**Constitution of the St. James All-Stars 5-Pin Bowling League**

**Article 1: The League**

1. This league shall be known as the St. James All-Stars 5-Pin Bowling League (hereafter “The League”).
2. The League shall consist of sixteen (16) teams consisting of four (4) bowlers each.
3. The composition of each team will be determined by an annual draft held in accordance with the terms of **Article 3**.
4. The League will bowl four (4) games per night over a season of thirty-three (33) weeks, beginning with the first Friday after the Labour Day weekend in September. The 33 weeks will consist of thirty (30) weeks of regular league play and three (3) weeks of roll-offs.

**Article 2: League Committee and Executive Officers**

1. The officers of The League will be the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Statistician.
2. The affairs of The League will be handled by a Committee of nine (9) bowlers. This Committee will oversee all day-to-day and routine operations of The League. The Committee is authorized to arbitrate all disputes and to rule on all matters not contained within this Constitution.
3. Membership on the Committee will be determined by an election to be held at the conclusion of each bowling season by the membership of The League. All nine (9) spots on the Committee will be up for election each year.
4. Once elected, the Committee will fill the various portfolios on the Committee as they see fit, based on the interests and skills of the members.
5. Should a member of the Committee cease to be a member of The League, the Committee will fill the vacancy by appointment for the rest of the season.
6. The President will preside over all meetings of the Committee, the annual draft (**Article 3**), and meetings with the teams. The President is responsible for keeping the League informed of any changes, meetings, and coming events through the weekly announcements.
7. The Secretary will be responsible for keeping the minutes of all league meetings and for handling all correspondence on behalf of The League.
8. The Treasurer will be responsible for all the financial dealings of The League, including all payments and disbursements authorized by the Committee and for keeping an accurate record of these transactions. They are entitled to an honorarium of $100 for his services.
9. The Statistician will be responsible for the accurate maintenance of all league statistics, including averages and league records. They are entitled to an honorarium of $300 for his services.
10. Each team will be entitled to appoint one bowler (not necessarily the drafting captain) to represent them to the Committee. The League will hold one meeting with the team representatives each season in order to discuss current issues and to draw the attention of the Committee to issues that are of concern to the teams.
11. Changes to this constitution requires the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of The League at the time of the vote.

**Article 3: Teams and the Draft**

1. There will be sixteen (16) teams in The League as selected by an annual draft, consisting of four (4) bowlers per team.
2. New bowlers must have an average of 185 or more to enter the draft. Returning bowlers are not subject to this rule. A bowler is deemed to be a returning bowler if they have either bowled the entire previous season, or left the league (due to injury, work hour change, etc) in good standing having bowled and/or paid for at least one-third (1/3) of the season. Bowlers that left the league owing bowling fees or that were remove due to conduct will not be considered to be returning.
3. The sixteen (16) highest average returning bowlers from the preceding season will be designated as team captains. The captains will select bowlers for their team from the list of available bowlers in the draft.
4. The captains will be ranked in order of average. The captain with the lowest average will have the first selection and will select one (1) bowler for their team. Each captain will select bowlers in *inverse* order of average for their team. Before the second round, each team will be re-ranked in order of the combined average of the team and the team with the lowest combined average will have the first selection in this round. Selections will proceed in *inverse* order of the combined average. A third round of the draft will be held following the same procedure as the second round.
5. Transfer of players from one team to another, or the acceptance of a new bowler into The League after the draft, must be approved by at least 75% of the Executive Committee of The League. All new bowlers must have an average within five (5) points of the average of the departing league bowler.
6. At the conclusion of each season, a list of all bowlers intending to return to The League for the following season will be created. A minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of those bowlers intending to return must be in The League at the conclusion of the draft. ~~selected in the following season’s draft,~~ ~~to a maximum of forty-eight (48) bowlers protected in this way.~~

**Article 4: League Play**

1. The Playing Rules of the C5PBA will govern all regular league and roll-off games.
2. The line-up bowled each week shall be determined by the bowler’s current season averages except as noted in **Article 4.3**. The lowest averaged bowler will bowl in the lead-off position, the third highest averaged bowler will bowl in the second position, the second highest averaged bowler will bowl in the third position, and the highest averaged bowler will bowl in the anchor position on that team.
3. Until each bowler has completed sixteen (16) games of play in The League, their average for line-up purposes will be determined by blending their average from last season with their current season games. After the first week of bowling, a bowler’s average for line-up purposes will be calculated as being (league pinfall current season + 12 x previous season’s average)/16. This will continue in subsequent weeks with the previous season’s contribution dropping by 4 games each week until 16 games have been bowled for the current season.
4. The thirty (30) weeks of regular play will be broken up into two (2) halves of fifteen (15) weeks each.
5. Each team will bowl one (1) match of four (4) games against each other team in The League for fifteen (15) weeks of each half. A winner will be declared for each half after the scheduled 15 weeks of play. Should a tie exist for first place at the conclusion of the half, the two captains involved shall have the option of either a) playing a one (1) game roll-off to determine the winner **or** b) leave the result tied and share equally in the prize money for the half.
6. The point system to be followed will be that each team member will bowl head-to-head against the bowler on the opposing team in the same position in the line-up (i.e. lead-off against lead-off). Each single game shall be one (1) point awarded to the winner of the game. One (1) point shall also be awarded to the bowler with the higher four (4) game total. The teams will also bowl against each other for team total with the team scoring higher receiving two (2) points for each game and three (3) points for the match. The total number of points available in a match is thirty-one (31). Any individual or team game or match ending in a tie will be scored as half points to each player or team.
7. There must be one regular bowler from the team present for the team to take points or to establish league records.
8. Points will not be awarded to an “absentee” score. If there is no spare (**Article 5**) present, the opposing bowler must bowl ninety percent (90%) of their opponent’s average to win the point(s). Points not won are designated as lost points to both teams. In the case of a bowler missing one or more games in a match, they will count the “absentee” score for those games missed, that being 90% of his average. Games bowled in said match will be scored normally, but the team total for the night will be determined from the cumulative pinfall of all games bowled plus the “absentee” scores for those games not bowled. The individual bowler will use only those games actually bowled for their individual total and will count only those games for their average.

**Article 5: Spares**

1. It shall be the responsibility of each bowler to advise their captain of their need for a spare. The captain is responsible for arranging for said spare. Averages for the spare must be no more than ten (10) points higher than the average of the bowler for whom they are sparing.
2. Anchor bowlers are allowed to use spares of any average. The average rule described in **Article 5.1** does not apply to this position.
3. A spare must use their highest league average, based on at least sixteen (16) ~~twenty (20)~~ games from the current season, unless they have bowled sixteen (16) ~~twenty (20)~~ games in the current season as a spare in The League, in which case they will use their spare average. If the spare has not bowled the minimum number of games in the current season, they must use their highest league average from the previous season.
4. In an emergency, if a spare with a suitable average cannot be found, teams will be allowed to move existing bowlers to a higher-average position in the line-up in order to utilize a spare in the most optimal average range.
5. If a spare is called in for a bowler after a match has begun, they will count just the games bowled. Bowled games plus either the “absentee” score or the replaced bowler’s score will be used to calculate the total for that position in the match.
6. Spares used in the roll-off must have bowled a minimum of sixteen (16) ~~twenty (20)~~ games in The League in order to use their spare average. Otherwise, they must use their highest league average.

**Article 6: Bowling Fees, Shirts, and Fines**

1. Bowling fees will be determined by the Executive Committee and are to be paid weekly. Bowlers are responsible for paying the full fee each week regardless if they are present or not. Spares pay neither lineage or prize money. Current lineage is twenty-eight dollars ($28) ~~twenty-five dollars ($25)~~ per week.
2. Bowlers are not allowed to carry a lineage balance in excess of four weeks of bowling fees (currently $112) ~~to carry a lineage balance in excess of one hundred dollars ($100)~~. If a bowler has a balance in excess of $112, they must pay down the balance to $112 or less, or else they are not permitted to bowl until they pay down to $112 or less, and the team is not permitted to utilize a spare for that bowler. Weekly fees will continue to accumulate for the bowler while they are suspended under this article.
3. Each league bowler is required to pay a twenty-five dollar ($25) registration fee to the league at the start of the season. This money is used to fund any tournaments that The League chooses to sponsor or to cover any cash shortfalls in the purchase of league shirts. All excess registration fee funds will be added to the general prize fund of The League.
4. The League will supply shirts to all members. Any bowler not wearing their shirt during league play (regular season and roll-offs) will be fined three dollars ($3) per occurrence. The League will keep money collected from these fines for the next season to help cover the cost of shirts. It is the responsibility of all league members to help find sponsors for league shirts. Current sponsorship is two hundred fifty dollars ($250) two hundred dollars ($200) per team per season.
5. Fines for unacceptable behaviour, conduct unbecoming to the proper promotion of the sport, or conduct detrimental to The League, its members or its sponsors will be assessed as follows:
   1. 1st offence – A fine of ten dollars ($10) to the individual bowler concerned.
   2. 2nd and subsequent offences – A penalty of ten (10) points in the aggregate standings to that bowler’s team.

Fines may only be assessed by team captains and must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

**Article 7: Prize Money**

1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection and distribution of all prize monies.
2. A player must have bowled at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the regular season (90 games) to be eligible for the prizes for high average and high win percentage.
3. At the conclusion of the season there shall be no more than one hundred dollars ($100) left in the league bank account. This does not include monies collected for shirts for the following season, guest banquet tickets, or shirt and other fines.
4. The league runs a strike pot, a seven-in-a-row pot, a perfect game pot, and high game pots on both a scratch and POA basis. These pots are run independently of league prize money and participation is strictly optional in these pots by any bowler, with the exception of the perfect game pot, which is collected from the lineage paid ($1 per bowler per night).
5. Bowlers leaving The League for any reason forfeit all prize money that they may have accumulated. All prize money forfeited in this way is to be returned to the general league funds for redistribution. In extenuating circumstances (i.e. change of work hours, moving due to school/work, etc) the League Executive is entitled to make exceptions to this rule.

**Article 8: Roll-Offs**

1. There will be three (3) weeks of roll-offs each season.
2. Teams will be divided into two divisions for the roll-offs based on their final aggregate position. Teams ranked 1-8 will be placed in the Championship Division, while those ranked 9-16 will be placed in the Consolation Division. In the case of a tie for 8th place, a one-game playoff will be bowled.
3. Within each division, a double round-robin will be played for a total of fourteen (14) matches played by each team. Each match between teams will be played as a single game with point scoring being done based on the regular season point system (i.e. 6 points per match).
4. Seeding for the roll-off tournament will be done according to the final aggregate standing of the team at the conclusion of the thirty (30) week regular season.
5. Roll-off money will be paid to each team based on how many matches have been won by each team during the fourteen (14) game tournament. The amount of money to be paid per win within each division will be announced prior to the start of roll-offs. Bonus money will be paid to the top three teams in each division based on the number of match points won during the roll-offs.
6. Prize money in the Championship tournament will be higher than the prize money in the Consolation tournament.

**Article 9: Life Membership**

1. The Executive Committee is authorized to honour individuals with lengthy or distinguished service to The League with a Life Membership.
2. The membership is to be presented to the honouree at an appropriate time and place (either at the banquet or during a league night).
3. Life membership in The League is strictly honorary and does not automatically entitle the holder to bowl in The League as a member.

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