

* Frank Baker
Osawatomie
KSBA Hall of Fame
Service - 1980

The Baker system was invented in the 1950's by Frank K. Baker, then executive secretary-treasurer of the American Bowling Congress, the predecessor to the U.S.B.C. Baker came up with the new scoring method after the professional National Bowling League failed: he thought switching bowlers for each frame might be more appealing to spectators.

Baker lobbied the PB to allow him to create new leagues which would use the system, but they weren't interested. The Baker system was not used in an official game until 1974, during the NBC Bowling Spectacular, in the Collegiate Division. At the time, the bowlers said that they felt the system emphasized the idea of performing as a team by capitalizing on each other's strikes and spares for the team count. Baker's system was first used in a league situation in 2009 when USA Bowling was launched.