



2021 EMPIRE BOWLING LEAGUE

December 16th 2020 thru March 10th 2021

LEAGUE RULES



Practice begins at 6:30pm and games will start promptly at 6:45pm.

Due to NYS COVID regulations, we must be finished and leave the building by 10:00pm. We should have plenty of time to finish with the 4-man teams. If any games are yet to be completed by the time we have to shut down (9:55pm), the computer system will automatically fill in all remaining frames with scores based on each player's average. Please keep an eye on the time to hopefully avoid this.

Late arriving bowlers may join a game as long as all bowlers on both teams are still within their first three frames. After this point, they must take an absentee score and begin bowling once the next game begins. Due to time constraints, no teams are permitted to wait for a late player to arrive before beginning a game, regardless if the other team agrees or not.

All averages for new bowlers will be established after the first three games bowled.

Returning Bowlers: Averages from the final week of last season will be used as your "book average" for the first three weeks (9 games) after which point you will establish a new average. A drop rule will be in effect which means a returning bowler's average may never drop more than 10 pins below their book average.

The handicap is based on 90% of 220.

Teams will consist of 4 regular bowlers. If any team has only 3 regular bowlers, they will have a vacancy score added in the 4th spot. A vacancy score of 140 (plus handicap) is used in the place of a 4th bowler for any team that only has 3 regular bowlers.

Due to the special circumstances this year, we will allow a 5th regular bowler plus one substitute to be on the team roster. These players may switch in and out between games as the team chooses when 5 players are present. However, please note the following:

- Only players with an established average will be allowed to participate in less than 3 games in a night. Meaning, any new bowlers that did not play in Empire last year MUST play three full games during their first night, in order to establish an average, before being permitted to play less than 3 games in a particular night.
- The maximum number of players allowed to participate in any given week is 5. Teams will not be allowed to substitute a 6th player in, whether or not they are on the team roster.
- There will be NO SWITCHING players on the position round. So, teams must pick the 4 bowlers that will be playing all three games that night.

All COVID protocol regulations must be followed. Failure to do so will result in a bowler receiving an absentee score for the remainder of the night and asked to leave the premises.

Regular bowlers are responsible for the weekly fees whether or not they are present. The league fee is \$20/week (for a total responsibility of \$240). Once a bowler participates the first night, they are responsible for the full season of league fees.

Bowlers are permitted to be behind in payments up to one week. After falling more than one week behind the nightly fee becomes \$25 until the bowler is caught up.

Scores for any bowler that participates when more than two weeks behind in fees will not count and an absentee score will be used instead.

Bowlers must be paid in full to be allowed to participate in the last two weeks of the season.

Each team is allowed a 5th regular bowler plus one substitute. Once a bowler comes down as a substitute, they are the only person allowed to be used as a substitute on that team for the entire season. The 5th regular bowler and substitutes that are replacing a regular bowler do not have to pay. Substitutes that are replacing a vacancy are responsible to pay \$20 for the night.

An absentee score will be the bowler's average minus 10 points (plus handicap).

Week 12 will be the only position round. **All bowlers (including subs) must have played at least 9 games in order to participate in the position round.**

Anyone caught bringing in outside alcohol will be ejected from the league.

Pre-Bowls are allowed (individual or entire team). You must call ahead to reserve the lanes for a pre-bowl. No pre-bowling is allowed between Friday at 5:00pm and Sunday at 6:00pm.

Pre-Bowling is not allowed for the position round.

DO NOT pay the bowling alley directly when pre bowling.

There is no post-bowling allowed for individuals or teams.

Points Breakdown: (Teams will earn between 0-11 points per night)

3 points for the winning team for each game (with handicap).

1 point for the team with the highest handicap game.

1 point for the team with the highest handicap series.

When bowling against a bye, the team must bowl within 50 points of their team average to win the points.

If there is a tie in the standings the team with the higher PINS + HDCP will win the tiebreaker.

League Prizes:

Winning Teams will play Free Softball throughout 2021!

1st Place: Each bowler on the winning team will receive a \$300 - \$375 Empire Softball credit (depending on the number of regular bowlers on the team) that can be used to cover their share of the cost of any 2021 Empire Softball League or Tournament team. Credit can be used throughout 2021 in increments as each winner sees fit or all at once. **A \$1500 credit for the team!**

2nd Place: Each bowler will receive a \$160 - \$200 Empire Softball credit (depending on the number of regular bowlers on the team) that can be used anytime in 2021 towards an Empire League or Tournament team. **An \$800 credit for the team!**

3rd Place: Free set of full-dye softball team jerseys courtesy of our friends at Orange Hammer Sports! Prize awarded as a \$300 gift certificate to the team captain.

4th - 6th Place: Empire Softball Hoodies for all players!

*** Cash value of 1st and 2nd Place Awards is half of the credit. Example: A \$300 Empire Softball credit can be traded in for \$150 cash. 3rd Place prize can be traded for \$200 cash. There is no cash value attached to 4th thru 6th Place Awards. Any of the prizes awarded and all league credits will expire at the end of 2021.*

**** Prizes are only guaranteed if we complete the entire 12 week season. If we play less than 12 weeks due to COVID, weather or any other reason - prizes will be adjusted accordingly, at the sole discretion of Empire Softball management.*