**Gray Foxes 2023-2024 League Rules**

**President:** Burt Shene

**Vice President:** Joyce Richardson

**Secretary**: Yvonne Burg

**Treasurer:** Patti McDowell

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 NOT sanctioned but will abide by the USBC playing rules. Our Board of Directors will consist of each team captain and the current officers. Election of officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) shall take place at our organizational meeting. These officers will serve for one year including the summer session.

1. **Schedule**

The league will bowl on Thursday for 34 weeks, starting 8/31/2023, beginning at 11:00am (Practice at 10:50am).

We will bowl in two halves with position rounds in weeks 17 and 33. Week 34 will be for roll-off and 9-pin no-tap. At the end of week 34, awards will be announced and prize money distributed.

1. **Fees**

At each session, regular bowlers will pay $13.00, and each substitute will pay $9.75. This fee consists of $9.75 lineage and $3.25 league fund ($2.65 prize fund and $0.60 divided equally by the secretary and treasurer). Absent bowlers will pay the league fee of $3.25 when they return.

The league fees of $6.50 for weeks 33 and 34 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.

1. **League Funds**

An account in the league’s name will be opened with Buffaloe Lanes North. Lineage payments MUST be made on the day of receipt. Withdrawals from the account shall be made only with the joint signatures of at least two authorized officers of the league. 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.

1. **Teams (Roster/Handicap/Forfeit)**

At present, our league consists of **20** teams and rosters will be limited to three bowlers. 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 member. Regular and substitute bowlers count toward this line-up.

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 treasurer; signing the recap sheet and returning it to the secretary. 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 30 pins of their team average to win the points.

1. **Averages**

All returning bowlers will use last 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 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.

1. **Subs**

The secretary 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.

1. **PRE and POST BOWLING IS ALLOWED IN THIS LEAGUE.**
2. **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 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 140 will be used. 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.

1. **Prize Fund / Awards**

A list will be calculated by the 5th week of the season for distribution of the prize fund money and will be calculated so that all funds are given out as equally as possible. These funds will be withdrawn by week 32 in the fall and week 11 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.

The 9-Pin no-tap scores are calculated by adding the bowler’s handicap to their score. Awards for each game are 1st, 2nd, 3rd Male and female.

1. **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.

1. Miscellaneous

* Inclement weather: any session will be cancelled if Buffaloe 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. Buffaloe North will maintain a “Cancellation” list on their website: [www.buffaloelanesnorth.com](http://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 prize fund.

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