

Dear Chris:

This is in reference to your recent appeal to designate Thursday Men League as a Sport League for the 2016/17 season.

The USBC Rules team has reviewed the case. After review, the decision was to deny the appeal. The appeal was denied due to the league's average difference was 21.53 pins and which meets USBC's definition of a Sport league as stated in USBC Rule 200a, item 2.

Your appeal indicated several reasons why you believe an adjustment is not necessary and I will address those reasons specifically below.

- Averages are compared between centers in nearly every competition USBC certifies. It is due to this comparing of averages in competition that requires USBC to determine if the averages are established on similar conditions.
- USBC understands how a center is maintained also influences scores. However, those factors do not change USBC's obligation to consistently enforce Rule 200a.
- Converting an average bowled on a tougher condition is not a penalty for the individual whose average was converted. The conversion is done to equalize the competitors. Data has been evaluated that shows averages bowled on Sport shots are 25 pins lower than those bowled on a typical house shot.

Please know that USBC is not accusing you or anyone involved of doing anything intentionally. Regardless of the intent, an unfair situation is created when bowlers from these leagues use their lower averages to compete in tournaments.

The league classification will change on April 10th. After that date, you will notice the change on BOWL.com's Find A Member.

After this re-classification, each bowler must submit and use their adjusted Sport Bowling league average utilizing the Sport Average Adjustment scale, [link to scale](#), when the:

1. Bowler is entering a standard league or tournament; and
2. League or tournament entering average rule requires the bowler to use the average; and
3. Bowler does not have a standard league average from the same season(s) specified in the league's entering average rule as the Sport Bowling average.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at Rules@bowl.com or 800-514-2695.

Should you have questions please feel free to contact us by responding to this email.

Sincerely,

Kathy Andersen

Senior Rules Counselor

Rules/Bonding

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