

Rule 319 – Averages

319a. Conditions that Apply

The following conditions apply to averages in handicap or classified tournaments, unless the tournament rules state otherwise, except that only USBC averages shall be accepted. (See Rule 319c for average adjustment.)

1. The bowler is required to submit the previous season's highest average of:
 - a) A single USBC league average based on a minimum of 21 games; or
 - b) A composite average of all USBC leagues, including leagues with less than 21 games bowled.
2. When the previous season's average is used, and at the time of bowling an entrant has a current average for 21 or more games that is 10 pins or more higher than the prior season's average, the current average must be used.
3. Bowlers are responsible for verifying his/her own average, whether submitted by the bowler, the team captain or others. If the submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower classification or more handicap, the bowler's score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average. In the case of a team of two or more bowlers, the averages will be combined to determine if the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total.
4. Average corrections can be made up to the end of the bowler's first game of a series. Or, if an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the first game of a series, the correction can be made within 48 hours after the end of the series.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 319a.

319a/1

The tournament rules require bowlers to use their highest average from the previous season. A bowler has an established previous season left-handed average of 150 and a 175 right-handed average. He plans to bowl with his left hand in the tournament. Which average would he use?

The tournament rules require all bowlers to use their highest average. Therefore, he would have to use his 175 average, regardless of whether he bowled with his right or left hand.

319a/2 -- 319a/3

Can tournament management allow or adopt a rule permitting participants with both a left-handed and a right-handed average to declare the hand they will use and enter with the average established with that hand?

No. According to USBC Rule 319a requires all bowlers to use their highest average of 21 or more games. This applies to all bowlers regardless of the hand being used.

Last year I averaged 190 right-handed, but due to an injury I am bowling left-handed and have a 127 average. I want to participate in tournaments bowling left-handed. Can I apply for tournament average relief? If so, how?

Yes, you may apply for average relief prior to bowling in any tournament by submitting documentation to USBC Headquarters. (See Rule 4e for details.) Tournament Management cannot give average relief without USBC first making the decision to grant relief.

319a/4 According to the tournament rules, entrants must enter with their highest previous season league average. A bowler enters with a 170 previous season average. The tournament rules also require the reporting of a 10 pin increase in league average at time of bowling. In league play the evening before the tournament, the bowler shoots a big series raising his/her average to 180. Must the bowler enter and use the higher 180 average?

Yes, bowlers are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their average. In accordance with Rule 319a, Item 2, the bowler needs to calculate his/her league average up to and including the last time he/she bowled in a league prior to competing in the tournament.

319a/5 Is a bowler responsible for verification of their average even though the entry blanks are completed and submitted by the team captain, squad sponsor, etc.?

Yes. In accordance with Rule 319a, Item 3, and 16b, it is the bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of their entering average in handicap or classified tournaments whether originally submitted by the bowler or some other individual. The bowler should verify his/her average on the recap sheet to determine if it was correctly submitted. If necessary, an average correction can be made up to the end of the bowler's first game of the series or, if an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the first game of a series, the correction can be made within 48 hours after the end of the series.

319a/6 In a tournament conducted on string pinsetters, can the tournament give preference to string-pin averages over free-fall averages when a player has both?

USBC rules do allow a tournament to utilize such an entering average rule. However, through research USBC has concluded that the averages established on both free-fall and string pinsetters are comparable and are acceptable for use in competitions held on either pinsetter version without adjustment.

319a/7 Can a tournament conducted on string pinsetting machines use averages established on free-fall machines?

Yes. Through research, USBC has concluded that the averages established on both free-fall and string pinsetters are comparable and are acceptable for use in competitions held on either pinsetter version without adjustment.

319a/8 Can a tournament conducted on free-fall machines use averages established on string pinsetter machines?

Yes. Through research, USBC has concluded that the averages established on both free-fall and string pinsetters are comparable and are acceptable for use in competitions held on either pinsetter version without adjustment.

319b. Assigned Averages

A bowler who does not have an acceptable average under tournament rules will bowl scratch, unless the rules specify a minimum average that will be assigned by tournament management prior to participation.

Tournament management has the authority to assign an average higher than the minimum average prior to participation.

319c. Average Adjustments (Rerating)

The average of a bowler may be adjusted upward before participation in any event. If the assigned average is not accepted by the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded.

Unless the tournament rules state otherwise, in a handicap or classified tournament, a bowler who has had his/her average adjusted/rerated in accordance with this rule is required to report all previous assigned average adjustments/rerates, whether the bowler accepted the adjustment/rerate or not, at the time of bowling.

The following information must be submitted prior to participation for possible average adjustment/rerate:

1. The name of each tournament in which an average adjustment/rerate was assigned(including date assigned).
2. The adjusted/rerated average.

Failure to comply with these provisions is cause for disqualification and forfeiture of entry fees and prize winnings.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 319c.

319c/1 I entered a house tournament with my 175 league average. Prior to bowling, they adjusted my average to 190. Can I appeal this adjustment to USBC?

No, USBC is not in a position to substitute our judgment for that of tournament management in that they have first-hand knowledge of the situation.

319c/2 I entered an association championship tournament with my 175 league average. Prior to bowling, the tournament manager adjusted my average to 190. Can I appeal this adjustment to USBC?

Yes, an association championship tournament is a right of membership and, as such, adjustments may be appealed to USBC in writing, within 10 days of the date of bowling or prior to the payment of prizes, whichever occurs first.

319d. Reporting Prior Prize Winnings

1. Within the last 12-month period, anyone who has qualified* for a cash and/or merchandise prize in the position standings prize list in a tournament, including all-events, special features, special prizes and donated prizes, must give tournament management the following information prior to participation for possible average adjustment:

a. The name of each tournament in which they have been paid the following prizes, or if not yet paid, in which they have qualified for the prize:

- 1) \$300 or more in any event;
- 2) Total combined prize winnings of \$500 or more in any one tournament;

3) Total combined prize winnings of \$1000 or more in all tournaments within the last 12 months.

b. The amount of the prize.

c. The actual score bowled to qualify for the prize.

d. The prize position.

2. Failure to comply with these provisions is cause for a forfeiture of entry fees and prize winnings.

NOTE: *Qualified is defined as the date and time the tournament officially ended (completion of the last squad or round of competition), or payment of prizes, whichever comes first.

All bowlers regardless of average must comply with the provision of Rule 319d.

Prize winnings from certified and non-certified tournaments, including those using a modified format of American Tenpins (example: 9 pin tap), must be used in the application of this rule.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 319d.

319d/1 A tournament requires bowlers to report tournament prize winnings of \$300 or more in the past 12 months. Recently I won \$1,000 in the doubles event of a non-certified tournament. Do I have to report these winnings?

Yes, all bowlers are required to report prize winnings of \$300 or more in any event of a certified and noncertified tournament, including those using a modified format of American Tenpins.

319d/2 Does a scratch bowler participating in a house tournament have to report prize winnings of \$300 or more in accordance with Rule 319d?

Yes, anyone who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event of a certified and non-certified tournament must report this information regardless of what their average is. By not reporting this information, tournament management is not afforded the opportunity to review the information for possible rejection of the entry.

319d/3 Tournament rules require the reporting of prize winnings in accordance with Rule 319d. Is a bowler required to report a \$300 or more prize earned in another tournament that is over even though the bowler has not received his/her prize check?

Yes, Rule 319d requires anyone who has qualified for a cash and/or merchandise prize of \$300 or more in any event of a certified and/or non-certified tournament to report this information as a condition of entry.

Therefore, it is the bowler's responsibility to verify the amount won and report the prize.

319e. Average Adjustment for Entry

NOTE: All certified and non-certified scores from the game of American Tenpins must be used in the application of this rule.

Unless the tournament rules state otherwise, the following applies in a handicap or classified tournament:

1. The bowler is responsible for keeping a record of the names, dates, scores, and prize winnings in all tournaments entered in the previous 12 months, including those still running. These include all tournament scores bowled in accordance with the game of American Tenpins.

2. A bowler shall adjust his/her entering average if, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the time and date of bowling, the bowler's accumulated average for all, but not less than 21 tournament games, exceeds the average to be used for entry by 15 or more pins. In that case, the accumulated average must be used for handicapping or classification purposes.

a. A bowler whose tournament scores require an adjustment must submit the adjusted average in writing before the end of the first game in a tournament, unless tournament rules allow for such adjustment to be made within a specified time after bowling.

b. Failure to use the adjusted average in accordance with the foregoing is cause for forfeiture of entry fees and prize winnings, and the bowler is subject to suspension of membership in USBC.

On appeal or protest, the bowler must promptly supply the record of the names, dates, scores and prizes won — or scores that qualify to win — in all tournaments in which the bowler competed within the previous 12 months.

Nothing in this rule supersedes tournament management's authority to adjust the bowler's average higher prior to bowling.

Commonly Asked Question – Rule 319e.

319e/1

A 150-average bowler enters a handicap tournament that uses Rule 319e. After bowling a 650 series in singles, the tournament manager provides the bowler with an affidavit that must be filled out and returned within 15 days. The form requires the bowler to provide his scores, prize winnings and dates of all other tournaments he has bowled in over the past 12 months. Upon receipt of the requested information, it is determined that the bowler's tournament average for 36 games is 180. Should the bowler's score be disqualified?

Yes. In accordance with Rule 319e, it is the bowler's responsibility to adjust their entering average if their tournament average for 21 or more games exceeds their entering average by 15 or more pins. The bowler's score is disqualified from the prize list and all other positions moved up one spot.

319f. Canadian Tenpin Federation Averages

USBC will recognize averages established in leagues under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Tenpin Federation (CTF) for entry purposes in USBC tournaments provided:

1. Adult averages are based on a minimum of 21 games and youth averages are based on a minimum of 12 games, unless tournament rules state another number.
2. All USBC equipment and certification specifications apply to the bowling centers in which averages are established.
3. All USBC general playing rules apply to the league(s) in which the averages are established.
4. Tournament rules do not exclude CTF averages