



Key points on ball hardness check for USBC Masters at World Series of Bowling

1. It is USBC's responsibility as the National Governing Body to govern the integrity of sanctioned competitions and we take that responsibility seriously.
2. USBC conducted a ball hardness field test at the 2020 U.S. Open. The goal was to collect valid data related to a topic where public discussions are continuing, and to ensure all balls used in the competition meet USBC specifications.
3. The data from the U.S. Open test indicated urethane balls are getting progressively softer with use over time. A full report is published on BOWL.com.
4. USBC is collecting more data to better understand the characteristics of the balls in the field and ensure all balls used in the USBC Masters meet specifications.
5. To streamline the process, the test will take place at the 2020 World Series of Bowling at South Point Bowling Plaza.
6. USBC Masters competitors who are not participating at the 2020 World Series of Bowling will have equipment tested in Reno, Nevada, ahead of the competition.
7. In this test, USBC will measure the hardness of all balls made of reactive resin, urethane or a blend. All balls tested at the U.S. Open will be retested.
8. USBC will continue to publish results from its tests.
9. The process and reports provide value in identifying balls that are out of specification and collected data to disprove the rumors in the marketplace.
10. If an individual ball is removed, it does not mean other balls of that model are out of specification or need to be removed or an approval revoked.
11. The balls being field tested are approved for use out of the box. USBC already has conducted spot checks and confirmed they are within specification at the time of manufacture.
12. Any balls out of compliance will not be allowed in competition at the USBC Masters.
13. The data collected will allow USBC to better evaluate if a long-term change related to specifications is appropriate.
14. USBC will publish a report on data collected.
15. Improvements in this area are made by the industry coming together to listen, evaluate the research and discuss next steps. The PBA and USBC have been doing this for several months on this subject. If manufacturers want to provide input moving forward as well, USBC always welcomes their comments.