

USBC Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee Report

Purpose: Based on USBC strategic planning, this committee shall set direction to maintain and protect the integrity and credibility of the sport of bowling.

- ☑ ***Enhanced Automated Robotic Launcher (E.A.R.L)*** – Completed the design and testing of our state-of-the-art bowling ball-throwing robot named E.A.R.L. This now allows us to perform research at a high standard by allowing us to determine true influences on bowling with scientific data through accuracy and consistency that no human can achieve.
- ☑ ***Static Weight Study*** – During our ball motion study, it was determined that static weights are one of the lower influences of ball motion. We are conducting a study on the static weight in bowling balls to determine the true need for static weights. We will use scientific data to back up our conclusions.
- ☑ ***New Lower-Limit Radius of Gyration (RG)*** – A new specification for all bowling balls approved for competition took effect this past year. The new specification will raise the allowable lower-limit radius of gyration (RG) measurement to 2.460 inches, up from 2.430 inches. This specification change is aimed at re-establishing player skill as an important factor in determining bowling ball motion.

The Equipment Specifications and Certification group continues to use statistical analysis and six sigma practices to draw conclusions and make decisions.

Committee background

The Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee is responsible for reviewing and making final decisions regarding new items of equipment on which USBC approval is requested. The committee also is responsible for setting policies and procedures regarding equipment and specifications and for granting, withholding, suspending, withdrawing, or otherwise regulating bowling center certificates.

The members of Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee are appointed by the USBC President with approval of the Board of Directors. The current committee is composed of seven board members and two non-board member advisors. Included in the nine committee members are four athletes and two proprietors.

USBC Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee

Tony Manna Jr, Chair
Lynda Barnes
Andrew Cain
Jay Nephew
Mark Martin

Bob Klatt
Gary Schenk
Scott Sterbenz
Neil Stremmel, Staff Liaison