

122b. Nonpayment of Fees and/or Improper Withdrawal

In Youth leagues that do not have a board of directors, the league supervisor/official is responsible for the duties of the board.

When a league member is accused of failing to pay league fees and/or withdrawing without sufficient cause, the league must try to resolve the matter. If the matter is not resolved, the following procedure shall apply:

1. A complaint shall be submitted, in writing, to a league officer or supervisor/official. Upon receipt of a written complaint, the league proceeds as follows:
 - a. Within one week after receipt, the president/supervisor should schedule a meeting of the league board of directors, and the board shall be notified. The meeting should be held at the earliest possible date.
 - b. Provides written notice and a copy of the complaint to the individual(s) charged. Such notice:
 - 1) Should be sent by first class mail, hand delivered, or emailed.
 - 2) Shall notify the individual of the date, time and place of the meeting, as well as his/her right to attend and offer a defense. If the accused is a youth member, the parent or guardian also must be invited to the meeting. (A sample letter can be found on BOWL.com.)
 - c. Prepares a roster listing those present and absent. A quorum of the board of directors must be present at the meeting.
 - d. Maintains minutes of the meeting and all documents relating to the charges. The minutes shall include:
 - 1) An accounting of arrearages, including dates and amounts. The bowler may not be charged for more than six (6) sessions.
 - 2) Whether the accused was present or absent when the arrearage occurred.
 - 3) The date of replacement (if applicable).
 - e. Votes to determine if the accused is guilty. A two-thirds vote of the board members present and voting shall be required. After voting:
 - 1) If found not guilty (two-thirds vote not achieved), the charges are dismissed.
 - 2) If found guilty, the local association or USBC Headquarters is to be furnished with a copy of Items a-g indicated below and should be submitted within 30 days after the league meeting. (A checklist can be found on BOWL.com.)
 - a) The meeting notices.
 - b) The meeting minutes.
 - c) List of board members, officers and team captains present or absent.
 - d) The vote count for the recommendation of the league board.
 - e) Amount charged to defendant(s) and all supporting documents and material. (See Rule 122b, Item 1-d.)
 - f) Exact date(s) each defendant is being charged for. The bowler may not be charged for more than six (6) sessions.
 - g) The league rules.
2. Upon receipt of the file, the local association manager shall verify that complete information was provided and submit a copy of the file to USBC Headquarters.
3. A youth has the right to appeal any removal from league competition.
 - a. The appeal must be filed in writing with the local association or USBC Headquarters within:
 - 1) 48 hours of a limited removal.
 - 2) 15 days from the date of permanent removal.
 - b. A removal from one to three league session(s) is held in abeyance until a decision is made by USBC.
 - c. The local association should forward appeals they receive to USBC Headquarters within seven days of receipt.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 122b.

122b/1

A 14- year-old boy quit my son's team owing fees for several weeks. Now he has joined a league in another center. Can anything be done to prevent such incidents?

He can be charged with nonpayment of league fees, which violates Rule 17b-3. If the league cannot collect the money, the procedures as outlined in Rule 122b must be followed.

122b/2

How should the league handle a member whose checks are constantly being returned because of insufficient funds?

When a member's check is returned because of insufficient funds, the treasurer should contact the member and insist on cash payment for the amount of the check plus any service charges incurred. If payment is not received, the member could be charged with nonpayment of league fees under Rule 122b. We also suggest that no further checks be accepted and the player notified that league fees can only be paid in cash. If checks are a problem, the league may adopt a rule stating checks will not be accepted for payment of league fees. In instances where a league has an arrearage rule, the member issuing the check is considered in arrears. Games bowled by the member are subject to forfeiture if payment is not received.

122b/3

If a member leaves the league without notice and still owes fees, what should an officer do?

When a member is accused of leaving the league without notice and owing fees, the league should try to collect the owed fees prior to taking disciplinary action. Many bowlers are not aware they may be suspended from USBC membership for nonpayment of league fees. If payment is not received, a written complaint should be filed immediately with the board and copied to the delinquent member. The provisions of Rule 122b must be followed.

122b/4

If a member leaves the league and is delinquent in their league fees, how many sessions can they be charged for in accordance with Rule 122b?

According to Rule 122b, Item 1(d)(1), the bowler may not be charged for more than six (6) sessions. Immediate action should be taken by the league upon discovering an individual is not returning and still owes league fees.