



Rule 301: League – Definition and Qualification

What is the definition of a league?

The TBA rule book defines a league in **Rule 301** as any group of four or more teams of players or four or more individual players participating according to a pre-arranged schedule regardless of whether prizes are offered.

If there is any sort of recording of results by the centre or league, point allocations, averages and handicaps recorded and/or prizes awarded as a result of the outcome of the games bowled, this is considered a league and TBA membership is a requirement.

If participation is regular but there is no recording of scores, averages, handicaps with no annual or season champion declared or individual awards presented based on scores throughout the season, this does not constitute a league and membership is not required for those bowlers.

This includes disability leagues (including Special Olympics) and junior leagues.

All games of Australian Tenpins to be considered league play, must be bowled and conducted in compliance with the rules established by the league and the General Playing Rules of Tenpin Bowling Australia Limited. Each team shall play three consecutive games every time the league is scheduled to bowl, unless otherwise decided by the leagues Management Committee. The Committee must also determine the manner in which all league games shall be decided.

The league will follow a regular schedule of matches as set forth in the **league's Constitution**. At all times, the spirit of good fellowship and sociability will be fostered amongst members. Provision will be made for the league to declare an annual or season champion, based upon the games bowled during the full season's schedule.

The number of teams and playing strength of each team will be set in the league's Constitution. The names and details of players will be registered with the league Secretary prior to the commencement of play.

Q: "Does a league have to create its own Constitution?"

A: Yes. TBA provides some sample rules in **Chapter 9 of the Rule Book**. If a league wanted to use those rules, they have many blank sections that allow leagues to add their own requirements.

Q: "Once a League Constitution is voted on and passed by a quorum can it be altered?"

A: The commencement of bowling from the first night would signify the start of the season. Some common sense has to apply here. If the league wanted to change the number of rounds or schedules, change the fees charged, change the team numbers or any other substantial change, a unanimous vote is required.