



The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Bowling dated June 2016 will be in effect for the 2017-2018 SONC program year. This document is intended to be used in conjunction with the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) rules and SOI Rules; therefore, those rules are not repeated here but they will be enforced unless in direct conflict to SONC modifications.

Appropriate Attire and Equipment

- Uniform standards must be followed under FIQ regulations.
 - Shirts must have to have a collar.¹ This is a new rule per SOI. Mock collars are acceptable.
 - Hats **may not** be worn during competition. If an athlete or Unified Partner must wear a hat during competition for medical reasons, please notify competition staff at the coaches' meeting.²
 - Teams and Doubles must be dressed alike in some type of uniform (same tops and bottoms)
 - Women
 - Skirts, skorts, pants, slacks, or knee length walking/dress shorts.
 - No jeans of any color are permitted
 - Men
 - Pants, slacks or knee length walking/dress shorts (no gym or denim shorts)
 - No jeans of any color are permitted

Competition Interpretations and Modifications

All Bowling Events

- A bowler may compete in one event.
- Singles, singles ramp, doubles and team competition will run according to a scratch tournament.
- Foul lights will be on during competition.
- **All doubles and team members must play every game.** For doubles or team members arriving late, coaches will have the option of scratching that athlete from the competition, or a zero score will be entered for each frame they are slated to bowl.
- Any bowler competing in doubles or team must have an individual average of 41 or higher.
- For state level competition, bowlers may be redivided following preliminary competition on Saturday at the discretion of the competition management team.
- A bowler may not alternate delivery from hand to hand unless given prior permission due to injury or disability. In the event a bowler will need to alternate delivery, the local program must notify SONC prior to the event.³

Singles & Ramp

- All singles and ramp bowlers, regardless of average, will bowl two games Saturday and two games Sunday at Summer Games.
- At Summer Games, bowlers whose average is 70 or below will bowl two games each day in open play format (no switching lanes). Bowlers whose average is 71 or higher will bowl two games each day in league format (will switch lanes). Final scores will be based upon the athlete's **four game** total scratch scores from Saturday and Sunday.
- Nine scores are required for each athlete with state-level event registration. Six of the scores submitted must be verifiable scores from the bowling house (i.e. a computerized printout or signed by center staff).

¹ SONC Modification of SOI Rule 3.5.2

² This is a USBC rule and is enforced for the athlete's safety.

³ Please see USBC rule 4c.

- Ramp bowlers and those competing in wheelchairs will bowl straight away (i.e. open bowling).. They will also bowl three frames at a time.
- If an athlete uses a ramp to bowl, please bring a ramp for each bowler to competition.

Doubles (Traditional & Unified)

- Doubles will use the Baker System format.
- Scoring: Instead of each player having his/her own score, the combined effort of the team constitutes a game.
- **Doubles will bowl three games each day of state level competition. Final scores will be based upon the doubles six-game total scratch score from Saturday and Sunday.**
- In the Baker System, doubles partners take turns bowling frames within one game (as opposed to two bowlers bowling separate games). Each bowler bowls one frame at a time, regardless of the number of pins on the lane. For example, if Bowler 1 hits 4 pins, Bowler 1 bowls again to try and pick up the spare in that frame. Then, Bowler 2 bowls the next frame.
- Team captains and/or coaches may change the bowling order, but may only do so between games.

Doubles

Frame	Bowler
1	1
2	2
3	1
4	2
5	1
6	2
7	1
8	2
9	1
10	2

- Scores entered on state-level registration should be the doubles score (not an individual score) and the average is the total of the nine games divided by nine.
- Six of the scores submitted for teams must be verifiable scores from the bowling house, and must have the **team name** on the printout. The athletes associated with the doubles should be indicated on the printout by the coordinator submitting registration. Printouts must accompany the registration form. A back-up nine-game average for each player is also requested. This is to place the athlete in singles competition should their partner scratch.
- If a bowler bowls a strike, he/she is done for that frame. Bowler #2 bowls out the strike. For example, if Sara bowls a strike in frame 1, Jessica bowls frame 2 since you alternate frames for each bowler.
- Doubles competition **will not use league format**. All doubles will play in “open bowling format,” meaning doubles will bowl on the same lane for all games.

Team (Traditional & Unified)

- Teams will use the Baker System format.
- **Teams will bowl seven games each day of state level competition. Final scores will be based upon the team fourteen-game total scratch score from Saturday and Sunday.**
- A team **must** register with five bowlers. Teams can drop to four only if a bowler does not show up on the day of competition. If a team drops to four, the average used will be the original average for the five person team. The team will remain in the same division. If a team drops to three, the athletes will be moved to singles.
- See table for appropriate bowling order for teams.
- In the Baker System, team members take turns bowling frames within one game (as opposed to five bowlers bowling separate games). Each bowler bowls one frame at a time, regardless of the number of pins on the lane.

For example, if Bowler 1 only hits 4 pins, Bowler 1 bowls again to try and pick up the spare in that frame. Then, Bowler 2 bowls the next frame, then Bowler 3, and so on.

5 person team

Frame	Bowler
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	1
7	2
8	3
9	4
10	5

- Team captains and/or coaches may change the bowling order, but may only do so between games.
- Team competition **will not use the league format**. All teams will play in “open bowling format,” meaning all players of one team will bowl on the same lane for all games.
- Scores entered on state-level registration should be the team score (not an individual score) and the average is the total of the nine games divided by nine.
- Six of the scores submitted for team must be verifiable scores from the bowling house, and must have the **team name** on the printout. The athletes associated with the team should be indicated on the printout by the coordinator submitting registration. Printouts must accompany the registration form. A back-up nine-game average for each player is also requested. This is to place the athlete in singles competition should their team fall below four players.

Special Notices

- Additional competition opportunities are being researched for Unified Sports. This is being done in anticipation of potentially removing all Unified competition from state-level events starting in the 2018-2019 program year.