



MEMORANDUM

October 1, 2026

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Women's Bowling Conference Commissioners and Head Coaches.

FROM: Michael Fine, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Women's Bowling Committee.

SUBJECT: Preseason Women's Bowling Playing Rules Reminders for the 2026-27 Season.

As a new playing season is rapidly approaching, here are a few important items for the 2026-27 season. This season will be the first year using the 2026-27 and 2027-28 NCAA Women's Bowling Rules Book, which can be downloaded as a PDF [here](#).

1. 2026-27 and 2027-28 Major Rules Changes. The major rules changes for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 seasons are available on the NCAA women's bowling playing rules [website](#) under Women's Bowling Updates, on the NCAA Bowling The Approach under NCAA Rules and Clarifications and in the rules book.
2. Inappropriate Use of the Warmup Area/Re-Entry. Per Rules 1.1.d.2.c and 4.6.b, student-athletes may use the warmup pair after being removed from the current match, however, doing so would make them ineligible to re-enter that same match. The penalty for illegal re-entry within the same match is a score of zero for that lineup position for the remainder of the match.
3. Points of Emphasis.
 - a. **Excessive Number of Warmup Shots (Rule 1.1.d.2.c).** A student-athlete is limited to eight warmup deliveries during any warmup session. If a student-athlete uses all eight warmup deliveries before entering a match, no additional warmup deliveries shall be granted if the student-athlete is removed from the lineup and subsequently re-enters play during the same match.
 - b. **Re-Engraving Restrictions (Rule 2.1.a.5).** Effective January 1, 2027 per USBC regulations, ball markings required for identification purposes may not be re-engraved. Balls with re-engraved or unidentifiable serial numbers are not allowed in certified competitions.
 - c. **Surface Alterations (Rule 2.2).** All surface alterations must be completed before the conclusion of the first daily warmup session of the day. If the tournament includes a break in play for reoil and a second daily warmup session is held, surface alterations will again be permitted. All alterations must be completed before the end of that daily

- warmup session. Surface alterations are not permitted during any other warmup session.
- d. **Event Certification Form (Rules 7.1, 7.2 and 10.2).** The event certification [form](#) must be submitted to all competing teams and the secretary-rules editor at least 10 days before the start of the event.
4. Registration on the NCAA Bowling The Approach Central Hub. The NCAA Women's Bowling Committee will continue to utilize the NCAA Bowling The Approach central hub to distribute rules clarifications, announcements and interpretations. The Approach central hub is available at www.refquest.com. Commissioners and head coaches are automatically uploaded into the central hub based on information provided in the NCAA Directory. Coaches that don't have access to The Approach, or need access for additional staff/coaches, please register at no cost using the link above. Conference commissioners or conference staff who need access to The Approach may contact Barb Hallam at barb@refquest.com.

If you have any questions now or during the season, please contact me at rulesmfine@yahoo.com or 850-591-2858.

Thank you for your attention to this information and good luck this season.

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cc: NCAA Registered Officials
NCAA Women's Bowling Committee
Selected NCAA Staff Members