

64 Curtice Road
Rochester NY 14617
January 24, 2018

United States Bowling Congress
621 Six Flags Drive
Arlington TX 76011

Dear USBC,

As secretary of the Parkview Thursday Men's league (255025) and speaking on behalf of our league president Craig O'Brien and the other members of our league, I am formally appealing the decision made by the United States Bowling Congress to reclassify our league as a sport shot league. We do not feel that all relevant factors concerning our league were taken into consideration when this decision was made.

Parkview Bowl, owned and operated by the Martin family, is an 8-lane bowling center that has been in continual operation since 1940. It's the smallest center in the greater Rochester area and one of the last "neighborhood" centers in town. As a small center, it does not have the financial resources necessary to allow it to modernize like the other, larger centers in the area. As such, conditions at Parkview are very traditional in nature. The center does not have air-conditioning, the lane beds are older wood surfaces with vintage above-ground ball returns, scoring is still done with paper and pencil, and most importantly the lanes are still cleaned and oiled by hand, not by machine.

These factors (none of which violate any USBC rule that I am aware of) are admittedly not as common as they once were. However, they most certainly add several extra "natural" variables to Parkview's house shot that don't exist with the house shot at other centers. These extra variables have an impact on the averages our bowlers are able to post, but unlike a true sport shot, the challenge is a natural byproduct of the center we bowl in, not artificially created by an oiling machine.

We feel strongly that these extra variables are not typical of a true sport shot league and thus need to be taken into consideration when attempting to put our league into a category. When this is done, it seems obvious to us that our league is nothing like a true sport shot league and should not be categorized as such. Our league features regular league bowlers with a wide range of abilities competing on a house shot that, by its nature, varies from week to week. A sport shot league features highly proficient bowlers competing on a difficult, explicitly defined oil pattern with few other variables to contend with. They're two very different types of leagues featuring bowlers with very different levels of proficiency that happen to generate the same types of averages.

To then say, based solely on those averages, that a bowler from our league and one from a true sport shot league should be considered equal to each other when they compete on a "modern" house shot simply isn't fair. All this does is to eliminate any chance that a bowler from our league could be competitive in a sanctioned tournament on a modern house shot, and thus leaves us with no incentive to try.

Many of us have bowled at Parkview for several years and appreciate the traditional conditions, the friendly environment, and the integrity of the Martin family and their passion for this sport. Parkview may be different than the other centers in our area, but that does not mean the bowlers in our league should be singled-out and effectively "punished" for choosing to bowl there. We respectfully request that our reclassification as a "sport shot" league be reconsidered and our status as a "standard/house shot" league be reinstated.

Sincerely,

Christopher Freemesser
Secretary
Parkview Thursday Men's League