

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 league averages shall be accepted. (See [Rule 319c](#) for average adjustment.)

1. Individual averages must be based on a minimum of 21 games in a USBC league. Averages established in USBC leagues which start its schedules after March 15 for the summer season shall be accepted as official, provided the bowler does not have an acceptable regular season average.
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.
5. When an association publishes a yearbook, a tournament using previous season averages to determine handicap or classification, shall use the yearbook to verify averages, if furnished, and not require the association to verify averages from that association.

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 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 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 to verify 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/3 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, 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 re-cap 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.