**League Officers President Eric “Snooky” Ott**

**Vice President Beverleigh Fitzgerald**

**Administrative Officer Gregory Carson**

**2025-2026 Seasons**

***Summer 2025 - 15 Weeks***

***Monday, May 5, 2025 through Monday, August 18, 2025***

***BYE May 26, 2025***

Fall 2025 - 15 weeks

Monday, September 8, 2025 through Monday December 15, 2025

Spring 2026 - 16 weeks

Monday, January 5, 2026 through Monday, April 20, 2026

Summer 2026 - 15 Weeks

Monday, May 4, 2026 through Monday, August 24, 2026

Bye May 25, 2026

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2026 Fall Season begins September14, 2026

This league shall be known as the Tavern Guild Invitational Bowling League (TGL). This league is sanctioned with the United States Bowling Congress (USBC). The Tavernguild is a member of IGBO (International Gay Bowling Organization). The Tavernguild is a STORM Sponsored League.

The Tavern Guild is a closed league and membership is by invitation only through current league members or advertising. League Officers have final approval of new members and membership matters.

The season's rules and schedule will be posted on the League Website at [www.tavernguildleague.com](http://www.tavernguildleague.com). The league shall be governed and conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) and this league's rules and amendments. Where there is conflict between these two, the order of precedence shall be as follows:

1. Current year's USBC constitutions, specifications and rules (excluding the league's rules)

2. This league's rules and amendments

**LEAGUE RULES**

**MANAGEMENT OF LEAGUE:**

The management of the Tavern Guild Invitational League shall be vested in the Board of Directors which consists of the League Officers. Officers shall serve until retiring from service, leaving the league, or another member runs for office. General Membership shall adopt the league rules, and the League Officers may amend the rules through a majority vote. Where specific rules have not been adopted, the league rules contained in USBC's constitutions, specifications, and suggested league rules shall apply.

**RAFFLE TICKETS/SIDE POTS**Brackets, 50/50 Raffle and Strike Pot tickets will be sold prior to bowling, or by Tavern Guild teams on a rotating basis during bowling up until the drawing time each week. Desk Personnel or other designated representatives may also be permitted to sell tickets as assigned or determined by the Tavern Guild Officers. Any other Side Pots, Raffles, Promotions must be approved and will be permitted at the discretion of the League Officers and/or the House.

**TEAM CAPTAIN:**

Each team must designate a Team Captain. Team Captains may be changed at any time by notifying a league officer. A team captain is a member of the league authorized to organize and enter a team into league play. The captain is the team's representative and shall perform the following duties:

* Collect all dues and fees from each member of the team, properly note on the team envelope which member has paid how much and turn in the team's fees envelope to the League President by the end of first game. **(This includes Substitute Bowler fees of $10 and notating payment on the team envelope, and making sure that a valid sanctioning card has been completed and any fees associated with sanctioning are collected).**
* Be responsible for the eligibility of the team and its members under the rules of the league and USBC.
* Be responsible for the conduct and attendance of the team in league play. It is within the Team Captain's authority to permanently remove any player from the team. Good and sufficient reason for the removal must be furnished to the League President.
* Enter the names of substitute bowlers on the Recap Sheets and the computerized scorekeeping machines at the start of each night (or have the front desk personnel complete this task). Ensure that any substitute bowler has completed a USBC Sanction Card on their first night during this Season (League Officers have blank cards and can assist if needed). This card should be placed inside the team envelope along with any fees for sanctioning ($30) and bowling ($10).
* Sign the Recap Sheets and have the scores verified by the opposing Team Captain and turn in the Recap Sheet to the League President before leaving.
* Pay each member of the team his/her prize monies upon disbursement on the last night of the league (Sweeps Week). Any dispute over prize monies shall be brought to the attention of the League President.
* **Have a clear understanding and be able to explain all leagues rules, including Position Round and Sweeps, to team members.**
* Make all necessary adjustments to the computerized scorekeeping machines or have the front desk complete these tasks.
* Monitor the flow of play, ensure that Bowling Etiquette is being observed. Any incidents that cannot be resolved at the Team Captain level is to be reported to a League Officer immediately, so that appropriate intervention/actions can be administered, if necessary. See Rule 15c, Bowling Etiquette for more information.

**RULES:**

**RULE #1 - Individual Entering Averages**

All bowlers will use their most recent Tavern Guild Book Average for the first 9 games. If none, the bowler will use their highest most recent Book Average found on www.bowl.com for the first 9 games. If no average, the bowler will establish an average after they bowl their first 3 games. This rule applies to all subs as well.

If a bowler is absent on Opening Night, **a vacant score of 150 plus 54 handicap** will apply. If a team only has 3 bowlers and their 4th spot is vacant, they will also use the vacancy score for that opening until a permanent bowler joins the league. Subs may bowl for vacants as long as 1 regular team member is present. A substitute may not defend the team, at least 1 regular bowler need be present to defend the team.

**RULE #2 - Team Averages, Limits, Handicaps**

There are no rules or limits for team maximums or minimums with regards to average.

The handicap allowance in this league is **90%** of the difference between each individual average and **210**. Team handicap for each scheduled match shall be the total of the individuals for the bowlers in the lineup.

**RULE #3 - Legal Lineup**

Teams consist of 4 bowlers each. A legal lineup consists of at least **one** regular team member present. That **one** regular team member may defend the team solely. For various reasons throughout the season, a member may drop. The league does everything possible to keep every team full, but sometimes this is not possible. The League Officers monitor the membership and may or may not combine teams depending on the best interest of the league.

**RULE #4 - Tardy Players**

Tardy bowlers may enter the game up through the 3rd frame of each game. Tardy bowlers must use the absentee score for all missed frames (1/10 of absentee score - average minus 1 pin for every frame they miss). When you have a tardy bowler, enter that person as a "Blind" bowler on the computerized scorekeeping machine. The machine will automatically use the absentee score for each frame until that tardy bowler arrives. Tardy bowlers cannot make up frames missed. When a tardy bowler arrives, the front desk must “unblind” that member and that bowler must use their blind score for any frames absent.

**RULE #5 - Blind and Vacancy Scores**

Blind scores are used when a regular bowler is absent on a league night. A blind score is that bowler's average minus 10 pins. A vacancy score applies when a team consists of less than 4 regular bowlers. Until the league finds that team a 4th regular bowler, that team will use **a vacancy score of 150 average with 54 handicap. Any members more than 2 weeks behind in league fees will use a vacancy score until all money owed to the league is paid in full.**  
  
If bowling against a team where none of their bowlers show up, your team must bowl within 40 pins of your team's average to win a game.

**RULE #6 - Postponement and Pre-bowling**

Under USBC Rule 117 PREBOWLS and POSTBOWLS are prohibited. However, exceptions may be granted by any TGL League Officer. Prebowl/Postbowl is at the availability/discretion of the house. Since 1 person can defend the team (ie 1 rostered bowler from the team) there should be little to no need for pre or post bowls. Subs cannot defend the team. Whenever possible PREBOWLING is preferred. Prebowls may be done by any member of the team. Postbowls need to be done by the entire team.

**RULE #7 – Prize Fund Standings; Championship Format**

**RULE 7a** **SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP:**  
The season Championship will be determined in a **Bracket Eliminator Style** – **best 2 out of 3 games**

**4 Teams, 2 weeks**

Example:

Week 14 of 16 (Elimination round 1) – The 4 highest teams in points from week 13 bowl – 2 teams eliminated - **best 2 out of 3 games**

Week 15 of 16 (Elimination round 2) – The remaining 2 teams from round 1elimination bowl for the championship**, best 2 out of 3 games**.

**All other final standings are determined by the number of games won during the season.** ***It is possible that the team with the highest # of games for the season will not be the season champion. In the event of a tie after position round, total pins with handicap will determine the team/s that advance to the playoffs.***

**RULE 7B - POINT FUND DISTRBUTION**

The Tavern Guild League uses a four-point system. Standings are determined on a point basis, with one point for each game won and one point for the team having high series. The Prize Fund is determined using all 4 points each week. This is independent of the Season Championship Roll Off, outlined above.

**RULE #8 - Substitutes**

Substitute bowlers may be used when available. Subs must prove their USBC Membership sanctioning, or, they will be required to pay USBC's current sanctioning fee. Regardless, all subs must complete a USBC Membership Application form. Sub averages will follow the same average rules as listed in rule #1. **Pacers are allowed to bowl in the Tavern Guild League.** Currently, there is no rule with regards to which team member a substitute can sub for, i.e. a sub bowler with a 190 average may bowl for a regular team member who is averaging 150. **Subs may not bowl in any of the teams bowling for the Championship on the position nights. Subs may bowl for other teams. Subs may bowl on Sweeps Night. Subs are not eligible for the prize fund/points fund/sweeps moneys.**

**RULE #9 – Dues/Payment of Fees**

The Tavernguild is a NO SHORTAGE LEAGUE. The league is required to pay to the house for a guaranteed number of lanes/bowlers each week. Should the bowler not join the league for any reason at the scheduled start of the season, the bowler must either pay for the weeks missed, or a percentage of the season’s bowling weeks will be assessed as a penalty deduction.

Weekly bowling dues are currently $30.00 per bowler. $21.00 pays lineage; $1.00 pays the League Officer Fee; the remaining $8.00 goes to the league to cover the points/prize fund and operating expenses. **The Tavernguild prepays the last 2 weeks of bowling each season.**

**Officer Fees**

Officer fees are part of the weekly dues. $1 per week per person is allocated to the League Officer Fund. League Officer fees are paid at the end of each bowling season

The Tavernguild allows a 1week grace period for payment of dues. **If a bowler has two weeks or more of dues in arrears they may not bowl in competition until those monies are made whole. If a member with outstanding dues does bowl, the team will forfeit all games until the bowler in violation returns to good standing. Additionally, if a player is 2 or more weeks in arrears, they will use the Vacant score until rejoining the league and paying any back dues.**

Due the first week is as follows:

**First Night Dues $30**

**Last 2 Weeks Dues $60**

**Sanction Fee $30 (Sanction Fee – Waived if already sanctioned in another league)**

**Minimum Total Due FIRST Night: $120.00 ($90 if already sanctioned)**

**TOTAL DUE FOR ENTIRE 15 Week Season (excluding Sanctioning): $450.00**

**TOTAL DUE FOR ENTIRE 16 Week Season (excluding Sanctioning): $480.00**

The Tavernguild accepts the following forms of payment:

* Dead Presidents (also known as CASH)
* Checks made out to: TAVERNGUILD
* Venmo – See the League President to set up.

Checks returned for "Non-Sufficient Funds" will result in that bowler paying cash only for the remainder of the season - no exceptions. A $25 returned check fee will be assessed and payment must be reimbursed. Additional action may be determined by the League Officers.

**RULE #10 - USBC Sanctioning/Fees and IGBO Membership Fees/Storm Sponsorship**

* **USBC Sanction** dues are due no later than the 2nd week of the season in which the fees are due**.** The League's Officers will let all bowlers know whether or not their USBC Sanction Dues are paid for through this Season, or if they must pay Sanctioning Fees.
* Complete the Card, attach payment (if required), return in your weekly team envelope
* All Bowlers are required by USBC to complete and sign a Sanctioning Card, **including subs.**
* Sanctioning must be completed and paid for by the completion of the 2nd week of bowling
  + Payment is to be made out to the Tavernguild (cash, Venmo or check to: Tavernguild). The League will issue a lump sum payment to USBC.
  + Payment may be done online through Bowl.com, but PROOF OF PAYMENT must be attached to your sanctioning card.
* USBC Sanctioning covers the period of August 1 of the current year through July 31 of the following year. Sanctioned members are grandfathered for the current active season (Summer).
* **IGBO Membership Fees**
* The International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) membership fee is paid by the Tavernguild and comes from the membership’s weekly dues.
  + The current IGBO Membership fee is $3.00 per member per league.
* **STORM SPONSORSHIP**
  + The Tavernguild is sponsored by STORM. Balls, Bags and Accessories are available at a discount. See a league officer for additional information.

**RULE #11 - Prize Eligibility and Points Fund**

* A league member must bowl 55% of the league's schedule and be a member of the league at the close of the season in order to qualify for any prize monies or awards. Subs and “permanent” Subs are not eligible for prize money. Subs are not eligible for USBC/IGBO awards bowled in the Tavernguild.
* The Tavernguild has a guaranteed Points Fund. For each Game Point the team wins (up to 4 points per week except on sweeps night when there are no points awarded) the team will earn cash back. The amount paid per win is dependent on the number of vacancies in the league vs the number of paying members, plus the amount collected from weekly raffles and substitute bowlers.

**RULE #12 - Withdrawal From The League**

If a bowler needs to exit the league, two weeks written notice must be given to the League President unless a replacement bowler is found earlier. A bowler exiting from the league for other than medical reasons shall forfeit any and all prizes and monies that they may have been eligible to receive at the end of the season. Any bowler dropping from the league for any reason other than medical will also forfeit the prepayment of the last 2 weeks of the season. The League's Board of Directors may review other situations and make a decision regarding sufficient cause.

**RULE 13 – Disciplinary Actions**

In the event that the Team Captains cannot resolve an issue, the Team Captain should immediately report the incident to any League Officer for review, intervention and/or possible disciplinary action, including but not limited to the following:

* Verbal and/or Written Warning and probation for remainder of current Sanction Year.
* Dismissal from League and Request to have Sanction Card revoked through USBC.

The League Officers reserve the right to dismiss any member at any time for any reason.

**RULE 14 – Bowling Balls/Equipment and Etiquette**

**14a Bowling Balls/Equipment**

As per USBC Rule 14:

1. No balance holes will be permitted.

2. All holes drilled must be used for gripping purposes on every delivery.

3. No more than three (3) ounces of weight on any halves of the ball.

Anyone found to be using equipment that is not in compliance with USBC Rules will have the equipment in violation confiscated, suspended from the league and notification of violation will be submitted to USBC for revocation of user’s sanction.

**14b** **Foul Lights**

USBC stipulates the use of foul lights for sanctioned league bowling

1. In the event that the foul lights malfunction, do not work properly for any reason, any League Officer may determine whether or not to discontinue the use of the foul lights for either the event or for a longer period of time until the house demonstrates that the foul lights are functioning properly.
2. Malfunctioning Foul Lights may be turned off for just the pair, or for the entire league at the discretion of any League Officer and/or the House.

**14c Bowling Etiquette**

1. **All Bowlers Must Wear bowling shoes.**
2. **Avoid eating or drinking while on/in the bowler's area.**

This is what the counter/concourse areas are for.

1. **Stay off of the approach unless it is actively your turn.**

If it is not your turn, either go to the seating area behind you or step out of any bowlers' ways or line of sight.

**4** **Be ready to take your turn.**

Be sure you are ready when it is your turn to avoid keeping everyone waiting. Sometimes certain members (like the officers) have other assigned tasks (like fixing scores or selling raffle tickets, or calling the raffle ticket numbers) which do delay the game, but whenever possible, be ready to take your turn.

**5 The bowler on the right has priority.**

Just like at a 4 way stop sign, yield to the person on your right. And if someone on your left is already on the approach, allow them to throw before you step onto the approach.

**6 Be a good sport and have fun**

Congratulate someone if they get a spare or a strike. Likewise if someone is struggling they likely are aware and letting them know may not be the best choice. Having fun is good, but be respectful of your opponents and the teams on the next lanes.

*This is only a partial list of etiquette topics. These are the most common items. More on Bowling Etiquette can be found on BOWL.COM.*

**AWARDS**

* Awards will be submitted to USBC/IGBO for awards that bowlers are eligible to receive.
* The league does not give trophies.
* The league may provide cash awards for the Season Champion, Runner up (2nd place) teams in the standings.
* The league may provide additional cash awards if/as funds permit.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

* Bowling - practice starts at 7pm and league play starts immediately after.
* The House reserves the right to book private events. If this occurs, the league officers will vote on whether or not to extend or shorten the season.
* Guests including children are not permitted in the immediate bowling area. (That’s what the counters and concourse areas are for.) We encourage you to invite your family and friends to come out and observe. Who knows, maybe they will join the league!
* Guests ARE permitted to enter the 50/50 drawing, however the Strikepot is for active bowlers only.
* Sometimes things happen that we as a league or League Officer cannot control (no electricity, a/c broken, scoring is not working to name a few). Please know that we do everything we can to ensure that the league can bowl. We know your time is valuable and you would rather bowl than be at home, but sometimes it just cannot be helped. Whenever possible we will bowl.
* No outside Food or Drink is permitted inside Corbin Bowl.
* **Thanks for being a part of the Tavernguild Family!**
* **We are always open to suggestions, if you have an idea on how to make the league better, please let any League Officer know!**
* **Our EMAIL is** [**TAVERNGUILDLEAGUE@GMAIL.COM**](mailto:TAVERNGUILDLEAGUE@GMAIL.COM)
* **Our Website is www.Tavernguildleague.com**
* **Check out our FACEBOOK PAGE! Search for Tavernguild!!**