



From the Desk of Neil Stremmel

Hello PBA LBC League Bowlers! In my last update, we discussed the new urethane rule that the PBA implemented as of 1/6/2024. Since then I/we have been in Wichita, Chicago, Springfield (MO), Indianapolis, Delaware and Phoenix. The ratings have gone very well this year. Notable increases over last year – and the last several years. The hardness testing on the new urethane balls (and all balls) have gone very well as well. All new urethane equipment has tested at or above 78.0 HD out of the box. Tests in the field have shown that they get a little softer, but not the 5 points softer that we had been seeing the last few years. In fact, thus far, none of the new urethane equipment has tested below 76.0 HD out in the field this year. Nevertheless, I/we will keep checking to monitor the situation.

The 2024 PBA LBC National Championships will begin June 1st, 2024 at Bowlero Mt. Prospect, near Chicago, IL. You can sign up here;

<https://www.pba.com/lbctournament>

Click on “Register Now.” For those who did not bowl last year or are not already in a Bowlero League, you will need a LeaguePals account, which is free. There are eight (8) divisions to choose from. The guaranteed first-place prizes for each division is as follows:

- Open Classic: \$25,000
- Women’s Classic: \$5,000
- Men’s Handicap: \$5,000
- Women’s Handicap: \$5,000
- Senior Classic: \$5,000
 - The top 10 Super Senior (60+) non-cashers will also cash.
- PBA Exempt: \$5,000
- Boys Jr. Handicap: \$2,500 (SMART scholarship)
- Girls Jr. Handicap: \$2,500 (SMART scholarship)

In addition, once again, at least one (or more) bowler from each division (12 total) will bowl on TV for \$100,000 at Bayside Bowl in Portland, Maine. I hope everyone gets a chance to enter this great event. One of the unique aspects of this event is that you may also select to bowl optional events with PBA Exempt Professionals! Just select one of the PBA Pros before you and he compete and you can combine your scores with theirs to win additional events and prizes. Check out the optional side events on the page above for the specifics.

Another area of testing that will begin this year is on Stringpin Machines. String machines are being installed at an increasing rate. Many of the centers we have been working with over the years are contemplating installing this new type of pinsetter. They are contacting us regarding the use of these machines in PBA events. We are going to utilize the rest of this year to conduct some testing on newly

certified Stringpin machines and then spend some time analyzing the results. While 2024 will not have an official PBA event, we will place any test event on the regional schedule for official money – just not for any PBA title or points. This will allow us to do our due diligence and move forward with decisions and plans (one way or another) for 2025. Our first opportunity to test the newly certified Stringpin machines will be Lehigh Lanes in Lehigh Acres, FL since they will be installing QAMF Edge Certified Stringpin machines in the coming weeks. Again, as a test, this specific Event will not count as a PBA50 Regional Title. Ultimately, the PBA will get the information needed to determine the future of Stringpin machines within the PBA. Other tests are tentatively planned for later in the year as well.

The PBA LBC program continues to create and post videos for PBA League members out there. There have been a wide variety of topics this past year to help all league bowlers out there! You can check them out on YouTube here;

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwuUW8zaol8-p4cEQ6uXRzVA0xla4wvDf>

We also have a few new unique topics coming in the next few weeks; including a behind the scenes of one of our FOX TV shows and a demonstration of hardness testing in the field.

I hope you enjoyed this update. Now it is on to the WSOB in Detroit and the TOC in Akron!

I hope you all have good luck and good scoring in league as well as at the 2024 PBA LBC National Championships!

Thank you again and please continue to support our sport!



PBA Director of Rules and Equipment