TITLE: Return to bowling

Last month, we discussed adjusting the prize list and the financial responsibilities of league officers. Please click here for the May edition of Rules Extra.

This month, we cover a return to bowling under COVID-19 restrictions, Registered Volunteer updates and drilling requirement changes for the 2020-2021 season.

Please share Rules Extra with your fellow officers and league members.

Return to bowling
As centers reopen and leagues and tournaments either continue the 2019-2020 schedule or start anew for the summer, USBC has waived rules to help competitions follow COVID-19 restrictions.

The rule requiring bowlers to alternate lanes during leagues and tournaments was waived to allow teams to remain on one lane to comply with restrictions. USBC also waived the rule on using cleaners on a bowling ball during competition, allowing the use of isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Learn more.

New SafeSport and Registered Volunteer tools
We want to say thanks to our Registered Volunteers and everyone who has taken SafeSport training. Now, USBC members can easily see their current status for SafeSport training and Registered Volunteer Program (RVP) requirements through their USBC Community Login profile. Once in your profile, just click on the Athlete Safety/RVP link for details. Learn more.

2020-2021 Rulebook
USBC will not print the 2020-2021 USBC Rulebook, as it will be online only. The rulebook will be posted to BOWL.com/Rules.

In the supplies for associations, USBC will provide a Rules Supplement that will outline rules changes for the 2020-2021 season. Associations will receive a Rules Supplement for each league and center in the association, and it also will be posted on BOWL.com/Rules later this summer.

The decision to not print the USBC Rulebook is for the 2020-2021 season only, and USBC will evaluate the need for printed rulebooks in the future.
Final averages are official as of the date the league ends and due within 15 days. If the league votes to end the schedule, final averages must be submitted to the local association within 15 days of the vote to end the league.

The rule eliminating balance holes in bowling balls takes effect Aug. 1, the start of the 2020-2021 bowling season. The rule states all holes in a bowling ball must be used on every delivery; any hole not used is considered a balance hole, making the ball illegal.

Bowlers who do not use their thumb no longer can have a thumb hole, as it now is considered a balance hole. They also need to mark their ball to show where they place their palm on delivery.

Click [here](#) for Frequently Asked Questions on balance holes and gripping holes.

Busted, Plausible, or Confirmed:

Myth #63: A league, by a majority of the votes cast by the league board of directors, can change a league prize list.

Myth #64: The last segment of a split-season league can be eliminated if the league schedule is ended because of a center closing abruptly.

Get the answers to these and other bowling myths.

Want to be part of Mythbusters? Send your bowling myth to Rules@bowl.com.

This month’s Puzzler comes from Lynn in Torrance, California, who asks if USBC will make rules modifications for social distancing during league and tournament play.

To find out the answer, either view the Tenpin Puzzler video or read the Tenpin Puzzler article.

If you have a question for PB, email him at PBAtkinson@bowl.com. If PB uses your question, we will send you an autographed copy of the 2019-2020 USBC Playing Rules.