number of Delegates to which a local association is entitled will be based on USBC's records of the association's fiscal year membership as of July 31, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting. Each local association in good standing with USBC, with the exception of affiliate associations, are entitled to Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting. Youth membership is based on USBC Youth members bowling in USBC Leagues within the association's jurisdiction, as follows:
    - 1) Less than 500 members - two Delegates and one Alternate Delegate;
    - 2) 500 members or more - two Delegates and one Alternate Delegate for the first 500 members and one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate for each additional 500 members or major fraction thereof with a maximum of 30 Delegates;
  - c. Newly-chartered local bowling associations, with no membership numbers recorded by July 31st, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting, may elect one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the USBC Annual Meeting;
  - d. A state or local association whose charter has been suspended or revoked, or an association that is delinquent in processing dues for the current bowling season, is not considered "in good standing" for purposes of Delegates or Alternate Delegates attending the USBC Annual Meeting;
  - e. Athletes, as defined in these Bylaws, are eligible to serve as Delegates.
  - f. USBC Hall of Fame members;
  - g. USBC Board of Directors;
  - h. For all purposes, voting power is the sum of items a. through g.

4. **Delegate Responsibilities.** Delegates vote to:
  - a. Amend and approve the National, state and local mandatory bylaws, with the exception of provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations, provisions related to Athletes and Youth, and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law;
  - b. Establish standard maximum adult dues for National and state;
  - c. Elect Directors to fill open positions on the Board that are subject to election by the Delegates;
  - d. Approve adult league rules, and adult tournament rules for the sport of bowling.
5. **Meeting Notice.** Written notice of the USBC Annual Meeting is provided to Delegates and chartered state and local bowling associations in good standing at least 60 days in advance of the USBC Annual Meeting. Said notice shall include instructions for delegates wishing to vote via absentee or proxy ballot.
6. **Quorum.** The physical presence of 100 Delegates (not including delegates voting via absentee or proxy ballot) establishes a quorum for the transaction of business at the USBC Annual Meeting.
7. **Action.** Elections by the Delegates are conducted according to policies and procedures established by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board, provided that absentee or proxy ballots must be a part of said policies and procedures. The action of a majority of Delegates voting, when a quorum has been established, carries a motion unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

### **REASON FOR PROPOSAL....**

**THE SHORT VERSION:** This is the very same proposal I offered last year with some minor adjustments as well as a great deal of careful thought to the concerns raised by the national board of directors as they recommended rejection.

The board's main concerns were 1) security and integrity of the voting process, 2) ensuring that delegates' decisions when voting were informed ones and that they had adequate resources to get any questions they had answered, 3) prohibitive cost, and 4) that, to the best of their knowledge, no other organization of this sort presently allows off-site or proxy voting.

I have personally spoken at length with and received quotes from three different providers of remote voting management services whose clients include many nationally and internationally prominent membership organizations whose membership expects their leadership to be as concerned about voting integrity and cybersecurity as our own board of directors evidently is. The cost of providing this service, assuming the volume is accurately projected (n.b.: this is what deadlines are for), would be less than two dollars per off-site vote cast—a cost that can be easily defrayed with a nominal proxy delegate fee.

The internet and social media have exponentially expanded everyone's ability to communicate and seek answers to questions, and USBC leadership on a local and national level has been taking advantage of these advances; a prime example of this is the USBC Association Leaders group on Facebook on which our president, Karl Kielich, and other national board members and Bowling Headquarters office staff have regularly answered questions. To establish a forum—on Facebook, elsewhere on social media, or elsewhere on the internet away from social media—dedicated to discussion of USBC Legislative Session proposals among delegates and only among delegates is a relatively simple task, and one Google search for how to start an internet discussion group can and will prove that. Ensuring that delegates make informed choices when voting on legislative matters is a lot easier than the board would evidently care to think it is.

As for “nobody else does it, why should we?”, I would respectfully suggest that this is a juvenile argument against a serious matter of gross underrepresentation of our membership in the legislative process of our sport's national governing body. The reality is we have a serious problem here and we should not limit ourselves to what other organizations do as we search for ways to solve this problem. For all the talk we hear about how we can't remain stuck in the past if we want to move forward.

**NOW, IN GREATER DETAIL, POINT BY POINT:** The board of directors recommended that the delegates vote against this proposal last year. Here are their reasons along with a response for each.

1. USBC has a voting system in place to ensure properly registered delegates are the only people who vote. Allowing outside electronic voting would create significant process concerns and be problematic in maintaining the integrity of the voting process. Additionally, attending the USBC Annual Meeting and Convention involves more than voting.

I have personally spoken to staff from three separate companies that provide electronic voting. In all cases, they have the ability to easily maintain the database of eligible delegates, using whatever identifiers are necessary (like our USBC numbers) and secure processes to enter the system, which would maintain the integrity of the voting process. They would work hand in hand with USBC to provide an easy, understandable process for delegates to follow.

While there certainly is more to the USBC Annual Meeting than just voting, that doesn't make the meeting any less cost-prohibitive for the 75%-80% of the total eligible representation for whom in-person attendance is already cost-prohibitive, nor does it make the association's delegates and the hundreds of thousands of bowlers their votes represent any less entitled to a voice and vote on USBC legislative matters.

2. Being present at the Annual Meeting gives delegates the opportunity to ask questions and/or express their concerns on proposals. Allowing some type of remote electronic voting would negatively impact in-person attendance. The quality of communication among delegates leading to an informed voting member would be diminished.

As the national board pointed out, attending the USBC Annual Meeting involves more than just voting. The 20%-25% of the those eligible to attend who actually do attend are certainly aware of this and do, indeed, do far more at the Annual Meeting than just vote. The ability to vote is far from their sole purpose in being there.

There is nothing to preclude delegates from asking questions and/or express concerns outside the confines of the official legislative session. The same internet that would allow delegates to vote on the proposals also makes it possible for the national office staff to create forums that would provide eligible delegates the ability to ask questions and express concerns and get answers from USBC office staff and/or national board members; truth be known, not only do some national board members (of particular note, president Karl Kielich) occasionally respond to a query on social media and not only is there already a Facebook group dedicated to USBC association leaders where discussion of all matters bowling already takes place, it wasn't that many years ago that Bowling Headquarters created and managed just such a forum independent of social media—one which can be limited to a select group of participants such as properly credentialed delegates and national board members if its administrators so desire (and I'm sure they would in this case). "The quality of communication among delegates leading to an informed voting member" can only be augmented by such a forum given the sheer number of delegates who could and likely would participate in such a forum over a period of far longer than the five or ten minutes of discussion afforded each proposal on the floor of the live official legislative session. This would not only allow those questions to be answered with more than the few seconds of thought it would be given on the dais of the official legislative session, but, since offsite voting could be opened up at any time in advance of the convention, it would also allow for a continued flow of discussion on these issues with a reliable record of said discussions available for review for months after said discussions were had and enable follow-up questions with ease and with minimal chance of disruption of order. None of this would be new territory for anybody.

3. USBC would also have to ensure that only duly elected delegates, present virtually, are voting by the remote means. Concerns about cyber security, integrity of the vote, and voting fraud are raised by the proposal and not addressed. Allowing virtual attendance and remote voting will cause additional administrative and technical challenges for USBC to ensure that members are in fact "present" at the meeting, have sufficient connectivity to all sessions, meetings are equally accessible to all delegates, and remote voting can be done timely and with minimal disruption. Any such system of virtual attendance and remote voting would likely come at considerable cost.

Access to the remote voting system would be a simple matter of issuing username-and-password credentials to absentee delegates who submit proper paperwork—at most, a notarized credential from the association president with a small amount of additional information. USBC would only have to trust that the duly elected delegates who are issued their username-and-password credentials to access the electronic voting system will safeguard their credentials. This would be more than adequate to ensure that only duly elected and otherwise authorized delegates are casting off-site votes.

“Virtual attendance” at the legislative session won’t necessarily mean being in front of a computer with an internet connection and a YouTube stream at the time of the vote; a period of off-site voting of an hour, a week, or as big a window as desired can be established without compromising the integrity of the vote or the informedness of off-site delegates who would be casting votes, to say nothing of the positive impact that the aforementioned internet discussion forums (on social media and elsewhere) would have on the “quality of communication among delegates leading to an informed voting member.” Again, nothing in our national by-laws prevents discussion of any legislative proposal outside the confines of the official legislative session, so between the aforementioned internet discussion forums that can be created if Bowling Headquarters and the national board of directors want to create them and the reality that offsite votes needn’t necessarily be cast at the moment Karl Kielich directs the delegates at the live legislative session to push their buttons, the legislative session will effectively (albeit unofficially) begin once the proposals are published and the internet discussion forums are created and have gone live—months in advance of the Annual Meeting and the actual legislative session. This is no different from how things already are, except that we’re now proposing to improve the “quality of communication among delegates leading to an informed voting member.”

The cost of providing those who are unable to attend the Annual Meeting in person the opportunity to participate in the legislative process would be far from exorbitant and can be very easily offset. I have spoken with and solicited quotes from three reputable online voting platforms: eBallot, SimplyVoting, and Associationvoting.com. Each provider has a secure platform which safeguards against voting fraud to a degree which satisfies clients such as the Canadian Football League Players’ Association, the Breeders’ Cup, the UN Refugee Agency, the California Teachers’ Association, and the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals—to name only a few. If the level of IT security offered and delivered by those providers is good enough for those organizations, it’s certainly good enough for the United States Bowling Congress.

All three of the aforementioned providers have supplied quotes for their services, and from those quotes it’s evident that this service can be procured for a cost of less than two dollars per off-site vote cast (two of the three quotes put the price very close to just one dollar per off-site vote cast). This would involve all of the necessary work to set up the votes, tabulate them, and have the results upon immediate request while at the live meeting; the only thing these providers would not be able to do automatically is combine the off-site votes with the on-site votes to arrive at a total, and I’m sure we can all agree that that’s a matter of ten seconds of second-grade arithmetic—no college degree necessary! It would not be at all unreasonable to charge a nominal off-site delegate fee of as much as ten dollars per off-site delegate to offset the cost of administering the vote for off-site delegates—for services rendered by the provider as well as Bowling Headquarters’ office staff labor.

4. USBC is not aware of any similarly-situated organizations who have allowed members or delegates to attend Annual Meetings or Conferences virtually and to submit an electronic vote while not attending in-person.

This statement is not true at all. All public companies offer proxy voting. I receive numerous proxy forms from mutual funds and individual stocks, no matter how much or little I own. My last Homeowners’ Association permitted proxy voting. Early voting booths are set up for governmental elections, and all elections are done with scanners on Election Day.

We have enough trouble stemming the loss of membership on account of matters beyond our control—most notably the closure of bowling centers with a scant few built in their place. Alienating the “have nots” by effectively telling them that their small association size (and, with that, their limited financial resources) renders them without a voice in the direction of our sport only exacerbates the decline that threatens to destroy what our sport’s forefathers built a century ago. We need to strive to provide a perceived value to the bowlers. Having a voice, being heard, is one of the important values, but in our current situation, that is limited to those who have the financial stability and backing of their association to do so. For the price of a mere handful of delegates to come from the East Coast to Nevada, we can enable every eligible delegate an affordable means use the voice to which they are entitled.

Change is difficult. But change is necessary.

Presented by: Douglas Sass  
Walkersville (MD)

**Recommend rejection by the USBC Board of Directors**

***REASON FOR REJECTION....***

We believe attending and voting in person is the best way for a governing body to conduct a legislative session. Important information exchange, education and discussion occurs at the USBC Annual Meeting. Voting delegates can make the most informed decision after receiving all the information in person at the meeting.

Amendments to proposals are often made during the legislative session. If an amendment is made, an absentee ballot is no longer a qualified ballot. Consequently, an individual desiring to vote absentee may in fact be disqualified from the actual vote

Proxy voting is giving your vote to someone else. This creates an increased risk of abuse. Individuals may be lobbied for proxies or may not vote as requested.

## BYLAWS PROPOSAL NO. B 2

Delegate Action	Vote Count	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	_____	_____

### **PRESENT RULE...**

#### **USBC National Bylaws Article VIII, Amendments**

Any member or chartered state or local association may submit a proposed amendment to the adult league rules, adult tournament rules or these Bylaws, except with respect to provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations and provisions related to Athletes and Youth and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law. Amendments must be submitted in writing and received by USBC Headquarters on or before September 1 prior to the date of the next USBC Annual Meeting. Approval of an amendment to these Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote of the Delegates, present and voting at the USBC Annual Meeting where a quorum is present. Approval of an amendment to the adult league rules, or adult tournaments rules requires a majority vote of the Delegates, present and voting at the USBC Annual Meeting where a quorum is present.

Amendments by the Delegates become effective as of August 1 following the USBC Annual Meeting where they were adopted, unless otherwise specified.

The Board of Directors may amend these Bylaws with respect to provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations and provisions related to Athletes and Youth. Voting to amend these Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote at any duly called meeting of the Board. Amendments by the Board become effective as of the date specified by the Board.

### **PROPOSAL...**

Add a new second paragraph to state:

"If an amendment does not receive 25% of votes for approval at an Annual Meeting, that same amendment, and any amendment where the intent closely resembles the defeated amendment, may not be re-submitted for consideration at the next Annual Meeting."

**If adopted**, Article VIII will state:

Any member or chartered state or local association may submit a proposed amendment to the adult league rules, adult tournament rules or these Bylaws, except with respect to provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations and provisions related to Athletes and Youth and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law. Amendments must be submitted in writing and received by USBC Headquarters on or before September 1 prior to the date of the next USBC Annual Meeting. Approval of an amendment to these Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote of the Delegates, present and voting at the USBC Annual Meeting where a quorum is present. Approval of an amendment to the adult league rules, or adult tournaments rules requires a majority vote of the Delegates, present and voting at the USBC Annual Meeting where a quorum is present.

If an amendment does not receive 25% of votes for approval at an Annual Meeting, that same amendment, and any amendment where the intent closely resembles the defeated amendment, may not be re-submitted for consideration at the next Annual Meeting.

Amendments by the Delegates become effective as of August 1 following the USBC Annual Meeting where they were adopted, unless otherwise specified.

The Board of Directors may amend these Bylaws with respect to provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations and provisions related to Athletes and Youth. Voting to amend these Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote at any duly called meeting of the Board. Amendments by the Board become effective as of the date specified by the Board.

### **REASON FOR PROPOSAL....**

All amendments that are received and not in violation of a law, are submitted to the USBC Delegation. The Delegates time is valuable, and we believe an amendment that does not receive 25% approval of the Delegation should sit out for at least one year before being considered again.

Presented by: USBC Legal and Legislative Committee

**Recommended for adoption by the USBC Board of Directors**



**BYLAWS PROPOSAL NO. B 4**

Delegate Action	Vote Count	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	_____	_____

**PRESENT BYLAW...**

**USBC Local Bylaws  
Article IV, Membership and Dues**

Membership is in effect from August 1 through July 31 and is composed of:

1. **Adults** who have paid the appropriate USBC, state (if applicable) and local association dues; and
2. **Youth** who have paid the USBC standard youth dues and bowl in USBC Leagues in the association’s jurisdiction.

Adults shall pay applicable membership dues, except as provided in Rules 100e, Traveling League and 100I, Mail-o-Graphic League.

The board, adult members and youth representatives, by two-thirds vote, determine and adopt adult dues, if any.

Youth representatives consist of:

1. USBC youth members, at least 14 years of age, bowling in USBC Leagues within the association’s jurisdiction.
2. One adult representative, who is a USBC member, from each certified youth league. (A league is not eligible for representation if it has not submitted a league application.)
3. One center representative, who is a USBC member, from each center having at least one certified youth league.

The annual adult standard membership dues are as follows:

Local \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Cannot exceed \$5.)  
 USBC adult standard membership \$13.00  
 Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The annual USBC youth standard membership dues are \$4, state/local association dues are not allowed.

The board may waive all or part of adult local dues for:

1. Adult members of other USBC associations having a reciprocal agreement with the association.
2. Other groups, such as seniors, etc., as determined by the board.

The association cannot charge additional non-dues assessments.

Membership is not transferable.

**PROPOSAL...**

Add “Adults joining a summer league after March 15 shall pay the dues that are known to be, or become, effective for the next current season. On payment of the dues, the individual shall become a member for the balance of the current season and the next season.” as a new second paragraph.

**If adopted,** Article IV will state:

Membership is in effect from August 1 through July 31 and is composed of:

1. **Adults** who have paid the appropriate USBC, state (if applicable) and local association dues; and
2. **Youth** who have paid the USBC standard youth dues and bowl in USBC Leagues in the association’s jurisdiction.

Adults joining a summer league after March 15 shall pay the dues that are known to be, or become, effective for the next current season. On payment of the dues, the individual shall become a member for the balance of the current season and the next season.

Adults shall pay applicable membership dues, except as provided in Rules 100e, Traveling League and 100I, Mail-o-Graphic League.

The board, adult members and youth representatives, by two-thirds vote, determine and adopt adult dues, if any.

Youth representatives consist of:

1. USBC youth members, at least 14 years of age, bowling in USBC Leagues within the association's jurisdiction.
2. One adult representative, who is a USBC member, from each certified youth league. (A league is not eligible for representation if it has not submitted a league application.)
3. One center representative, who is a USBC member, from each center having at least one certified youth league.

The annual adult standard membership dues are as follows:

Local \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
State \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Cannot exceed \$5.)  
USBC adult standard membership \$13.00  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The annual USBC youth standard membership dues are \$4, state/local association dues are not allowed.

The board may waive all or part of adult local dues for:

1. Adult members of other USBC associations having a reciprocal agreement with the association.
2. Other groups, such as seniors, etc., as determined by the board.

The association cannot charge additional non-dues assessments.

Membership is not transferable.

### **REASON FOR PROPOSAL....**

For many years, if you purchased your membership after March 15th, it included the summer season and the entire following season. Seven years ago, the delegates to the USBC Convention changed that as they were told they were losing money from bowlers who were taking advantage of the system. In the years that have passed since this was changed, local associations have found out that this change has not put more membership money in their pockets, it has actually cost them money. More and more summer leagues have opted not to certify due to their members having to pay a full membership fee for just a month or two of bowling, and then having to pay another full membership fee to bowl in a fall league.

Many association leaders have even seen and heard proprietors and league officials tell their summer leagues not to certify because it's not worth paying the full membership for just a couple of months.

USBC did come out with the Adult Basic membership to try and please the bowlers who were affected by this change, but the Adult Basic has had very little effect in keeping leagues (and bowlers) certified. Also, many bowlers do not like the Adult Basic membership as they do not receive a membership card and are not eligible for local awards in many associations.

Our purpose as association leaders is to continue to retain and try to increase membership. The delegates who voted for the prior amendment have found out that they have lost bowlers both for the summer season, and also for the winter season as these bowlers do not want to pay for another membership which they had just purchased. As membership continues to decline, we can't afford to be the ones who are helping to push bowlers away from our sport. Sometimes, as in this case, we get the opportunity to right a wrong. We need to do the right thing for the bowlers and go back to the summer/winter/summer membership which worked for us in the past.

Presented by: San Diego USBC (CA)

**Recommended for rejection by the USBC Board of Directors**

**REASON FOR REJECTION....**

This provision was removed by the Delegates and “Adult Basic” membership was created for short season leagues. This membership not only provides for summer leagues, but all season. A league that bowls 16 sessions or less, including roll-off/playoff/special competition qualifies for basic membership.

This proposal has been considered a few times since removal and has been defeated by the Delegation. The last time it was voted down was 2017. Adult Basic membership has filled the gap.