

USBC to revisit testing of bowling pins

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USBC News

Study is part of overall research of 'System of Bowling'

In its ongoing effort to study credibility issues in bowling, the United States Bowling Congress is launching a new round of research intended to **test the scoring impact of bowling pins** with various specifications.

To initiate this testing phase - which is part of USBC's long-term study of the "**System of Bowling**" - USBC has requested bowling pin samples of different weights and centers of gravity from pin manufacturers worldwide. USBC also is working with manufacturers to gather input about certain characteristics of bowling pins such as the base diameter, base radius and the base attachment.

The objective of the USBC Specifications and Certifications team's research is to gather data from this analysis and compare the interactions of the pins with the other **three components of the System of Bowling: bowling balls, lane conditions and lane surfaces**.

"USBC has performed a variety of tests on pins over the years," said USBC Technical Director Neil Stremmel. "Though we are revisiting this element of the System of Bowling, it does not necessarily mean that USBC is planning to change current bowling pin specifications. As we continue to study scoring and credibility issues, our long-term objective is to develop a set of performance standards encompassing the dynamic relationship between the components of the System of Bowling."

The USBC Specifications and Certification testing facility, opened in 1977, is an eight-lane center in a climate-controlled building where team members regulate and standardize bowling equipment by concentrating on pin and product testing, research work, bowling center certifications and lane dressing inspections.

The staff provides lane-conditioning support for a variety of tournaments and Sport Bowling events. The Specifications and Certification team consists of engineers, technicians and support staff.

Since the mid-1980s, Specifications and Certification also has approved products for international competition such as the World Tenpin Bowling Association and the Federation Internationale des Quilleurs.