

MERCHANTS BOWLING LEAGUE

2025 -2026 SEASON

1. The league will bowl 30 weeks beginning on August 28th 2025 and end on April 9th, 2026. Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day will be excluded. The league banquet will be announced near the end of the season.
2. Sponsors fees are \$25 per team and payable by November 20th, 2025.
3. Bowling fees will be \$15 per man per night. \$11.75 is lineage fee and \$3.25 goes into the prize fund. Team captains are responsible for seeing these fees are collected and handed to the league secretary nightly.
4. A legal lineup will include 2 bowlers of which 1 bowler must be a regular. Any team not having a legal lineup by the end of the 5th frame shall forfeit that game. If a tardy bowler is ready to bowl before the end of the 5th frame he may bowl the missed frames.
5. If a team is missing, members of a team receiving a **FORFEIT** must bowl within 40 pins of their team average.
6. There is an open sub list.
7. After a new bowler has bowled 3 games in the league, his average shall be used to figure his handicap. If a bowler had at least 12 games in this league last year, that average shall be used to figure handicap.
8. VACANT scores for bowlers will be 150. This score will be used to figure team averages.
9. When 2 or more bowlers are absent and a sub must be used, the average of the bowler with the highest # of games will be used as blind. The sub will bowl for the other bowler. If both absentees have the same # of games, the sub will be used for the bowler with the lowest average.
10. The 1st night of bowling the teams will be matched up according to last year's team average at the end of the season. High average vs. 2nd high average. First night of bowling handicap will be figured on last year's average with a minimum of 12 games in this league. Handicap will be 90% of the diff. between the 2 teams. New teams will figure their average after 3 games. They, also, will take the starting position of the team they replaced.

11. Team prize money will be divided with a \$4.00 differential between finishing positions. One dollar per man.
12. A bowler must bowl 51% of the games to qualify for special league awards.
13. Any one bowler may not receive both Hi-10 and Hi-30 awards. Winner of both awards has their choice of either award.
14. A flower fund will be maintained as part of the league budget. It is to be used in the event of a death of a bowler, his wife, mother, father or child. Team captains are responsible for the notification of such to the league secretary.
15. Starting time shall be as near to 7:15 pm as possible. Shadow balls at 7:05.
16. In the event that an automatic scorekeeper breaks down and the scores of 1 or both teams are lost, the games shall be re-bowled.
17. USBC rules shall apply in all cases not covered in the league rules.
18. There will be a \$10 prize for team Hi-10 and team Hi-30.

Treasurer/ Secretary – Butch James
President – Jim Whitson