

League and Team Structure

- Buddy Bowling is a unified bowling league for individuals with disabilities (Athletes) and without disabilities (Partners) bowling together on teams in a fun and friendly league format.
- We encourage bowlers of all experience and ability levels to join the league. Bowlers should be 8 years of age or older (up to any age!). Any younger bowlers should contact City of Tempe Adapted Recreation for approval prior to joining the league.
- Bowlers who may have a physical limitation are welcome to use a bowling ramp. If a bowler does require physical assistance to participate, he/she should have a responsible individual accompanying them to assist, as needed.
- Buddy Bowling is separated into two divisions: Bumpers and Non-Bumpers. Only teams within the division can bowl one another (a Bumpers team will not bowl against a Non-Bumpers team).
- Each team can have up to five bowlers. Individual bowlers and teams are welcome to register during the open registration period, which extends up until the first day of the new season. Registration into the league after the first day of the league season is typically accepted, but needs to be approved by City of Tempe Adapted Recreation.
- Due to the league nature of the program, it is highly recommended that interested individuals and teams register in advance in order to organize team assignments. Day of registration is accepted, but placement with preferred team is not guaranteed.
- Buddy Bowling Athletes and Partners will be assigned to a team with a vacancy if they do not have a team already. A Partner takes on a role similar to that of a team captain, participating as an active bowler and teammate while also providing assistance, guidance and encouragement to other team members, as necessary.

Weekly Match-Ups

- Teams will bowl two games weekly. Practice time will start at approximately 10:00am and the first game will begin at approximately 10:20am.
 - Any bowler who has not arrived and is not ready to bowl before the completion of the third frame will have to forfeit their first game and wait until the start of the second game to bowl.
- Each week a team can win up to five points total in their head-to-head match-up.
 - For the first game, two points are awarded to the team with the most pins (including handicap which is set at 100%). Two points are also awarded for the second game, just like the first game. Four points total are available.
 - An additional point is awarded to the team with the most total pins for both games (including handicap). One point total is available. In the event of a tie, both teams will be awarded a half point.
 - Weekly match-ups will be arranged by AMF Tempe Village Lanes and done so that teams will not play against the same team they played the previous week and with the intention of having all of the teams within the division play each other, or as the length of the bowling season allows.
- We kindly request a representative from each pair of lanes to manually record each bowler's score each week on a score sheet and submit it to a City of Tempe staff member. This can be an active bowler or spectator. The recorded score should be the bowler's scratch score and not their handicap or other score.

Absenteeism

- At this time, there is no monetary penalty for missing a week of bowling.
- A team with a missing bowler one week will be “blinded” (removed from the list of active bowlers that day) and have a (negative) -10 pin penalty assessed to their average score.
- A team that has three or four registered bowlers (rather than the max of five) will not be penalized. The remaining open spots will be labeled as “Vacant” and will have a score submitted each week the team bowls. The Vacant score will be an average of scores from the league established during the season.
- If an entire team is missing in a weekly head-to-head match-up, that team will lose the five points. The opposing team that is present is not automatically awarded the five points. That team must bowl within 50 pins of their average to win the two points for each game.
- A substitute bowler for a missing bowler is allowed. However, that bowler’s name must be added to the roster for that week. They do not bowl as the missing bowler. This ensures scores are accurately awarded to the bowler that actually achieved the score. Please notify the staff at the beginning of the day when substituting.

Awards

- Standings will be determined by points won and lost during the season in the weekly head-to-head match-ups against the opposing teams on their pair of lanes (e.g. Team A on Lane 1 versus Team B on Lane 2).
- At the end of each season, two teams from each division will be awarded and recognized for first and second place finishes.
- Individual awards will also be recognized at the end of the season in categories such as High Scratch Game, High Scratch Series, High Handicap Game, High Handicap Series, Most Improved, or other categories as chosen by City of Tempe Adapted Recreation...
 - In an effort to be fair and recognize the accomplishments of bowlers from both divisions, these individual awards will be awarded to male and female bowlers from each division. For example, two male bowlers will be recognized for the High Scratch Game award. One will be from the Bumpers division and the other from the Non-Bumpers division.
- Every registered Buddy Bowling Athlete (but not Partners) will receive a participation award at the end of each season. All Buddy Bowling Athletes and Partners will also receive a prize at the end of each season.

Miscellaneous

- City of Tempe Adapted Recreation staff will be present each week to collect registration and weekly bowling fees. Staff is also there to enforce league rules, assist with various league-related issues and other customer service-related issues. Please feel free to direct questions and general league dialogue to City staff any day the league is in session. Additional questions or concerns outside of league time may be directed to Josh Bell, Recreation Coordinator for City of Tempe Adapted Recreation.
- AMF Tempe Village Lanes will update and maintain league scores and standings on a weekly basis. The weekly standings will then be posted on the City of Tempe Adapted Recreation’s website each week for your reference, in addition to being made available at Buddy Bowling each Saturday.

For additional questions, concerns or clarification, please contact Josh Bell, Recreation Coordinator, City of Tempe Adapted Recreation, by phone at 480.858.2469 or email at josh_bell@tempe.gov.