Scoring

Except when a strike is scored, the number of pins knocked down by the player’s first delivery is to be marked next to the small square in the upper right-hand corner of that frame, and the number of pins knocked down by the player’s second delivery is to be marked inside the small square. If none of the standing pins are knocked down by the second delivery in a frame, the scoresheet shall be marked with a (·). The count for the two deliveries in the frame shall be recorded immediately. A strike is made when the full setup of 10 pins is knocked down with the first delivery in a frame. It is marked by an (x) in the small square in the upper right-hand corner of the frame where it was made. The count for one strike is 10 plus the number of pins knocked down in the player’s next two deliveries. A spare is scored when pins left standing after the first delivery are knocked down with the second delivery in that frame. It is marked by a (·) in the small square in the upper right-hand corner of the frame. The count for a spare is 10 plus the number of pins knocked down by the player’s next delivery. An open is recorded when a player fails to knock down all 10 pins after two deliveries in a frame. A split is a setup of pins left standing after the first delivery, provided the head pin is down and at least one pin is down:
1. Between two or more standing pins; e.g., 7-9 or 3-10.
2. Immediately ahead of two or more standing pins; e.g., 5-6.

NOTE: A split is usually designated by a (·), but any other symbol may be used.

Lane dimensions and pin numbering

4-step approach

1. First step push away – step with same foot that is holding onto ball
2. Second step ball comes down
3. Third step ball is all the way back
4. Fourth step release

The 1 pin is also called the head pin. The 5 pin is also called the king pin. A sleeper pin is one that is located directly behind another. Examples of sleepers are the 1-5 pins where the 5 is the sleeper, the 2-8, and the 3-9.

The pocket for a right-handed bowler is the 1-3 pocket and for a left-handed bowler it is the 1-2 pocket.