



# Split Season Leagues

A split season league is one in which the schedule is divided into two or more segments. After each segment a winner is declared and the standings start over to determine the next segment winner. At the end of the season all segment winners compete in a playoff to determine the league champion, unless the league rules allow for co-champions.

## How does a league become a split season league?

A league must first adopt a rule stating the how many segments will be bowled. The league may choose to bowl halves, thirds, quarters or define a number of weeks in a segment. The league should also consider the following items and adopt rules indicating the choice of the league.

### The Schedule

After the league determines how the schedule will be segmented a vote is needed to determine the following:

- If there is an uneven number of weeks will the week be:
  - added into one of the segments; or
  - used for playoffs and/or a league special event?

**Note:** Each segment does not need to have the same number of weeks. For example, a 35 week league can bowl 3 segments, 11 weeks, 12 weeks, and 12 weeks or any combination it chooses.

- Will there be position rounds? A position round may be held during each segment.
- When will roll-offs be held?
- When will the championship playoff be held?

### Segment Ties for First Place

If a tie for first place exists at the end of a segment a roll-off must be held to determine the segment winner, which can be no less than one frame. Total pins cannot break a tie at the conclusion of the season, or at the end of any segment of a split season schedule.

Unless the league adopts another format the same point system and number of games are bowled to determine the segment winner. USBC encourages leagues to adopt a procedure for roll-offs including when the roll-off will be bowled. Some leagues use one game or frame to be bowled immediately following the last segment date.

### The Same Team Wins More Than One Segment

A team winning all segments is declared league champion unless league rules state otherwise.\* When a team wins more than one segment, but not all of the segments, the league may adopt one of the following options:

- The next team in line in the segment that has not been declared a segment winner could be declared the winner of the segment starting with the second place team. If the second place team has been declared a segment winner, the third place team is the winner, etc.
- A team(s) winning two or more segments is allowed to bowl one series for each segment won. Each series score is matched to other teams in the playoff. This team(s) does not have to bowl on the same night.
- All teams bowl another playoff if the multiple segment winner(s) loses.

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\* When a team wins all segments and there is designated prize money for the playoff, the team winning all segments receives first place money and the second place teams compete in a playoff for the remaining designated prize money.





- Stepladder finals - The winner of multiple segments would be seeded first and will get one opportunity per segment won to beat the team seeded second. For example if a team wins two quarters they would be seeded first and would have two opportunities to beat the team seeded second.

### **A team withdraws after a segment**

If the team is a segment winner and withdrew properly and for good cause they may participate in the championship playoff, unless the league rules state otherwise. It is recommended the league prorate any prizes earned by the team who withdraws as they did not pay into the prize fund fully.

### **Championship Playoff**

A playoff must be held to determine the league champion and can be no less than one frame. Unless the league adopts another format the same point system and number of games are bowled.

- Acceptable formats of the championship playoff include but are not limited to:
- A point for each game, but none for series
- Total pins of a three-game playoff series
- Best-of-three games (If a team wins the first two games, the third game need not be bowled.)
- Stepladder finals (Teams are seeded the lowest seed bowls the second lowest seed, the winner advances.)
- Single or double elimination (Set up like a bracket.)
- Round Robin (Each team bowls each team the highest point winner or pinfall determines the winner.)

### **Averages**

The league has two options for maintaining averages:

- Continue from segment to segment (recommended option), or
- Re-establish each segment. If re-establishing averages, league secretary must combine all games bowled for average verification and final average.

### **Prize List**

The prize list must be adopted within the first five weeks of the start of the league schedule.

- A prize list for each segment or point money work best for segmented leagues.
- The prize list may include prize money for the segment winners and/or championship playoff.

If a team is added after a segment, the prize money should be increased from the point of the addition only.

### **Postponements and Pre-bowls**

Unless the league rules specify another time frame for unopposed bowling the following applies:

- Games must be bowled prior to the last date of competition in the segment in which the pre-bowl or postponement is granted for.
- If a postponement is granted for the last date of the segment must be made up within seven days.

