



2026 USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS LANE MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS SUMMARY

March 10, 2026

*****This document is intended to summarize the operations and transparency processes for the 2026 USBC Open Championships.*****

1. WHO HAS ACCESS TO THE OIL PATTERN DATA FOR THE TOURNAMENT?

- a. Persons who have access to all of the oil pattern data:
 1. Chad Murphy, USBC Executive Director
 2. James O'Connor, USBC Senior Director, Tournaments Delivery
 3. Doug Dukes, Kegel Vice President of Sales
 4. Nicholas Hoagland, USBC Pattern Development Team Lead

2. HOW WILL THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TYPE OF LANE CONDITIONER USED BE PROTECTED?

- a. Kegel affixed labels which do not disclose the type of conditioner being used.

3. WILL THERE BE TRANSPARENCY REGARDING THE LANE MAINTENANCE PROCESS FOR ALL COMPETITORS TO VIEW?

- a. Yes. The "Squad Verification Checklist" will be available on BOWL.com and on-site.

4. DO THE SAME LANE MACHINES OIL THE SAME LANES EACH TIME? IS THERE A ROTATION?

- a. The tournament lane maintenance machines are rotated throughout the tournament venue, so that each machine oils a different portion of the venue throughout the day. A log of the usage of each machine is tracked and available as part of the Squad Verification Checklist. USBC reserves the right, depending on squad size, to utilize the same lane machines in the same section of the venue if warranted.

5. ARE THE SAME OIL PATTERNS BEING UTILIZED AT THE NATIONAL BOWLING STADIUM AND THE KINGPIN CLUB FOR THE TEAM PRACTICE SESSIONS AND BOWLERS JOURNAL CHAMPIONSHIPS?

- a. The same exact patterns will be utilized at the National Bowling Stadium and the Kingpin Club for team practice sessions (team event pattern) and for the Bowlers Journal Championships (doubles/singles pattern).

- 6. HOW DO THE PINS GET ROTATED? DO THE SAME PINS STAY IN THE MACHINES FOR THE DURATION OF THE TOURNAMENT?**
- a. The USBC Open Championships has a “Pin Rotation Schedule,” which manages the usage of the pins throughout the course of the tournament to ensure all competitors are provided similar ages of pins. All tournament pins are new to start and rotated in accordance with the pin rotation schedule.
- 7. HOW OFTEN IS THE PIN-SPOTTING REVIEWED, AND WHO REVIEWS THE PROCESS?**
- a. Pin-spotting is a critical component to a fair and equitable playing field for all competitors. The maintenance team at the USBC Open Championships and USBC Tournament Management collaborate on reviewing pin-spotting as designed in the pin-spotting review schedule.
- 8. WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR TAKING TAPES FOR EACH SQUAD AND FOR EACH LANE MACHINE? HOW IS THE CONFIDENTIAL TAPE DATA GOING TO BE PROTECTED?**
- a. Tapes will be taken on an as-needed basis throughout the tournament.
- 9. WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR CHECKING OIL MACHINE VOLUMES AND KEEPING THE DATA FROM BEING RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC?**
- a. Volume checks for each pattern, with each machine, will be performed each morning by the lane maintenance team. No other staff, visitors or spectators will be allowed in the room during these volume checks. The results of the volume checks will be notated on the “Daily Inspection Checklist.”
- 10. IS THERE AN AREA AT THE TOURNAMENT VENUE FOR THE LANE MACHINES TO BURN LANES? WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR LANE BURNING THIS YEAR?**
- a. Yes. There is an area for lane burning at the USBC Open Championships. Each lane machine will “burn” two (2) lanes prior to lanes being conditioned for tournament competition. Lanes are burned in accordance with the previous squad completing their bowling and is notated on the “Squad Verification Checklist.”
- 11. HOW OFTEN ARE THE LANE MACHINES CLEANED? WHAT MAINTENANCE PROTOCOL IS IN PLACE?**
- a. Lane machines are cleaned, inspected and viewed before every squad at the USBC Open Championships. If there is a specific and imminent maintenance issue with a lane machine, it is immediately pulled from the oiling rotation until the problem can be rectified with 100% certainty. The Open Championships lane maintenance staff, Open Championships management and technicians from Kegel work in a collaborative effort to make sure all parties are trained to spot potential issues before they happen.
- 12. WHAT DOCUMENTS CAN I VIEW ONLINE AND ON-SITE? WHERE CAN I FIND THEM PRIOR TO BOWLING?**
- a. The below documents are available online at BOWL.com and on-site at the tournament venue:
 - i. Squad Verification Checklists
 - b. The below documents will be available after the completion of the tournament:
 - i. Oil pattern program sheets including volume, load data, ratio and distance