



USBC has established a new designation for leagues competing on lane conditions that fall between Standard and Sport conditions. The Challenge lane condition designation and conversion chart was determined based on research of leagues conducted under a Sport/Challenge designation, as well as leagues competing on Blue lane conditions.

Recent research showed a discrepancy for leagues competing on more difficult, though not Sport, lane conditions. Because these leagues were not conducting their full league season on Sport conditions, or were using a variety of lane conditions, the leagues were designating as Standard, as currently there is no other option. The Challenge designation provides the solution.

The data indicated that using a Sport conversion for some leagues might not be appropriate, but the averages of bowlers competing on certain conditions did warrant a conversion to ensure they are not gaining an unfair advantage when they compete on Standard conditions. This is part of USBC's ongoing commitment to ensure the averages of all bowlers accurately reflect a bowler's ability.

USBC also has developed new average conversion charts, for both Sport and Challenge leagues, so tournament and league managers can convert Sport and Challenge averages to Standard averages, and vice versa. The bowlers in a Challenge league will receive a new designation in Find A Member, so tournament and other league managers are aware the bowler's average was determined in a league bowled on tougher lane conditions. Averages are to be automatically converted using the conversion charts. [Sport Average Conversion Chart](#) [Challenge Average Conversion Chart](#)

Starting with the 2017-2018 season, when a league submits its certification, the league secretary must choose one, and only one, of three lane condition options – Standard, Challenge or Sport. Standard will be for leagues conducted on traditional house conditions, Sport will be for true Sport leagues, while Challenge will be for leagues that use a variety of difficult patterns but are not classified as Sport-only leagues.

Leagues with an average difference of 20 or more pins still will be considered Sport. Leagues with an average difference between 10-19 pins will fall into the new Challenge condition. Leagues from the 2016-2017 season will be moved into the appropriate lane condition designation based upon final averages and an analysis, and those leagues will be notified they have been moved into a new classification.

For information on some of the more common sport bowling patterns go to [https://www.bowl.com/Sport Bowling/Sport Bowling Home/PBA Experience information, patterns/](https://www.bowl.com/Sport_Bowling/Sport_Bowling_Home/PBA_Experience_information_patterns/). From this page you can check out many others by using the links on the right side of the page.

For a simple explanation of the USBC Red, White & Blue Oil Patterns click [here](#). You may also want to check out the [White 1](#) and [Blue 1](#) Oil Patterns. Keep in mind that there are too many options for the red patterns and, as a result, the charts are not widely circulated.