



WTBA Technical Committee Report to Congress

December, 2015

The committee consists of Marios Nicolaidis, Gus Falgien, Kim Eui Young, Chris Barnes and Neil Stremmel (Chair). Over the past year we have met via skype on multiple occasions. A portion of the team has been able to sit down from time-to-time based on events and travel schedule. A list of discussion items, recent recommendations as well as current recommendations from the committee include;

WTBA Recent Rule Changes

1. Recently changes to the registration of bowling balls has changed to allow a bowler to exchange one ball as desired, perform a visual inspection of the static weight and a clarification on modifying a ball during competition.
2. Also a clarification/change to the balance hole(s) of a bowling ball has been changed. If a hole in a ball is not used as a gripping hole it is therefore a balance hole and each ball is only allowed one balance hole.

Patterns

Most of the 12 patterns in the 3 banks are being adjusted and tested during the remainder of 2015. They will be introduced January 1, 2016. A couple will be completely eliminated and replaced while others are being modified so that they can be used as tweaks off of each other and/or allow for better selections to balance scoring pace between pattern banks.

Recommended Rule Changes

1. The announcement of the pattern bank(s) shall be a minimum of 90 days (up from 60 days).
2. While not an official rule change, the Technical Committee recommends that a full lane mapping be incorporated into the contract with the host centers.

Discussion Items

We were asked our opinion regarding the use of 1 pattern at Championship events. Please see our comments below starting with item #1. Conclusion – It is doable but there are risks and costs, the Technical Committee recommendation is to remain with 2 patterns. If the WTBA Congress decides to move to one



pattern we would then also recommend that the pattern banks be split in 2 (we have the patterns set up to do so), with shorter (patterns of distance in the 30's) and longer (patterns of distance in the 40's).

1. Technical Committee discussion on going to one pattern...
 - a. Concern is this will bring us back to the issues of "The pattern" from the past.
 - b. When it was one pattern it allowed for a small group of people to lead/lap the field = lefties, spinners, deep, straight, etc... The winner became the one who matched up – not someone who was respected as the winner.
 - c. When it was one pattern if someone couldn't "hit" that pattern, it was the pattern or the laneman, etc. But if you cannot "hit" either pattern, you have to look at yourself and your ability. 2 patterns has greatly reduced the amount of complaints about the pattern – as well as the discussion that the overall winner was just someone who matched up, not the best bowler. 2 patterns brings back the respect and legitimacy of the event.
 - d. It can be done with 1 pattern, but every TD and laneman must know "they can't miss!" If you miss on the one and only pattern, the discussion will be all about the pattern. If you miss on 1 of the 2 patterns, while still bad, the discussion is still about the competition and doesn't focus on the patterns. Extra time and effort (and therefore, money) prior to each event would be recommended in order to make sure no one ever "misses."
 - e. When the stakes are high, you don't want the environment to favor one bowler over another. Whether it's 1x per year or once every 4 years, 2 patterns gives more fairness.
 - f. Is this just about making the event smoother from a logistics standpoint?
 - g. We agree that the use of one pattern is doable, will smooth out some logistics of the events and can be made fair. We just have the above concerns in assuring this is accomplished.

The committee is truly a group of volunteers that are dedicated to the sport and have worked hard on these items over the past few years. We will continue to focus on what we have been charged to do and further develop programs, rules and data that can be used by all.

Yours in sport,

Neil Stremmel
WTBA TC Chair