



September 27, 2008

The members of the Tournament Committee reviewed and discussed the letters received from bowlers regarding the Open and Masters Tournament rule changes for the 2008 and 2009 tournaments, at the meeting held this last weekend.

First, we want to thank you for your letters and emails. We appreciate your taking the time to give us feedback.

The Tournament Committee is making decisions which we feel are in the best interest of our Tournament over the long term. Our goals are to listen to our bowlers, reduce operating costs, reduce differences in tournaments, increase the prize fund and in general make it easier for our directors and volunteers to work any tournament without additional training. We have also made substantial changes which are not visible to the bowlers, but impact how our directors and volunteers handle tournament operations.

The Tournament Committee has decided to respond to all of the correspondence submitted in a single letter, as follows:

OPEN TOURNAMENT

We changed from a five (5) person team to a four (4) person team to meet the goals outlined above. We have had as many compliments, as complaints, regarding this rule change and feel that it is in the long-term best interest of our operations.

The increase in the entry fee for each event is directly related to the increase in costs we are experiencing in operations. The Association has experienced increases in the amount we pay for mileage, air fare, insurance, and other costs of operating our tournaments, just as you are paying increases in these and other costs in your personal lives.

We made a decision early on, that we were offering our tournaments to members of the Associations within California only. In 2007, a substantial amount of the prize funds were paid to bowlers who did not regularly bowl in California and had purchased membership only to bowl in our tournament. We have again modified the rules for our 2009 tournament, using wording recommended by the USBC to meet this goal.

Lane conditions are a result of many factors; humidity (weather), oil pattern, type of oil used, lane wear, pins used, depth and flatness of gutters and age of the kick back boards to name a few. Each of these factors has a significant impact on the shot you

experience while bowling. We work with the proprietor to establish as fair a shot as we can, prior to the tournament and then we try and ensure the same shot is used each day of competition. Different conditions will always be present on different lanes in a center due to the above factors. Finally, every bowler has a different preference in the condition/pattern they play on and we recognize we will never satisfy all of the bowlers.

We are aware that the bowlers are not happy with our photographer. Please remember that we are simply offering a contract for services to the photographer, we do not control either the quality or price of the photos. We have discussed with our current photographer the issues, but he is an independent contractor who is not controlled by the Association and can choose to respond to your wishes as he feels appropriate. Our contract simply allows him to perform the service for a donation to the prize fund, we do not intend to change how we manage this relationship.

To the many bowlers who complained about having men work the Women's Tournament, women working the Open Tournament and Youth working all the tournaments. We now have one organization, with a total of twenty-nine Directors, instead of three organizations with around eighty directors; we will be using whichever director is closest to the tournament to staff our needs.

Let's also discuss the youth we now have on the Board of Directors, we have found them to be energetic, excited, fun and a positive influence on our Association. They have brought new ideas, new ways of looking at situations and are willing to serve in a variety of capacities. The youth of our Association is the future of our sport and our organization and we will be allowing them great latitude in decision making for our future operations.

We value all of our tournaments, and rate them all as equals, each serves a different section of our membership. We will not now or in the future treat any one tournament different than another.

MASTERS AND QUEENS TOURNAMENTS

The changes to these tournaments were based on suggestions we have received over the last few years by the participants and the proprietors who hosted the tournament and our goal of standardization.

The proprietors have requested we eliminate qualifying squads on Saturday evenings during the tournament, since it impairs one of their primary income sources, open play, extreme or glow bowling all charged at their regular or higher lineage rates. The proprietors control the playing field, we have to listen to their requests and make changes as necessary. The idea of having an additional qualifying round in order to serve two purposes: 1.) Increase the prize fund, by charging a different rate for bowlers who choose not to bowl in the Open Tournament and also allow bowlers more than one chance to qualify; and 2.) Responds to the proprietors requests to eliminate Saturday evening qualifying rounds.

If you look at the participation in these tournaments, overall every year we have had fewer bowlers attempt to qualify and that has continued to reduce the amount available

for the prize fund. The format used resulted in very high lineage, also reducing the prize fund.

We expected the number of bowlers attempting to qualify to go down initially, due to the change in format, and we experienced that reduction. We also expect to refine the tournament in the coming year and over time we hope that tournament will experience an increase in bowlers back to prior levels.

FUTURE

We are informed by Board members, who are proprietors' representatives that we can expect to pay increased lineage fees in our future tournaments, amounts approaching \$5.00 or more per line. These increases, along with other increases in cost, will necessitate increases in our entry fees in future years.

We have to change our organization and our tournaments to meet changing conditions, on the playing field, in our economy and within our membership. We will continue to make changes as necessary.

We have asked all board members to turn over all correspondence regarding tournament operations to the Tournament Committee, who will answer those letters after considering them at the next meeting. We feel that is the best way to address all bowlers concerns and be consistent and fair in all replies.

Thank you again for taking the time to voice your concerns. We appreciate your input.

Sincerely,

Nancy Arvanitis
Tournament Committee Chair
Director

Gina Moura
Open Tournament Director

Melissa Ade
Women's Tournament

Lynn Matsubara
Pepsi Tournament Director

Larry Campbell
Director/Proprietor

Al Hoffmann
Ex-Officio Member/
President

Linda Johnson
Ex-Officio Member/
1st Vice President

Larry Peppers
Ex-Officio Member/
Association Manager