



Key points on USBC ball hardness check at 2020 U.S. Open

These key points are intended to provide more information and answer questions about the ball hardness check at the 2020 U.S. Open.

1. It is USBC's responsibility as the National Governing Body to govern the integrity of our competitions and we take that seriously.
2. USBC listens to conversations and concerns in the marketplace. We conduct tests and research to more effectively govern based on data. This type of field test is a natural part of that process.
3. USBC is collecting data to better understand characteristics of balls in the field.
4. The process will provide value even if the tests simply disprove the rumors in the marketplace.
5. If any individual balls are out of compliance, those balls will be removed and USBC has a responsibility to do that.
6. 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.
7. The balls being field tested are approved for use out of the box. USBC has already conducted spot checks and confirmed they are within specification at the time of manufacture.
8. USBC research shows urethane balls measure softer after use. Oil and temperature are factors. It is these environmental factors we are researching to see if they may cause balls to be out of specification.
9. The U.S. Open check does not involve reactive balls. Reactive balls are also approved out of the box and spot checks confirm manufacturing compliance. In the hardness study published last fall, the reactive shells did not show a meaningful change after use.
10. USBC does not have any reason at this time to believe any player or manufacturer is knowingly manipulating these products or has done anything wrong.
11. USBC expects that if testing shows a problem, that this will be an isolated issue and related to individual ball or balls being out of specification.
12. The data collected will allow USBC to better evaluate if a long-term change related to specifications is appropriate.
13. USBC will publish a report on data collected from the U.S. Open ball hardness check in March.
14. 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.