USBC conducted extensive research and surveyed bowling’s stakeholders.

To protect bowling’s future, USBC will adjust bowling ball specifications:

- Eliminate balance holes
- Set new specification for oil absorption

USBC research shows these specifications will slightly limit hook potential, resulting in:

- Slower transition of oil pattern
- Less moves for bowlers
- Lower oil volume with same scoring pace

Visit BOWL.com/BowlingTechnologyStudy to learn more
Timeline for specification changes

**Aug. 1, 2018**

- For balls over 10 pounds **without a weight hole**, allowable static weights will be 3 ounces of side, thumb or finger weight
- For balls over 10 pounds **with a weight hole**, the current specification of 1 ounces of side, thumb or finger weight remains
- No-thumb bowlers who choose the increased static weight/no weight hole option would need to mark by scribe, engraver or tool near the intended center of palm with a plus (+) mark

**Aug. 1, 2019**

- Only a dry towel can be used to clean a bowling ball during competition

**Aug. 1, 2020**

- A bowling ball’s oil absorption rate must be more than 2 minutes, 15 seconds for the ball to be approved

**Aug. 1, 2020**

- Elimination of balance holes; bowlers may have up to five holes for gripping purposes and all must be used on every delivery
- No-thumb bowlers would need to mark by scribe, engraver or tool near the intended center of palm with a plus (+) mark