

# ICBA RULES & REGULATIONS - APRIL 2018

## SCORING

1. **GAME (string):** A game shall consist of ten frames (boxes) in each of which three balls shall be rolled, except when a player scores a strike or spare, called marks. **MARK IN FRAME 10:** A bowler scoring a strike or a spare in the tenth frame shall immediately roll one or two balls, as necessary, to complete that frame. The frame must be completed on the same lane on which the strike or spare is bowled.
2. **NO MARK:** When three balls are rolled, the bowler receives credit for the total number of pins knocked down in the frame.
3. **STRIKE:** A "strike" occurs when ten pins are downed with the first ball. To score a strike, the bowler receives ten plus the number of pins downed by the next two balls rolled by that bowler.
4. **SPARE:** A "spare" occurs when ten pins are downed with the first two balls. To score a spare the bowler receives ten plus the number of pins downed by the next ball rolled by that bowler.
5. **TWO CONSECUTIVE STRIKES:** Scores as follows:
  - A. Frame in which first strike is made: Score 20 plus the number downed by the first ball rolled in the second following frame.
  - B. Frame in which second strike is made: Score 10 plus the number downed by the first two balls in the next following frame.
6. **THREE CONSECUTIVE STRIKES:** Score as follows:
  - A. Frame in which first strike is made: Score 30
  - B. Frame in which second strike is made: Score 20 plus the number downed by the first ball rolled in the second following frame.
  - C. Frame in which third strike is made: Score 10 plus the number downed by the first two balls in the next following frame.
7. **CONSECUTIVE STRIKES OVER THREE:** Score as per explanation in rule #6 above.
8. **SCORING:** The score sheet, tele-score and/or automatic scorer shall remain visible to all players at all times. No unfair tactics will be tolerated.
9. **RECORDING INDIVIDUAL SCORES:** Except for addition errors, it is the bowlers sole responsibility to see that his/her score is recorded properly FRAME by FRAME.

**SCORES ARE OFFICIAL:** When records are turned in (to secretary/statistician) by captain or official, corrections cannot be made after points are awarded.

A. Secretary/Statistician shall have the authority to make corrections in addition or points on match report sheets. (This rule may be superseded by league or tournament regulations).

## BALL RULES

1. **FAIRLY DELIVERED BALL:** A ball is fairly delivered when in its forward motion it touches the playing area before the 10ft. lob line. (Playing area also includes approach area). Any ball delivered otherwise is deemed a foul.
2. **FAIR CONTACT:** A ball shall be considered to have made fair contact only when it strikes a standing pin or playable wood before it (the ball) leaves the lane. A ball otherwise shall be considered foul and shall suffer the same penalties as for a **GUTTER BALL**.
3. **BALL REST ON PLATE:** If a ball for any reason comes to rest on the plate, it must be removed by authorized personnel designated by the bowling establishment.
4. **REBOUNDING BALLS:**
  - A. Should any ball, after making fair contact, for any reason rebound from any object on the deck or pit area, the pins so downed shall count in the scoring.
  - B. If the ball did not make fair contact, the pins shall not count in the score.
5. **GUTTER BALL:** If a ball leaves the lane without making fair contact and comes back knocking down pins, the pins downed by that ball shall not count in the scoring. Only pins downed by fair contact shall count.
  - A. If the first ball is foul and comes back to down pins, the pins shall be reset, the bowler shall forfeit that ball and count only the pins downed fairly with the next two balls. (The first ball is considered foul even if no pins are downed by it).
  - B. If the first and second balls are foul and come back to knock down pins, the pins shall be reset after each ball, the bowler forfeits both balls and shall count only the pins downed by the third ball.
  - C. If the first and third balls are foul, but the second is fair. The player will score only the pins fairly downed by the second ball.
  - D. If all three balls are foul. The player will score zero for the frame.
  - E. If the first ball is fair and the second and or third ball(s) is/are foul. The pins shall not be reset. The player will forfeit all pins downed by the foul ball or balls and score only those downed by the balls that were fair. If no pins are left standing by the foul action of the second ball, the player shall score only the pins downed by the first ball.
  - F. Bonus balls rolled in the gutter on a strike or a spare.

### On strike

1. First ball is foul, reset pins, if necessary the bowler shall forfeit that ball and count only pins downed fairly by the second ball.
2. Both bonus balls foul, score zero for bonus.

### On spare

1. First ball is foul, bowler scores zero for bonus.

6. **EXTRA BALLS:** Rolling extra balls in any frame will constitute a foul. Penalty of a zero for frame.

7. BOWLERS DROPPING BOWLING BALLS DELIBERATELY on the approach shall be warned and if a second offense occurs, the bowler shall be penalized under the deliberate foul rule.

## **PIN & DEADWOOD RULES**

1. DOWNED PINS - DEADWOOD LINE: All downed pins, called wood, remaining on the lane entirely behind the deadwood line are live and playable. Those touching or forward (toward the bowler) of the deadwood line are dead and shall be removed. Wood shall be judged live or dead only after it has stopped moving.

2. QUESTIONABLE DEADWOOD: Any questionable deadwood shall be removed by a designated official.

3. PIN - PIT AREA: A pin that sticks up out of the pit area is not playable.

4. WOOD - ACROSS PLATE AND GUTTER: Where wood is partly on the plate or lane and partly in the gutter, the ball must make fair contact with the wood while the ball is still touching the lane for any pins downed to count in the scoring.

NEW 06-2010 The Bowler must make the call "Fair", with no influence or suggestion from anyone else, for the pins felled to count. If an official is present, they can overrule the decision.

5. BALL HITS DEADWOOD IN GUTTER AND CORNER PIN: If a ball makes contact with wood in the gutter (deadwood) at the same time as making fair contact with a corner pin or playable wood, the pins downed by such action shall count. NEW 06-2010 The Bowler must make the call "Fair", with no influence or suggestion from anyone else, for the pins felled to count. If an official is present, they can overrule the decision.

6. DOUBLE DEADWOOD IN THE GUTTER: When there is a double deadwood in the gutter, it shall remain.

7. REBOUNDED PINS: Pins knocked down by pins rebounding from the sidewall, machine, rear cushion or any other object in the deck or pit area shall count as pins down.

8. PIN DOWNED, THEN STAND UP: If a downed pin is caused to stand erect again in the playing area, it shall be judged as down and shall remain on the lane to be played as wood.

9. PINS THAT FALL AFTER THE RESET BUTTON IS PRESSED or the pinsetter sweep is in motion shall not count.

10. MOVING WOOD: A bowler must wait until all wood has halted motion under penalty of foul. (Pins felled by ball shall not count). However, if the wood has apparently stopped rolling and then starts rolling again while the player is in the act of delivering the ball, or while the ball is in motion, there shall be no penalty.

11. PINS FALL BEFORE FAIR CONTACT: If a pin or pins fall after the ball is fairly delivered but before making fair contact, the following shall apply:

A. ON FIRST BALL: The bowler resets and is entitled to three balls in the frame.

B. ON SECOND BALL AND OR THIRD BALL: Bowler is credited with making fair contact

(Example) Bowler knocks down nine pins with the first ball. Second ball is fairly delivered but before making fair contact, pin falls. Bowler is credited with spare.

## **FOUL RULES**

1. FOUL LINE RULE: A player in order to deliver a fairly thrown ball, must NOT let his/her action cause him/her to step on or over the foul line, nor permit any part of their body or clothing to come in contact with the lanes, gutters, ball returns, division boards, walls, uprights or floors which are beyond the foul line, at any time after the ball passes over and beyond the foul line, nor until they have stepped back from the foul line. The third ball is considered fairly thrown after the reset button is pressed. (See foul line and lob line penalty) (Amended June 2009)

A. Bowlers are not allowed beyond the foul line under any circumstances.

B. When a bowler, while in possession of a ball accidentally fouls while taking a practice slide, the bowler will lose that ball. The penalty is the same as the foot foul rule.

C. Any object which falls from the pocket or person of a bowler shall not constitute a foul.

2. LOB LINE RULE: Bowling is a game of rolling, not throwing the ball. Any ball that does not, in its forward motion, touch the playing area before the lob line, shall be considered a lobbed ball and shall suffer the foul penalty. An Official is the only person who is allowed to call LOBS. (Amended June 2009)

See FOUL LINE AND LOB LINE PENALTIES BELOW. Note continuous infractions of this rule will result in disqualification.

3. FOUL LINE AND LOB LINE PENALTIES are the same as for gutter balls.

4. CLEARED GUTTERS: Both gutters must be cleared of any pins or balls before the first ball is delivered in any frame. The penalty is the same as if the first ball is a foul.

5. DELIBERATE FOULS:

A. Any bowler who deliberately commits a foul shall score a zero for the frame in which the infraction occurs. If the bowler is working on a mark and deliberately fouls on bonus balls, the mark will remain but he or she receives a zero on the mark and a zero on the frame which he or she is working.

B. Any bowler who deliberately rolls two balls simultaneously will score a zero for the frame. If a bowler is working on a mark and deliberately fouls on bonus balls, the mark will remain but he or she receives a zero on the mark and a zero on the frame on which he or she is working.

6. BOWLER ABUSING THE EQUIPMENT or premises shall be warned and if a second offense occurs, the bowler shall be penalized under the DELIBERATE FOUL.

7. IF DELIBERATE FOUL RULE infractions keep occurring, the bowler involved will be disqualified.
8. PINSETTER IN MOTION: No ball shall be delivered before the setting machine has completed its cycle. Penalty shall be the same as GUTTER BALLS.
9. FOOT FOULS: In any case where electric foul lights are not available or become inoperative during a match, a competent foul line judge, seated at the foul line (one for every eight lanes) must be employed for the remainder of the event. (rev. 6-7-2005)

#### INTERFERENCE RULES

1. INTERFERENCE: If any pins, standing or down move because of outside interference, the pins will be reset and the bowler will bowl the frame over. If the interference occurs after the ball or balls have been delivered on a strike or a spare, it will not affect the scores already established on the strike or spare, but the bowler has the option of taking the pins felled or to bowl over and receive the new pin fall. (rev. 6-7-2005) (rev. 6-14-2011)
2. BOWLER INTERFERENCE: All bowlers are expected to exercise the highest standards of sportsmanship in competition. No unfair tactics will be tolerated and in the case of any interference with a bowler, all pins will be reset and the entire frame re-rolled.
3. RESET BUTTON PRESSED BEFORE FRAME COMPLETED:
  - A. BY THE BOWLER OR TEAMMATE: If a bowler or anyone on his team pressed the reset button after the first or second balls, except when a strike or spare has been made, the bowler is finished for that frame and scores only the pins downed when the button is pressed.
  - B. BY OPPOSING PLAYER OR NEUTRAL: If the reset button is pressed by an opposing player or neutral person or the pinsetter cycles, the frame shall be bowled over. If the interference occurs after the ball or balls have been delivered on a strike or spare, it will not affect the scores already established on the strike or spare, but the frame will be bowled over to establish the score for that frame.
  - C. FOR LANES EQUIPPED WITH A FOOT RESET: Should a bowler accidentally step on the foot pedal reset button while delivering the first ball the bowler will lose that ball but have two remaining balls after the reset. On the second ball frame is complete.
4. FOREIGN OBJECT ON LANE: If a ball, fairly rolled, comes in contact with a foreign substance on the lane before it strikes the pins, it shall be declared dead, the pins shall be reset and the entire frame re-rolled.

#### GENERAL PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP: All bowlers are expected at all times to exercise the highest standards of sportsmanship.
2. QUESTIONABLE INCIDENTS: Whenever there is a question of the validity of any incident and no official is present good sportsmanship dictates that the bowler be given the benefit of the doubt.
3. WRONG LANE OR OUT OF TURN: If a bowler rolls on the wrong lane or out of turn, he shall complete the frame and the pins downed shall be credited to his score. Then he shall move to the correct lane or position.
4. LATE ARRIVALS: Any bowlers arriving after the first bowler on their team begins their sixth frame, cannot complete in that string, but they may be allowed to compete in subsequent strings to be played.
5. NON-BOWLERS IN BOWLING AREA: In a match or league game, no spectators or substitutes other than scorers will be allowed in the bowling area.
6. MECHANICAL PROBLEMS: When one machine on a pair of lanes "breaks down" during a league match or in any tournament, the bowlers will continue to roll alternately on one lane until the machine is again in operation. Any teams finishing late due to slow bowlers or machine breakdowns, must spread out as soon as there are other lanes available.
7. EVERY GAME MUST BE COMPLETED before another may be started.
8. RIGHT OF WAY: In the event of a controversy in a game as to which bowler shall roll first, the one on the right lane shall have the right of way and roll first.
9. PRACTICE OR WARM-UP BALLS: No practice or warm-up balls will be allowed any bowler while he or she is involved in a match or roll-off. (penalty of forfeit string).
10. LEAGUE MATCHES: League matches shall take no longer than two hours to complete. This provides for ten individuals bowling three strings each or 30 strings per pair of lanes.
  - A. There must be two bowlers on each pair of lanes, regardless of slow bowlers or absent bowlers.
11. PLAYER REPLACEMENT: All player replacement must be done at the completion of a string regardless of the circumstances. Should any bowler be unable to complete the string, the average of the number of boxes or league / tournament average will be used. The lesser of the two will be counted.

(Example) (A) has a 40 in the 5th box and league average of 90. Divide five (5) into 40 equals eight average per box by 10 boxes, the bowler will receive 80 for that string. (B) same as above except bowler is 60 in the 5th averaging 12 per box, therefore the bowlers average of 90 or 9 per box would be used giving that bowler 60 for 5 plus 45 for five boxes not bowled and a total of 105 for the string.