

Gray Foxes 2026-2027 League

President:	Mike Rogers	(919) 740-8087
Vice President:	Shelly Hooper	(336) 707-8838
Secretary:	House	(919) 876-5681
Treasurer:	House	(919) 876-5681

Our objective is enjoyable, recreational bowling for seniors – male and female. Bowlers must have reached the age of 50 to be eligible.

1. Management

This league is sanctioned by the USBC through the local association, CAUSBCA. Our Board of Directors will consist of each team captain and the current officers. Election of officers (President, Vice President) shall take place at our organizational meeting. These officers will serve for one year including the summer session.

2. Schedule

The league will bowl on Thursday for 34 weeks, starting 8/27/2026 and ending 5/6/2027. Competition will begin at 11:00am (Practice at 10:50am).

Dates not bowling (holidays): 11/26/2026, 12/24/2026, 12/31/2026

We will bowl in two halves with position rounds in weeks 17 and 33. Week 34 will be for roll-off and end of season fun day. At the end of week 34, awards will be announced and prize money distributed.

3. Fees

At each session, regular bowlers will pay \$15.00, and each substitute will pay \$10.75. This fee consists of \$10.75 lineage and \$4.25 prize fund. Absent bowlers will pay the league fee of \$4.25 when they return.

The league fees of \$15 for weeks 33 and 34 (\$30 total) are to be paid in advance, no later than the start of the second half of the season, or week 18.

This fee is non-refundable. Bowlers may pay their league fees in advance, but no more than one month ahead.

4. League Funds

An account in the league's name will be opened with Buffalo Lanes North. Lineage payments MUST be made on the day of receipt. Withdrawals from the account shall be made only with the signature of either the President or Vice President as well as a House representative. A complete accounting is made each session, and a monthly recap is prepared. These funds will be distributed as completely as possible on the last day of the season. Any carry-over will be used for the summer or fall session, whichever is next up.

5. Teams (Roster/Handicap/Forfeit)

At present, our league consists of **24** teams. Teams will have a playing strength of 3 but may carry a 4th roster member. Bowlers may establish their own teams, and the secretary will have a list of unassigned bowlers to complete teams as needed. Should a member have to withdraw for any reason, two-week notice should be given to the secretary if possible. The legal line-up for a team is one roster member.

Each team will elect a captain at the first session. The captain is then responsible for:

- collecting weekly fees and returning the envelope to the front counter
- signing the recap sheet and returning it to the front counter. If the captain is absent, any other team member can perform these duties.

Any bowler who arrives late may enter the game provided 3 frames have not been completed. If they arrive after the 3rd frame, they may enter at the beginning of the next game.

The handicap will be 100% of the difference between a bowler's average and a scratch figure of 220. The starting handicap for any team will not be capped.

Should a game be declared a forfeit, the team that is present will bowl as scheduled. That team must bowl within 45 pins of their team average to win the points.

6. Averages

All returning bowlers will use last fall season's Gray Foxes average (of at least 21 games) for the first 3 games of bowling. After the first 3 games, the bowler will have established a current season average which will then be used.

If a bowler does not have an average with the previous Fall Gray Foxes, they will use their highest book average with at least 21 games.

If they do not have a book average, they will establish an average after the first 3 consecutive games bowled.

For the summer season, all bowlers will establish their average after the first 3 consecutive games bowled.

7. Subs

The house is responsible for maintaining a current list of substitutes and will provide it to each team captain. These bowlers will use averages as stated above and are not eligible for any league award. Substitutes who have bowled at least 9 games can bowl the week before and the week of position rounds.

Team captains are responsible for finding their own substitutes. It is also the captain's decision to use a substitute for an ABSENT or VACANT bowler.

8. PRE and POST BOWLING IS ALLOWED IN THIS LEAGUE.

A request for pre-bowl/post bowl must be made by contacting officer at least 48 hours before the scheduled time, except for emergencies. In case of emergency, the Captain of the requesting team shall contact a league officer at the earliest possible opportunity. The opposing team must be notified when any pre-bowl/post bowl is granted so they may also pre-bowl or post-bowl if they choose. Individuals may not pre-bowl or post bowl alone; it is done by team only. No substitutes are allowed during pre-bowling or post-bowling.

The league shall grant postponements for emergencies when a team fails to appear for its scheduled match due to reasons beyond its control. All postponed games must be made up before the next scheduled league session. Team bowling unopposed is allowed. A league officer or representative may be present. If a representative is not available, any scoring changes must be made by House staff. Arrangements to bowl must be made with House. Pre-bowling or Post bowling should be the exception.

9. Absent & Vacancy Scores

When a bowler is ABSENT and no substitute is used, the score used will be their average minus 10 pins. The absent bowler's average will not change. Any bowler who is absent for three consecutive sessions (without notice) will be removed from the team and placed on the substitute list.

When a team does not have a full roster of 3, a VACANT will be placed in the open position and a score of 130 will be used (with handicap based off a score of 140). If a bowler is absent the first session of the season, a VACANT score is used instead of an absent score. The VACANT score will be used until that bowler is present and bowls 3 games.

10. Prize Fund / Awards

The President shall appoint a committee to submit prize fund options for the league to vote on by the 5th week of the league schedule. These funds will be withdrawn by week 33 in the fall and week 12 in the summer.

To be eligible for any of the prizes, a bowler must bowl at least 2/3 of the scheduled games. Any bowler or team can only win one award.

Individual awards (male & female): High Average, High Game Scratch, High Game Handicap, High Series Scratch, High Series Handicap.

Team awards: High Game Scratch, High Game Handicap, High Series Scratch, High Series Handicap, First Place Championship, Second Place Championship.

Fun week: 9-pin no-tap prizes

11. Scoring/Ties/League Championship

This league will use a 9-point scoring system – 2 points for each game and 3 points for series. If ties occur, points are split – 1 point for game and 1 ½ for series.

If a TIE occurs for first place at the end of either half, a one game playoff will be held immediately following the session. If a TIE occurs in any playoff, an extra ninth and tenth frame will be bowled until the tie is broken.

If the same team wins both halves, they are declared the League Champion. The overall second team will have the most points for the season. If a tie occurs for any position other than first, those teams will split the prize money.

A League Championship playoff will be held if two different teams win the halves. They will bowl a 3-game series to determine overall first and second place. If a tie occurs, an extra ninth and tenth frame will be bowled until the tie is broken.

12. Miscellaneous

- Inclement weather: any session will be cancelled if Buffalo Lanes North closes. If they remain open, the officers will decide whether to bowl by 10:00am if possible and the center will be notified. Buffalo North will maintain a "Cancellation" list on their website: www.buffaloelanesnorth.com or you can call the center at 919-876-5681. In any case, please use your best judgement.
- League members or substitutes shall not practice on that day's scheduled lanes.
- Pacing is allowed ONLY if the teams involved agree and there are no more than 8 bowlers on the pair of lanes. Pacers are responsible for paying lineage fees to the house.
- A 50/50 fundraiser MAY be conducted weekly. Two winners shall share equally half of the proceeds. The other half will be added to the sunshine fund. This fund will be used for league approved situations, such as birthday celebrations, sympathy cards and or flowers, etc.
- Any remaining funds in this account shall be divided equally among the league members as additional prize fund money at the end of the season.

Any situation not covered by these rules will be governed by the current USBC playing rules.