



Americans with Disability Act (ADA)

When it comes to hosting meetings or tournaments, be aware of the Americans with Disabilities Act, also known as ADA. The ADA is a federal civil rights law which was passed in 1990 that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. ADA requires businesses and organizations to have buildings and/or events that are handicap accessible.

As stated in the bylaws, one of the purposes of an association is to “provide equal opportunity for all in the sport of bowling without regard to...disability.” For this reason, associations are strongly encouraged to host any function at a venue which complies with the ADA.

Below are some items to consider before scheduling an event:

- Is adequate handicap parking available?
- Are doorways and aisles wide enough for a wheelchair to get through?
- Does the facility have handicap accessible restrooms?
- Do the door handles have levers or loop-handles opposed to knobs or handles that require gripping?
- If there are stairs, does the facility have an elevator or a ramp for wheelchairs and individuals with canes or walkers?

For more information on ADA requirements or tips the association can use to make events more handicap friendly, please visit the Americans with Disabilities Act Web site at www.ada.gov, or call (800) 514-0301.