

RULES
SUNDAY NIGHT EARLY MIXED LEAGUE
OXFORD LANES
2025-2026

1. SCHEDULE

The Sunday Night Early Mixed League shall be sanctioned with the USBC through the Greater Hamilton Local Association. The league shall consist of ten (10) teams. The teams will have a playing strength of at least one man and one woman, with two additional bowlers of either sex. The league shall bowl on alternate Sundays for a period of seventeen (17) weeks, commencing on Sunday, August 24, 2025. Shadow bowling shall begin at 5:50 pm, and scheduled matches will begin promptly at 6:00 pm. The final scheduled match shall be on Sunday, April 5, 2026 and will be position round. A fun night will follow, with date to be announced. No pre-bowling on your scheduled lanes will be permitted 30 minutes prior to the start of shadow bowling.

2. MANAGEMENT

The management of the league shall be vested in its Board of Directors, which consists of the League Officers and Team Captains. The Board of Directors shall adopt the league rules prior to the start of each season. League Officers shall include a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and a Sergeant at Arms, all of which are elected by the fall league membership at the annual banquet, held at the conclusion of each session.

President: Elaine Witter (513) 885-4942
Vice President: Carla Hays (513) 728-5014
Secretary: Julie Schlichter (513) 523-5179
Treasurer: Heidi Schlichter (513) 523-5179

3. FEES AND SALARIES

The amount to be paid by each bowler, each night shall be \$14.00. Fees are broken down as follows:

Cost of bowling	\$ 12.25
Secretary salary	\$ 0.25
Treasurer salary	\$ 0.15
Prize fund	\$ 1.35
Total	\$ 14.00

The cost of bowling per team is \$56.00. Team captains are responsible for collecting the fees on each night of bowling and turning it in to the Treasurer. All fees are due from the present bowlers on the night of bowling. Individuals will not be permitted to bowl if fees are not paid.

4. PRIZES

The prize list shall be determined by the Board of Directors at the organizational meeting, held prior to the start of each season. 20 cash awards will be awarded at the league banquet, which is held at the close of the season. Bowlers must compete in two-thirds ($2/3 = 34$ games) of the scheduled games in order to qualify for individual awards. A bowler can only qualify for one individual award per season. The remaining funds in the league treasury, after the cost of bowling, cash awards and the Secretary and Treasurer salaries are paid, shall be distributed as prize money to each team in the league. Cash awards* shall be provided as follows:

- 1st place team – 4 awards
- 2nd place team – 4 awards
- High Average (Man and Woman) – 2 awards
- Most Improved Average (Man and Woman) – 2 awards
- High Series – Scratch (Man and Woman) – 2 awards
- High Game – Scratch (Man and Woman) – 2 awards
- High Series – Handicap (Man and Woman) – 2 awards
- High Game – Handicap (Man and Woman) – 2 awards

*Cash awards were determined by a vote at the 2010-11 organizational meeting to be the cost of the trophies the prior year, divided by the number of trophies (20), and determined to be \$13.00 per award.

5. HANDICAP

Handicap shall be 100% for both men and women, and will be based on the difference between an individual's average and a scratch figure of 200. Handicap shall be unlimited for both men and women. A bowler's initial average shall be determined by book average established at the end of the prior season in this league. If a bowler has no entering book average, the handicap will be 0 until the time three games are bowled and a handicap is established. Bowlers with an established book average shall use said book average and corresponding handicap. An absent bowler the first night of bowling will use a 120 vacancy score. The team's handicap for each scheduled match shall be the total of the individual handicaps for the players in that night's lineup.

6. LEGAL LINE UP AND SUBSTITUTES

A legal lineup shall consist of two bowlers from the team's current roster. Any team who can field a legal lineup is required to bowl as scheduled. Teams can use substitutes to bring the team up to full strength as long as two of the bowlers are on the team's current roster. A list of roving substitutes shall be maintained by the league, not to exceed 12 men and 12 women. Substitutes are not eligible for league awards. No new substitutes may be brought into the league during the final two weeks of play.

7. FORFEITURES

When a game or match is declared forfeited, USBC Rule 110C shall govern the procedure that the team must follow. The team that is bowling must bowl within forty (40) pins of their team average to win.

8. ABSENTEE AND VACANCY SCORES

Absentee scores shall be allowed when a team has a legal lineup, but less than a full lineup at the start of any game in a series. The absentee score shall be the member's average less ten (10) pins. The handicap shall be granted based upon the actual established average of the absent bowler that night.

9. POSTPONEMENTS, BOWLING OUT AND MAKE-UP GAMES

Any team who can field a legal lineup, as defined under Rule 6, must bowl on the scheduled date. There are no exceptions to this rule. Individual bowl outs are permitted.

Any team who cannot field a legal lineup must follow the procedures set for requesting a postponement. Any team who is unable to field a legal lineup shall notify the League Secretary of the reason for postponement and the League Secretary (or the League President in the Secretary's absence) will decide whether there is sufficient cause to grant a postponement. Any dispute shall be ruled upon by the League Officers. A team who is unable to field a legal lineup must notify League Secretary (or President in the Secretary's absence) and the opposing team captain at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the scheduled bowling date and time. The 48-hour advance notification may be waived in cases of an emergency. The League Secretary (or the League President in the Secretary's absence) shall determine whether the 48-hour notification requirement has been violated. As above, the League Officers shall rule on any disputes.

If a postponement is granted, the opposing team and the team requesting the postponement must work with the League Secretary (or League President in the Secretary's absence) and the Oxford Lanes in rescheduling the match.

The opposing team will have the option of bowling on the regular night of play, or bowling direct competition of their opponent on another date, **within the 14 days before the next scheduled date.** All arrangements for such make-up sessions, whether in direct competition or unopposed, must be confirmed by the League Secretary (or President) and coordinated with Oxford Lanes. A league officer or “disinterested” representative must be present at all rescheduled matches.

10. LATE ARRIVALS

A bowler who arrives late will be permitted to bowl in the game currently in progress, provided he/she arrives prior to any ball being thrown in the 5th frame. If the first ball has been thrown in the 5th frame, or any succeeding frame, the player’s absentee score shall be used for that game. The player may commence bowling in the first frame of the next game. If a player arrives late, in Frames 1-4, that player may make up the frames missed. The only exception to this rule is emergency personnel coming or going to a call.

11. POSITION STANDINGS AND POINT SYSTEM

Position standings shall be based upon a four (4) point match system. One point shall be awarded for each game won (with handicap), and one point awarded for the high team series (with handicap) in the match.

12. TIES FOR POSITIONS

If, at the end of regular season play, any ties exist for any place (first, second, third, etc.), total pin count shall be used to determine place.

13. PIT AREA

Only bowlers participating in the current match are permitted in the pit area. No children or other visitors shall be permitted in the pit area.

14. UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

If any situation arises which is not covered by a USBC or League Rule, or if the rule interpretation is not clearly understood by all parties, *the League President shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors to decide upon the correct course of action.* USBC Rules shall govern any decision made by the Board.

15. DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Formed by the League President in order to comply with USBC Rule 102c, part 4. Committee consists of three members, three different teams, appointed by the President. Per USBC rules, an Audit Committee shall verify the amount and date of deposits, review cancelled checks and make sure expenditures are proper. See USBC Rules for more information.

PRIZE COMMITTEE

Shall consist of the League Board of Directors and shall perform all duties as described in USBC Rules and shall decide upon participatory prizes as described in Rule 5 at the early January membership meeting.