



2020 USBC MASTERS BALL HARDNESS TESTING - PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Overview/Background

- All USBC-approved bowling balls must measure at least 72D for hardness at the time of manufacture. This is the out-of-the-box specification required for USBC approval. USBC spot-checks balls against this number and the data indicates all balls start above this line.
- Individual balls must measure above the minimum 68D specification when tested in accordance with the field-test process in the USBC Equipment Specifications Manual.
- The data from the U.S. Open hardness field test indicated urethane balls are getting progressively softer with use over time. A full report is published on BOWL.com.
- USBC is collecting more data ahead of the USBC Masters to better understand the characteristics of the balls in the field and ensure all balls used in the USBC Masters meet specifications.
- To streamline the process, USBC conducted testing at the 2020 World Series of Bowling at South Point Bowling Plaza.

Preliminary Test Data

- USBC tested more than 200 balls, including 101 unique models and all current major manufacturers.
- None of the reactive balls measured below 68D
- Reactive balls decreased in hardness from their out-of-the-box approval levels with use over time; however, the magnitude is much less significant than urethane balls.
- USBC's independent technical expert has analyzed the data and concluded the probability of a USBC-approved reactive ball testing below 68D due to use overtime is statistically unlikely and less than 1%.

Next steps

- **USBC will discontinue hardness testing of reactive balls ahead of the USBC Masters** as the data indicates there is not a statistically significant probability that any reactive balls will fail the USBC hardness field test.
- **USBC will continue field testing of urethane balls ahead of the USBC Masters** at the World Series of Bowling, as previously announced.
- Additional field testing will take place at the USBC Masters for competitors who did not have their urethane equipment tested at the World Series of Bowling
- USBC will publish a full report with data from the USBC Masters hardness field test.
- All balls on the USBC Approved Ball List remain approved for all USBC competition, unless an individual ball measures below the minimum 68D specification when tested in accordance with the field-test process in the USBC Equipment Specifications Manual.