

To: Rick Strobl

From: Mark Martin

Re: Bowler's Digest Column

Issue Date: October 2015

LEAGUE CERTIFICATIONS COMING IN

Has your league certified on time this year? Each year a number of leagues don't attend to this requirement and lose precious benefits as a result. This is the time of year that all leagues should be sure that your certification application, membership application cards and money has been turned in to the Metro Detroit USBC Association. One of the key points for leagues to be eligible for full bonding and award protection is to file your certification application within 30 days of the league start date. If you have a question about whether your league application has been filed please call the Association office at (248) 443-2695.

PRIZE LISTS, OFFICER SALARIES, ETC.

With the season already several weeks in it's time to attend to some items such as the prize list.

USBC Rule 117a specifies that the league prize committee shall submit one or more prize lists for consideration within five weeks after the start of the season. While there is not penalty to non-compliance the longer a league waits to resolve this issue potentially the worse it can get. Many leagues specify in their league bylaws that prize money is paid on a per point basis and in this case this rule has already been addressed. For those leagues that have no such protocol for prize lists in their bylaws this needs to get done.

Speaking of prize lists, when developing a prize list make sure it's not too top heavy. Making a prize list too top heavy isn't necessarily in the best interest of the league. Just because your team finishes on top doesn't necessarily mean that your prize money should cover all of your expenses for the entire year. Bowlers need to remember that part of the weekly fee you pay goes for lineage to the center. Much like when you bowl in a tournament only a portion of your entry fee goes towards a prize list, same in a league. Ideally a well constructed prize list will return the prize fee portion of your weekly fees to teams that finish in the top one-third or top one-half of the league.

League officer salaries should be specified in the league bylaws. If they are not it is something that needs to be addressed for next year. League officer salaries should be based on either the number of teams or the number of bowlers. This way the officers get compensated for increased number of teams and the league gets protected if there are less teams than expected.

Generally league secretaries and treasurers should be paid in the neighborhood of \$20 to \$30 per team or \$3 to \$5 per bowler for the season. This amount may change also if the bowling center is doing the league sheets. If the bowling center is doing the league sheets, league secretaries should receive less.

The bottom line is that leagues should try to keep their expenses to a minimum in order to maximize the return to the bowlers.

JACKPOTS

There was a time in this great sport of ours when competition derived from league bowling was enough to satisfy the competitive juices in all of us. Times have changed, however not necessarily for the better.

In many leagues today the cost to enter all of the optional jackpots has become greater than the actual cost to compete in the league (weekly fees). As a result the "total" cost to compete in the league has become more than many bowlers can afford resulting in both loss of bowlers and members.

Under USBC Rule 103b(1) the league board of directors has control of activities within the league which would include jackpots.

The league board of directors should review each of the jackpots that are run in the league to determine if those jackpots are in the best interests of the league. Also the league board of directors should insure that the jackpots are being operated properly. If there is a cut being taken from the jackpots by the collectors this should be made clear to those bowlers who pay their money. If there is any question regarding the operation of the jackpots the board of directors should get the answer and see to it that everything is being run properly.

The league board of directors has a huge responsibility to make sure the league remains strong and maintaining the league in the spirit that it was intended by the membership. This is a key ingredient to that responsibility.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR 2016 STATE TOURNAMENT

The Metro Detroit USBC will host the 2016 Michigan State USBC BA Open Championship at Waterford Lanes and Century Bowl in Waterford.

MDUSBC will be responsible for conducting the 50/50, brackets and jackpots for the 17-week run of the tournament. The tournament starts in January and ends in May.

MDUSBC is looking for volunteers to assist in these responsibilities.

If you are interested please contact the MDUSBC office at (248) 443-2695.

2015-16 MDUSBC AWARDS PROGRAM

The Metro Detroit USBC has expanded the new awards program for the 2014-15 season to include recognition for members of all averages. This will also include an optional premium honor score awards program with crystal awards.

The following accomplishments will be recognized with a pen:

150 Game for bowlers averaging 110 and under

175 Game for bowlers averaging 125 and under

200 Game for bowlers averaging 150 and under

400 Series for bowlers averaging 120 and under
500 Series for bowlers averaging 135 and under
600 Series for bowlers averaging 165 and under
700 Series for bowlers averaging 200 and under

A deck of cards will be awarded for those bowlers bowling a game 75 pins over average, while those 100 pins over average in a game will receive a towel.

For those bowling a series 150 pins over average will get a keychain light and those 200 pins over average in a game will be awarded a watch.

Each of the following will be recognized with a lapel pin:

Triplicate series
Stepladder series
Clean series
Dutch 200 game
All Spare game
7-10 split conversion
4-6-7-10 split conversion



MDUSBC members who purchase a Premium Award upgrade option for an additional \$15 are eligible to earn crystal awards for an 11-in-a-row, 300 game and 800 series (limited to one per season in each category). If a bowler doesn't purchase the upgrade, they can still get the crystal award for \$30 for each honor score achievement.