NCAA Women's Bowling Rules Interpretations, Clarifications and Reminders
2026-27 Season
Mike Fine, Secretary-Rules Editor
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Rule 7.9.a.4 – Dead Wood

For this new rule cycle, Rule 7.9.a.4 has been added to provide guidance with dead wood issues. The rule identifies that dead wood on the lane or in the gutter must be removed before the next delivery. Making a delivery with dead wood present in the gutter or on the lane results in a zero for that delivery.

To help clarify this rule, here are three pictures to illustrate how the rule should be interpreted.

1. There is a pin laying on the shaker board, past the gutter and behind the pin deck. **This is not considered dead wood.**



2. The pin is located in the flat gutter beside the pin deck. **This is considered dead wood and must be removed prior to making a delivery.**



3. The pin is located on the pin deck. **This is considered dead wood and must be removed prior to making a delivery.**

