

Saturday Major Triples League

Rules for the 2016-17 Season

1) League Format

- Triples (3 bowlers to a team).
- Sanctioned by the NDBC.
- Any combination of men and women is permissible.
- Handicap (80% of the difference in opposing teams' averages).
- No minimum or maximum entering average for individuals or teams.
- Ball-for-ball lane courtesy is strongly encouraged (REQUIRED during scheduled double matches).
- 7-point system (2 points for each actual win, 1 point for total pinfall).
- Full-season league, split into two 18-match halves.
- Position rounds at the end of each half, with the possibility of other position rounds throughout the schedule (any position rounds will be at least six (6) weeks apart).

2) League Officers

- President (maximum fee of \$100): **Ken Schline**
- Vice President (unpaid position): **John Biederman**
- Secretary (maximum fee of \$10/bowler, plus a maximum of \$150 for expenses): **Jason Saghy**
- Treasurer: (maximum fee of \$400, plus a maximum of \$150 for expenses): **Marty Barnes**

3) Dates and Times

- Start date: August 27, 2016
- End date: May 6, 2017
- Playoffs/Payoff: May 13, 2017
- Regular start time: 6:30 pm (6:00 pm for scheduled double matches)
- Cancellation dates: November 26, 2016 (Pinland Open)
December 24, 2016 (Christmas Eve)
December 31, 2016 (New Year's Eve)
January 14, 2017 (PWPT)
February 18, 2017 (Adult/Alumni Challenge Match)
- Double matches: October 8, 2016
November 5, 2016
January 28, 2017
April 1, 2017

4) League Fees

- \$25 per week (\$7.75 lineage, \$17.25 to prize fund), plus a one-time \$25 franchise fee (per bowler).
- League shortage maximum is \$75 per team. If a team exceeds the shortage limit, the highest-average bowler's game scores for that week will be reverted to the LOWER of his/her absentee score, or his/her actual score. This will continue until the team gets back to the shortage limit.
- Team captains are SOLELY responsible for all team shortages.
- If a team bowls the entire season without any weekly shortages, that team will be eligible for a \$60 team high set award during the league's final week.
- Last three (3) weeks of bowling must be paid by the first Saturday in March. Those weeks will count against a team's shortage limit after that point.
- Sanction fees: \$15 per bowler, must be paid by week 3 (unless paid through another league).

5) Postponements

- Must be a mutual agreement between the two teams involved.
- No postponements during the final three (3) matches of each half.
- Postponed matches must be bowled within three (3) weeks of the regularly scheduled match, or before the next position round (whichever is earlier).
- Matches may also be bowled in advance of the scheduled date (this includes matches during the last three (3) weeks of each half).

6) Snow Emergency

- If the Snow Emergency plan is in effect in Baltimore County at 5:00 pm, then all scheduled matches in the League are canceled. If the plan is not effect at 5:00 pm, the league secretary will call the house to verify if it is to be closed, and the league officers will make a decision by 5:00 pm whether to cancel all league matches. If opposing team captains elect to not bowl due to the weather, the postponement rules will then apply. If the entire league cancels, then the canceled week's matches will take place the following week. The secretary will make the necessary adjustments to the schedule.

7) Averages/Blinds

- Entering averages (use the first rule that applies):
 - A) 2015-16 Saturday Triples League final average (45 games minimum)
 - B) Highest league average from the two prior seasons (45 games minimum)
 - C) Assigned average, to be determined by the league officers based on any available average information.
- Entering averages will be used if the bowler has bowled less than nine (9) games on the current week's standings sheet. Current averages will be used if the bowler has nine (9) games or more on the current week's standings sheet.
- An absent bowler will receive a score that is ten (10) pins lower than his/her average.
- Individual blind average is 110. Individual blind score is 100.
- If there are an odd number of teams, the team blind average will be 330, and the team blind score will be 300 (ties against the blind will be counted as wins). If the league is able to locate a replacement team for the blind team within the first three (3) weeks of the season, team(s) who have bowled against the blind will have to re-bowl those games against the replacement team.

8) Substitutes

- Floating substitutes.
- Subs will use the same entering average guidelines used for permanent bowlers.
- Any subs who have not paid the \$15 sanction fee through another league must pay through this league after having bowled nine (9) games, in order for their games to count.
- Any subs bowling the last three (3) matches of the season (weeks 34-36) must be listed on the substitute list. New subs may be added to the list at any time prior to week 34.

9) Ties

- For prize fund purposes, ties below first place are NOT broken by pinfall (prize money for the tied positions will be pooled together and split evenly among the teams).
- In the event of a two-team tie for first place at the end of a half, a one (1) game rolloff will take place immediately following the last match of the half.
- In the event of a tie for first involving three (3) or more teams, the teams will be seeded by total pinfall for the half, and a stepladder format will be used to determine the league champion. The results of the stepladder will also determine prize fund payouts for all teams on the stepladder (i.e., third place on the stepladder will receive third place prize money).

10) Prizes/Playoffs

- Minimum of \$700 per bowler per half for first place.
- Minimum of \$70 per bowler per half for last place.
- Weekly strike ball and/or 50/50 jackpot (participation is optional), from which a portion of the proceeds will be added to the league prize fund.
- No individual prizes awarded. Team prizes for high game and high set will be awarded (\$60 per team for high game and high set, \$30 per team for 2nd high game and 2nd high set).
- End-of-season playoff round, in which ALL league teams will participate (payouts and format for the playoffs will be determined based on number of league teams and amount of 50/50 and/or strike ball income).
- Any bowlers or teams who abandon the league AT ANY POINT without good cause shall forfeit ALL prize money for either half and the playoffs.

11) Fines

- Any bowler may call a fine on another bowler.
- The team captain of the offending bowler must be notified when the incident occurs.
- Fines are issued via a written letter (i.e. a note on the back of the scoresheet) to the secretary, which must be submitted before the following week's match.
- The offending bowler has two (2) weeks to appeal the fine. If an appeal is requested, the league officers will hear the appeal and render a final decision. Both the offending bowler AND the bowler who levied the fine must attend any appeals hearing.
- Fine structure:
 - A) Failure to attend a team captain's meeting: \$10 (cannot be appealed)
 - B) Failure to provide first AND last names for substitutes: \$25 (cannot be appealed)
 - C) Failure to attend an appeals hearing: \$25
 - D) First general offense: \$25
 - E) Second general offense: \$50 AND a one (1) week suspension
 - F) Third general offense: expulsion from the league

ANY INCIDENTS NOT COVERED BY THE ABOVE RULES WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE NDBC RULEBOOK.