

BowlerMaxx (MATCH PLAY) Nitehawks Bylaws 2026-2027

1. The name of the league will be BowlerMaxx Nitehawks League. As of 2025-2026 season, the league is now Match Play. The league will be certified by the USBC. *No one under the age of 18 (as of August 1) may participate in this league (safe sport issue).*
2. Management of this league shall be vested in the Board of Directors, consisting of league officers and team captains. The board of directors shall adopt all league rules.
3. League shall elect officers prior to the conclusion of the season. All officers shall assume office on August 1st of the current season.
4. Each team will be responsible for paying a **\$20 sponsor fee** (PREFERABLY CASH) by the 3rd week of bowling.
5. Cost of bowling each week per bowler shall be \$25.00; \$17.50 bowling and \$7.50 prize. The league will utilize Suburban Bowlerama's secretary and treasurer services at no additional cost to the league. A prize fund will be provided to the league as part of this service. Pay in full option is \$800.00. Pay in full option to be paid by week 2. All league fees will be paid at the front desk. **If you pay with credit card, 2-week payment please.**
6. **Entering averages:**
 - a. A bowler will use the average established in this league from previous season based on 21 or more games.
 - b. New members entering this league shall use their highest USBC book average from the previous season based on 21 or more games.
 - c. Once an average has been determined, a bowler must use that average for the first 9 games bowled in the current season.
 - d. If a new bowler does not have a previous season average, his/her average will be established at the conclusion of league play for that night with no minimum number of games required.
7. Handicap based on **90% of 240 per bowler**. No handicap for bowlers averaging 240 and over.
8. **Rosters** should be turned in by the team captain to the league secretary by the 3rd week of bowling. Rosters may consist of 5 members. New bowlers cannot be added to a roster in the final three weeks of each half.
9. **Substitutes** are permitted in this league. Substitutes may be added to a team if a vacancy occurs on their team. Roster bowlers are not permitted to bowl on another team during the regular season or roll offs.
10. **A minimum legal line-up** must consist of at least 2 bowlers from a team's current roster. A minimum legal line-up must be present at the end of the fifth frame of each game.
11. In the event of a "bye" in the schedule, the team present must bowl as though the game was contested and shall complete one frame on one lane before starting the succeeding frame. To receive the point for each game, the team must bowl within 50 pins of their combined scratch average. In the event of a forfeiture, the team will revert to the "bye" rule above. Members of the team forfeiting the game(s) shall be allowed to bowl. Scores will be included in the league records and qualify for all league and USBC individual awards.
12. Absentee scores shall be allowed when a team has a legal line-up, but less than a full line-up. **The absentee score shall be the absent bowler's average less 15 pins.** The absent bowler's current average will be used to determine the team's handicap. **The vacancy score shall be 120 for score and handicap.**
13. **All postponements due to weather** shall be a joint decision between the league president and center secretary by 3pm. **Postponements** by teams shall be granted provided that the league president and opposing team captain have been notified one week in advance. The postponed match must be made up within one week of the scheduled match. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture. In the case of an emergency, the team captain shall contact the league president at the earliest opportunity. Averages as of

the date the match is bowled shall be used to determine handicap for the postponed match. The team captain shall obtain a computer printout of the match bowled for the league secretary.

14. **Bowling unopposed** is strongly discouraged and not allowed in most cases. Approval of bowling unopposed as a team shall be granted only after every effort has been made to make up the match in accordance to rule #13.
15. A bowler who arrives late may enter the game provided five (5) frames have not been completed. Any frames missed may be made up.
16. The league will bowl on Wednesday for 32 weeks. League will start August 19, 2026, and end March 31, 2027. **The league will not bowl on December 30, 2026.** All scheduled matches will begin at 6:10pm. During practice, 1 ball per person please. The league will include a position round in the 8th, 16th, 24th, and 32nd week. Teams will be scheduled against opponents in the same division, according to the league standings. If there is an uneven number of teams in the league at the time of the position round, the last place team in the uneven division will bowl against the bye to earn points. The position round will begin in the center of the house with one division bowling to the left (lower numbered lanes) and the other division bowling to the right (higher numbered lanes). The divisions will “flip flop” lane assignments for the second position round.
17. **Standings will be determined on a 23-point system;** There will be 1 point for each player game and 2 points for each team’s handicap game and 2 points for grand total. At the end of each half, the first-place winner will be determined. If a tie exists at the end of a half, a 3 game roll off will occur to break a tie. Averages at the time of the roll off shall be used to determine handicap for the roll off. Team prize money shall be determined at the end of the season combining wins from both halves. All prize money is to be distributed according to the prize list provided. If the same team wins both halves in a division, it shall be declared the winner of the division and will advance automatically to the championship match. After both division winners have been determined, the championship match will occur the following Wednesday at regular league time. If teams are tied for a position in the standings (other than first), the prize money will be divided equally among the teams involved.
18. Roll offs will consist of 3 games. **The team with the most points will determine the winner of any roll off.** Tie breaker will be based on most pins. Lane assignments will be determined by the league secretary. In the event of a tie in any roll off, an extra tenth frame with handicap shall be bowled to determine the winner. Scores bowled in the roll offs will be counted toward individual averages. Scores bowled will qualify for USBC awards. League will pay for all roll offs. Any substitutes in roll offs must have a minimum of 9 games in this league.
19. Any dispute not covered by the above rules shall be ruled upon by the board of directors based on applicable USBC rules and regulations. The president may call special meetings of the board of directors to resolve any disputes or protests at his/her discretion.
20. The odd lane enters their lineup first; the even lane records the scores on the recap sheet.

League President: Paul Grothouse
League Vice Pres: Frank Zeak
League Secretary: Mandy Morton

REVISED DURING 8/5/2026 MEETING