

The Corner Pin

Feb 09

February is the start of tournament season. The Newburgh Women's Bowling Association tournament is under way. The Mid Hudson Bowling Association's tournament is in March. The USBC Open Tournament is starting this month. This month I also have some rules questions that have come up this year and some seem like every year. So I'll have some answers too...don't worry, I won't leave you with just the questions. Then maybe I'll have something after that...but only if you keep reading.

But first.....

Hall of Fame time: The Mid Hudson Bowling Association has elected Jon Leskow to enter into the Hall of Fame. The Newburgh Women's Bowling Association has elected Linda Wutch and Janet Sullinger to enter their Hall of Fame. Now, if you'd like to know how and why they were elected, it's very simple to find out. Try attending the Hall of Fame Dinner/Dance on April 4th, 2009. This will be the third year that we have been holding a combined Hall of Fame dinner/dance with the two associations. It has been very successful. I told you the date of the dinner, now let me give you some more details. It is being held at Anthony's Pier 9 on Rt. 9W in New Windsor. It starts at 6pm with a cocktail hour with the dinner starting at 7pm. After dinner the three inductees will be introduced and officially entered into their respective Hall of Fame. Then it's on to dessert and music til midnight. This year's entertainment will be provided by Empire Entertainment. The cost is \$38 per person. It's a great night out so come and celebrate with the inductees.

The Mid Hudson Bowling Association will be holding its annual tournament on March 7th and 8th for the team portion and March 14th and 15th for the singles and doubles. It is the 70th annual tournament I am told. Rumor has it that Jack Fanning actually bowled in the first tournament and cashed for five bucks. (He still has it!) Entries close soon so get your entry in. They are in all the bowling centers; just make sure you turn them in to a director from the MHBA. Melinda Young is the tournament director.

Merger talks between the MHBA and the NWBA have begun, and the committee has an aggressive schedule to meet. It is trying to have the merger paperwork and applications processed by the end of May. This will allow the new

merged board to be up and running by the summer to be ready for the new season. There are signs posted in the bowling centers for board openings. But don't just do it on a whim, there are duties associated with each position that must be done by each and every person. You must fill out a resume to be considered for a position on the new board. The merger committee is listed on posters put up in all the bowling centers.

Ok, enough announcements.....next...

Rules

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They're everywhere and also some misconceptions about some rules. So let's go over a few and see if we clear up some of those misconceptions.

Q. Do substitutes count toward a legal lineup?

A. Right away the first thought is no, substitutes don't count. BUT Rule 109a, Item 2 states that substitutes count to determine a legal lineup UNLESS otherwise provided by league rules.

* Most leagues I have bowled in do have league rules that do not allow substitutes to count towards a legal lineup. Know your league rules!

Q. If a team pre-bowls, can it's scores be shared with the team it was supposed to bowl?

A. Once scores are bowled they are a matter of public record and can be seen, UNLESS league rules prohibit the sharing of scores.

* hmmm...those league rules again. Maybe we should pay attention when we have those league meetings....(a little sarcasm, it's what I'm good at!)

Q. Does USBC require bowling shoes to be worn during USBC competition?

A. USBC's only rule relating to shoes is rule 12: Approaches must not be defaced. This means any shoes that leave a mark or residue on the approaches are not allowed during competition. Most sneakers are ok to use. But if you are going to use sneakers, give yourself and everyone else a break and don't wear the sneakers outside. ALSO, bowling centers, leagues and tournaments may have their own rules on footwear.

Q. Is a foul committed any time a bowler crosses the foul line?

A. Rule 4a: A delivery takes place when a ball is released into fair territory. Crossing the foul line with your foot or touching a wall, floor, posts, or ball returns beyond the line is also considered a foul. BUT, if the bowler does not release the ball when going beyond the foul line, then a foul is not committed.

And finally....

Q. Aren't USBC rules only guidelines for league rules?

A. USBC rules 1-18 of the General Playing Rules have no options and cannot be changed by a league rule. However, Rule 100a allows leagues to adopt league rules that do not conflict with these General Playing Rules.

Ok, are you still paying attention? More technical ball stuff! I had a chat with Mike Luongo about symmetric and asymmetric weight blocks. What? Symmetric? Asymmetric? Is that math stuff?

Calm down, it's not so much math as it is physics. Now doesn't that make you feel better? No?

Ok..let's start out with some definitions first, maybe that will help.

Symmetry...math definition first...exact reflection of form on opposite sides of a dividing plane. No? Ok...physics...having the same value when measured in different directions...how about now? Got it? Hmmmm...well, I did get A's in physics and calculus. OK...let's go with some synonyms to help describe what symmetry and asymmetry are.

Symmetry: balance, harmony, equilibrium

Asymmetry: imbalance, difference, disproportion

What's this got to do with weight blocks? Well think about those words and what it could create in ball reaction on the lane. Symmetry, balance, do you get a vision of an even rolling ball? Say yes...ok, good. Asymmetry, imbalance, visions of a ball rolling then making a sharp break? (Another yes!) (Ok, enough of my sarcasm.)

Mike Luongo has been in the pro shop business for 30 years. He is a Silver Level Instructor registered with USBC. He is a board member in IBPSIA and a

certified Master Instructor. IBPSIA stands for International Bowling Pro Shop and Instructors Association. Mike has also recently taken a job as the Northeast Regional Sales Manager for Storm and Roto Grip products.

So here's the chat:

Mike, what does this symmetric, asymmetric stuff have to do with bowling?

Mike: Let's talk first about preferred spin axis, which is the axis about which the ball wants to rotate. So, imbalance in a ball will make it flare towards its preferred spin axis. Asymmetric weight blocks have a stronger preferred spin axis than symmetric weight blocks. So the stronger intermediate differential of the core, the stronger the preferred spin axis, which will be an asymmetric weight block.

* preferred spin axis: the axis about which the ball wants to rotate

*intermediate differential (mass bias strength): this affects the direction and rate at which a bowling ball moves towards its preferred spin axis

What effect does each type of weight block have on a ball?

Mike: After drilling, the asymmetric weight blocks have a stronger preferred spin axis which means they work better on heavier oil for bowlers with lower rev rates or high ball speeds. We tend to want the symmetric weight blocks for people with higher rev rates or low ball speeds.

That leads me to the next question...which weight block would help the 3 types of bowlers? Cranker, stroker, tweener?

Mike: The cranker would prefer the symmetric weight blocks, the stroker would benefit more from asymmetric weight blocks. The tweener would depend more on the volume of oil where they bowl.

Weight blocks have to be paired with the right coverstock, so generally speaking, which weight block and coverstock would be best on the 3 types of lane conditions, light/dry, medium, and heavy oil?

Mike: Symmetric weight blocks are going to work best for light/dry conditions but here's the thing that people don't understand about pearls. If the surface is the same between a solid and pearl ball, the pearl is always going to be stronger once it

hits the dry. Because of the energy retention and the small micron particles used to make a pearl cover, it creates a little more friction.

So it may depend on the bowler where a shiny solid cover may be easier to control on a dryer lane than a pearl cover?

Mike: Yes, but again it depends on the rev rate and ball speed of the bowler. On medium lane condition almost anything can work well, depending on the bowler.

And heavy oil?

Mike: It still depends on the bowler, but the asymmetric weight blocks are going to give your average bowler more of a difference in reaction.

Ok Mike, thanks for the chat.

Mike: Your welcome, you ready to get back in the ball business?

Ummmmm...that's a chat for another day.

Ok, that's about where I'm going to end it for this month. Get out, bowl in the tournaments, come to the Hall of Fame dinner (see if I screw up names or something) and tell me what you want to see in these articles. I'm starting to feel like the host of "Dirty Jobs" on TV....give me some ideas of what you want to see already! See you next month!