



Ontario Tenpin Bowling Association

*Return to play
information*

am@otba.ca

Ontario Tenpin Bowling Association is sending this information out to the members that will be returning to their bowling houses and the leagues & tournaments shortly.

Please make sure that your house is following the guidelines given out by the Ontario government (ontario.ca/covid) and Public Health Unit in your area.

You will also find more information on the Canadian Tenpin Federation's website (tenpincanada.com/covid-19 updates) and the website of Bowl Canada (bowlcanada.ca/re-launch). If you find that your house is not following the guidelines please contact your local association (President & Association Manager) right away.

We have attached some info from all of the documents available to everyone on the internet that you have been inundated with over the past few weeks.

At this point bowling houses are limited to 50 persons and we can hope that this will increase in the near future. If you would like to send an email to the Ontario government asking for this to increase please visit ontario.ca and there is a form that you can fill out and send to them to give them your opinion.

Hopefully this pandemic that has turned our bowling world upside-down will be over soon but that doesn't look likely.

In the meantime - stay safe, stay healthy and if you don't feel well stay home.

The Canadian Tenpin Federation board of directors have approved the following modification to the playing rules to help tournaments and leagues start up during the COVID-19 Pandemic. CTF has reviewed USBC modifications and has approved the following temporary changes.

The modifications allow certified competition to take place on one lane for the entirety of a game. Additionally, bowlers will be allowed to use isopropyl alcohol, more commonly known as rubbing alcohol, to clean their bowling ball during competition. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists isopropyl alcohol as an approved disinfectant for use against COVID-19.

“As bowling centers around the country are discussing reopening, CTF intends to give operators the most flexibility possible to resume bowling within their local/provincial guidelines,” As we progress, we will continually update our rules as needed.

Effective immediately, CTF has temporarily waived CTF Playing Rules 106a, 106b, 320a and 320b, which state two lanes must be used for competition and bowlers must alternate lanes – bowling five frames on each lane of the pair. It also waived the requirement that both lanes must be used for a bowler to be eligible for awards and average recognition.

The temporary waiver allows competitions to use one lane for the entirety of a game and allows recognition of scores bowled on a single lane for CTF High Score Awards and for a bowler's official average.

CTF also created an exception for Rule 18, which restricts the use of liquid cleaners to clean the outer surface of the bowling ball during CTF certified competition. The exception for Rule 18 applies only to isopropyl alcohol.

May 13, 2020

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – (#2)
ON THE REOPENING OF CENTERS AND COVID-19**

Many leagues and tournaments were stopped with the closure of bowling centers because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact center management to discuss league and tournament options and the center's policies for competition.

1. Once an agreement for scheduling is reached, who must be contacted regarding the new end date for a league or tournament?

Leagues should contact the local association and tournaments need to CTF Sanctions.

2. Can a league or tournament adapt the schedule to accommodate social distancing?

Yes. Tournament management or the league board of directors (officers and team captains) may make scheduling changes to comply with Provincial restrictions. The league board makes the decision by a majority of the votes cast.

3. Can opponents be scheduled on different lanes?

Yes. A league or tournament may change the schedule to allow this.

4. Can the league or tournament set a schedule so there are open lanes between teams?

Yes, this would be acceptable. We suggest you work with bowling center management before deciding how to schedule teams.

5. Can a tournament allow walk-ins during the newly scheduled squads?

If the closing date has not passed, walk-ins are allowed.

6. Can a league compete at different times or days to accommodate the schedule changes?

Yes. Bowling at different times or days is acceptable and will be considered one scheduled league session.

7. If the league bowls separate days or times, will high score awards be recognized?

CTF High Scores bowled during either shift will be recognized because these are considered the same match.

8. Can a team bowl on a one lane only, instead of alternating on a pair?

Yes. CTF has waived the rules that state two lanes must be used for competition and bowlers must alternate lanes, so a team can bowl on one lane.

9. Are league officers bonded if the schedule is extended?

Yes. Please notify the local association of the new end date.

10. A league or tournament continuing its schedule adopts a format for lane assignment that is unacceptable to some league members or tournament entrants. Can members withdraw from the league or tournament?

Yes. CTF holds that any member who withdraws from a league because of changes in the schedule during the COVID-19 pandemic has sufficient cause for withdrawal per Rule 114a.

The individual must give notice to the league and the league could hold him/her responsible for the two-week withdrawal fees. However, CTF will not hold one accountable in paying the fees for the two-week notice requirement should the league proceed with Rule 115b proceedings. CTF would only hold the person responsible for payment of fees owed prior to the two-week notice.

As the player has sufficient cause for withdrawal, they would be entitled to a prorated share of prize money based on the number of league sessions for which they paid. Tournament entrants who decide to withdraw are entitled to a full refund of entry fees or an entry to the next tournament may be offered.

11. Since COVID-19 remains on hard surfaces, can bowling balls be cleaned during play?

Yes. CTF has made an exception for Rule 18, which restricts the use of liquid cleaners to clean the outer surface of the bowling ball during CTF certified competition. Bowlers temporarily will be allowed to use isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) to clean their bowling ball during competition. The exception for Rule 18 applies only to isopropyl alcohol – no other USBC-approved cleaners will be allowed during competition.

Bowling Tips – Covid – July 2020

Before Bowling

- Be symptom free for at least 14 days prior to visiting bowling Centers.
- Stay home if you are sick or do not feel well.
- Be aware of any potential contact with affected individuals.
- Wash and sanitize your hands often.
- Do not touch your face, eyes or mouth with unclean hands.
- Practice social distancing regularly. (6-foot prior or greater distance)
- Wearing a face mask is recommended to reduce exposure to airborne particles.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow if you cough or sneeze.
- Keep a list of people you have been in contact with each day.

During Bowling

- Refrain from attending league bowling or coming to Bowling Centers if displaying any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Comply with all Health regulations required for Bowling Centers.
- Wash and Sanitize your hands often.
- Do not touch your face, eyes or mouth with unclean hands.
- Refrain from contacting other Bowlers and attendees (high fives, hugs etc.)
- Practice social distancing as often as possible. (6-foot or greater distance)
- Wearing a face mask while at Bowling Centers is recommended.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow if you cough or sneeze.
- Bring hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes and use in your personal space while at Bowling Centers.
- Keep a list of people you were in contact with during the activity.

After Bowling

- Wash and sanitize your hands often.
- Do not touch your face, eyes or mouth with unclean hands.
- Monitor your health and report any symptoms after your bowling visit.
- Practice social distancing as often as possible. (6-foot or greater distance)
- Wear a face mask when possible to reduce exposure to airborne particles.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow if you cough or sneeze.
- Wash or sanitize all Bowling Balls, Equipment and Apparel during Bowling.

LEAGUE, TOURNAMENT AND ASSOCIATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Public health directives related to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to evolve. CTF is sharing rules and governing topics in this document as a resource to members.

LEAGUES

The following information is to assist leagues in making decisions about ending a league, postponing all or part of a league, league championships and payouts.

Definitions

League board of directors (The Board) – The Board is comprised of the league officers and team captains. A team captain may designate another individual to represent the team.

Majority vote – Unless otherwise stated, a majority of the votes cast. Abstentions are not counted.

Unanimous consent – Every team captain or their designated representative must vote yes, and the vote must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

NOTE: League officers cannot make the following decisions without approval of The Board or the team captains, as indicated below.

Decisions made by majority vote of The Board:

- Postponing a league schedule
- Ending a league schedule, including playoffs and sweepers. Champions or co-champions must be declared
- Ending the schedule for standings and postponing the playoffs or sweepers
- Adjustments to the prize money of the originally adopted prize list, including special individual and team awards, and championship money
- Split-season leagues with segmented prize lists:
 - Paying any completed segments in full and adjusting the prize money for segments not completed
 - Adjusting prize money for all segments, including those completed

Decisions requiring unanimous written consent of every team captain:

- Changing the originally adopted prize list
- Eliminating designated championship money
- Elimination of any special individual or team prize money
- Refunding prize money paid
- Paying the prize fund equally to all teams
- Holding funds over for the following season
- Eliminating a partially bowled segment in a split-season league. (The games are included in final averages.)

1. Can the bowling center decide to cancel leagues?

Yes. Center management may cancel any league schedule.

2. Can the The Board do an email vote to decide issues?

In order to reduce the need for individuals to gather in one place to make these decisions, an email vote would be allowed as long as all board members can be contacted by email. Conducting meetings through text, phone poll, Zoom or GoToMeeting or any other program where everyone can meet in real-time also is acceptable.

3. Our league plans to end the season early. There is a dispute between the league and the bowling center over money owed for the sessions we plan to cancel. What advice can CTF provide?

CTF recognizes the bowling center owner's rights as a private business. In issues concerning an agreement/contract between a league and the center, CTF advises the parties to honor their agreements. When one, or both sides, want to change terms of the agreement, the parties will need to discuss the issues and negotiate in good faith. As CTF is not a party in these agreements/contracts, it cannot intervene on behalf of either party.

4. How does the league determine league champions if the season ends early?

The league would declare champions based on the standings as of the last date the league bowled. If there is a tie for first place, The Board decides by majority vote if a roll-off will be bowled to break the tie or if co-champions will be declared.

5. What happens when a split-season league ends the season and full segments have not been bowled?

The league standings end as of the last date the league bowled and are official for the season. The standings of any segments not complete when The Board voted to end the season also are final and are used to determine the teams eligible to participate in the playoff. All other segment winners and any other teams that would qualify for the championship playoffs (wildcards) are declared co-champions. Any designated prize money, after adjustments, is divided equally among all qualifying teams. There is no playoff qualifying team for any segment not started.

6. If a league continues to bowl but members want to withdraw from the league, can the league hold them responsible for league fees?

CTF holds that any member who withdraws from a league due to the coronavirus outbreak has sufficient cause for withdrawal in accordance with Rule 114a. The individual must give notice to the league and the league could hold him/her responsible for payment of those fees. However, CTF will not hold one accountable in paying the fees for the two-week notice requirement. Should the league proceed with Rule 115b proceedings, CTF would only hold the person responsible for payment of fees owed prior to the two-week notice.

As the player has sufficient cause for withdrawal, they would be entitled to a prorated share of prize money based on the number of league sessions paid for.

7. How will ending the league early affect the league prize fund?

This will result in the league having less than anticipated funds in any adopted prize list. To amend the adopted prize list based on the funds available, The Board meets and approves an amended prize list, which must follow the general outline of the current prize list.

8. If a league does not complete the season because of the coronavirus, how should it change the adopted prize list to accommodate the shortfall?

CTF has put together a guide for leagues, which describes ways for leagues to adjust prize lists in a way that only requires a majority vote of The Board for approval. You can access this guide on the website. The key issue to adjusting a prize list where only a majority vote of The Board is required for approval is maintaining the same structure of the previously approved prize list and only adjusting the prize values. Changing the structure of the prize list, such as eliminating categories or other prizes named in the league rules, would require the unanimous consent of all the team captains.

9. We ended our league with several sessions to bowl. We think it is only fair to divide the prize money equally among all the teams. Can this be done?

This changes the originally adopted prize list and would require unanimous written consent of all team captains or designated representative.

10. Our league bowls a split-season and the winner of each segment, along with wildcard teams, advance to a playoff where they compete for an additional

prize list and determine the league champion. We ended our season early and are not going to be able to have the playoff. What should we do with the prize money dedicated for this playoff?

First, the league needs to address the amount of money allocated for the playoff and adjust it to account for the league's early finish and resulting financial shortfall. When The Board voted to end the season, the standings became final as of the last date of competition. The standings of any segments not complete when The Board voted to end the season also are final and are used to determine the teams eligible to participate in the playoff. Based on the final standings, the league then declares co-champions and splits the playoff prize money equally among all teams eligible to bowl in the playoff.

11. We canceled our league, including the playoffs. Our playoff determines the top eight places in the league prize list. How are these places paid?

If the league is canceled, co-champions must be declared and the prize money for the top eight teams after adjustment is added together and divided equally among the eight qualifying teams.

TOURNAMENTS

1. Squads were cancelled because of concerns over the coronavirus. Can tournament management reschedule the squads?

Tournament management may extend the tournament by contacting the CTF Rules Team. If the entry deadline has passed, only those individuals originally entered to bowl on the canceled squad(s) are permitted to bowl on the rescheduled date.

2. If tournament management cancels the rest of the tournament, how are prizes to be awarded?

Prizes would be based on the number of entries that participated prior to the cancellation of the tournament.

3. If a tournament is canceled, are refunds required for those who did not participate?

Yes, all fees paid by the bowlers for events in which they did not compete must be returned.

4. If a tournament is not canceled and I decide not to participate, am I entitled to a refund?

CTF is treating the coronavirus as an emergency situation and advising tournament management that they have the authority to issue refunds to any entrant(s) who chose(s) to withdraw from their event. Another option would be to have the entry fee forwarded to the next season's event.

ASSOCIATION OPERATIONS

CTF Provincial and local associations should follow provincial and local guidelines when considering how to handle events, meetings, and tournaments. The guidelines and requirements are evolving, but associations should be proactive in considering the well-being of their members and follow provincial mandates.

1. What is the difference between postponing or canceling our 2020 Annual Meeting?

First, follow your Provincial and local public health guidelines to determine if you can hold your local or provincial association Annual Meeting later in 2020. The current local/Provincial board can vote, by majority, to:

a. **Postpone:** Conduct the meeting after Aug. 1, 2020

Your board continues to operate, and the expiring board member(s) remain in office or declare vacancies and appoint the positions (board decision, majority vote).

1) If board does not have term limits

Board members remain in their current position until an election is held for those Monday, August 17, 2020

positions.

2) If board has term limits

For terms that expire, let the current expiring board member(s) remain in office or declare vacancy (board decision, majority vote). If a vacancy is declared:

- a) The board could work with vacancies until the postponed meeting can be held
- b) If the vacancies are a hardship on the board, the president, with board approval, can fill the vacancies. At the postponed meeting, these positions would be up for election for the remainder of the term.

- b. **Cancel:** If the 2020 Annual Meeting cannot be reasonably rescheduled, the business from the 2020 meeting would be moved to 2021 Annual Meeting. Your board continues to operate, and the expiring board member(s) remain in office or declare a vacancy (board decision, majority vote). If a vacancy is declared:

1) If board does not have term limits

Board members remain in their current position until an election is held for those positions.

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For terms that expire, let the current expiring board member(s) remain in office or declare a vacancy (board decision, majority vote). The president, with board approval, can fill the vacancies.

At the 2021 Annual Meeting, these positions would be up for election for the remainder of the term. You also would hold the 2021 elections.

2. If we canceled our 2020 Annual Meeting, how should we handle business at the 2021 meeting?

When the 2021 Annual Meeting is conducted, the 2020 Annual Meeting approvals should be the first piece of business. The delegates/members would act to approve the actions taken by the board. If the board members who were appointed are running unopposed, the slate would be presented to approve. If the elections are contested, an election would be held for those appointed positions to fulfill the remainder of the term. Then, the traditional 2021 Annual Meeting business would take place.

3. If we handle both 2020 and 2021 business at the 2021 Annual Meeting, do the 2020 delegates handle their business and 2021 handle theirs?

No, everything would be handled by the same delegation. Some local associations will have a delegate election; others will not. If a local association has not elected their 2021 delegates, then the 2020 delegates would attend the 2021 provincial annual meeting. The provincial should request the credentials, as usual, for 2021 and accept those names submitted.

4. If we hold our Annual Meeting after Aug. 1 and our delegates terms have ended, who represents the association at the Provincial Annual Meeting?

Those delegates terms would extend to this postponed Annual Meeting, since they were elected to represent the association for the 2019-2020 season.

5. Can we cancel our Association Championship Tournament, or do we need to reschedule it this season to comply with CTF Bylaws?

If an Association Championship Tournament is canceled because of the coronavirus outbreak, CTF will not require the association to conduct one this season.

We would encourage the association to attempt to reschedule the tournament, but if accommodations cannot be made, CTF will not hold the board responsible for the requirement.



Canadian Tenpin Federation, Inc.
Fédération Canadienne des Dix-Quilles, Inc.

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