



### From the Desk of Neil Stremmel

Hello PBA LBC League Bowlers! I hope everyone that supports our great sport has a Happy Thanksgiving! Over the past few months we have been setting up and testing Oil Absorption (OA) and Hardness on new (and recent) bowling balls. Some thoughts and information is covered below. We have also moved the 2024 PBA LBC National Championships to Bowlero Mount Prospect in Mount Prospect, Illinois – just outside of Chicago. It was determine that this was also a good time to move the Peterson to Bowlero Vernon Hills, just 20 minutes from the PBA LBC National Championships. I hope everyone gets a chance to experience both of these great events in our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the PBA LBC National Championships. Additionally, the 2024 PBA National Tour schedule has been announced and is available for view on PBA.com. These are the events that we will be testing equipment in the field to continue learning.

Talking about testing, OA testing has shown that Urethane-like equipment can be more easily identified with OA times of 60 minutes or greater. I had initially stated we would use 45 minutes, but based on this testing, discussions with the ball manufacturers as well as USBC, we have decided to move the time up to 60 minutes. There were too many true reactive balls that were testing in the 45-60 minute range. While true urethane balls test at 2hours (or longer), urethane-like balls are found beyond the 60 minute time-frame. So the change has been implemented. Again, all urethane balls need to then test at 78.0 hardness or more. The new test we have also implemented is that if a ball is greater than the 60 minutes of oil absorption time, but not greater 78.0HD, we will test it to determine if it becomes softer with use. If a urethane-like ball gets just 1.0HD points softer over 10 shots, we will not allow it into any PBA Tour competition. These rules are being incorporated into an SOP and stated in the PBA Rulebook for 2024. Lastly, we will continue to test in the field to determine if any cleared balls get softer over time with use. If any urethane or urethane-like ball is found below 73HD, we will remove it and fully investigate that ball line.

Other new rules will be incorporated in January 2024 and I will explain each one in my next update. Also, since the serial numbers of bowling balls will be key for balls on the National Tour, an updated document will be posted on how to read these serial numbers for all PBA Registered Brands. I hope this helps everyone out there.

Thank you again and please continue to support our sport!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Stremmel".

PBA Director of Rules and Equipment

