

Hi Kathy.

On behalf of Kevin Martin (manager of Parkview Bowl, cc'd), Craig O'Brien (president of the Parkview Thursday Men's League, cc'd), and the members of the Parkview Thursday Men's league, I am officially re-appealing the USBC's decision to rerate our league as a sport shot league. I feel that the methods used to determine which leagues are in need of rerating don't provide the level of accuracy needed to produce fair results.

For the benefit of this discussion I'd like to first state the rule being used to rerate our league, Rule 200a.1b:

"Averages established in a league are generally 20 pins or lower than those bowled on a standard/house condition"

I would also like to mention that Kevin wants to submit lane tapes to show the conditions our league bowls on, but is having difficulty finding anybody in our area who knows how to tape lanes. Those data will be submitted to the USBC as an addendum to this letter when it is available.

In regards to our rerate, the data you provided showing the average difference for each bowler in our league indicates that only their highest average at another center was used in your calculations. I feel this is inaccurate and unfair. Several of our bowlers have multiple averages in leagues at many other centers, with some of these other averages being appreciably LOWER than their highest book average. Yet none of these other averages were included in your calculations. If the idea is to obtain an accurate assessment of the average differences between our league versus leagues in other centers, then ALL of those other averages need to be included in the calculations.

To clarify my point, let's say a bowler in our league (call him "Bowler A") averages 200 in our league and averages 210, 215, and 220 in the three other leagues he bowls in elsewhere. Per the current "highest average" method of calculating the difference, those three averages result in an average difference of 20 pins.

Let's now say that there are three bowlers in our league (call them "Bowler B", "Bowler C", and "Bowler D"). They all average 200 in our league. "Bowler B" averages 210 elsewhere, "Bowler C" averages 215 elsewhere, and "Bowler D" averages 220 elsewhere. This results in average differences of 10, 15, and 20 pins. Again using the "highest average" method of calculating the difference, this results in an overall average difference for those three averages of only 15 pins.

There is no functional difference whether it's one bowler who bowls in three other leagues or three bowlers who each bowl in one other league (noting that Rule 200a.1b specifically references "averages established in a league" without specifying the number of bowlers needed to generate those averages), yet your current method of calculation produces different results for each scenario. Including ALL averages from other leagues produces the same result for each scenario, and is thus a more accurate and fair method of calculating a whole league's average difference.

Second, I question the wisdom of basing a rerate solely on the average differences from a single season (in this case the 2016-2017 season) as it does not allow for any temporary circumstances that could have resulted in lower averages for an entire league. Some examples would include replacement of wood lane surfaces with synthetics, management change that results in different oil patterns/amounts being used, a change in the method used to apply the oil, use of different lane conditioner, etc. Note that all of these common circumstances are totally out of the control of the league itself, yet it's the league itself that suffers due to a rerate.

A more accurate assessment of a league can be achieved by basing the calculations on several seasons worth of league data. This would provide you a broader picture of the league's averages and expose anomalies (like those mentioned above) that can temporarily skew the numbers. Since the USBC has records for all leagues going back several seasons, I feel it is not unreasonable to expect the USBC to include these data if their use provides more accurate results.

In regards to our league specifically, I have attached data showing the "average difference" for all of our bowlers in each of the past four seasons (this is as far back as our records go). All of our bowlers' averages in other leagues are included.

To summarize the data, the "average differences" for our league were:

2013 - 14.80
2014 - 17.72
2015 - 21.53
2016 - 20.32

By using ALL available data to calculate our league's average differences you get a far more accurate

representation of our league. The data do show a consistent average difference related to our league (which is to be expected since Parkview has hand-oiled wood lanes), but including the last three (or four) years in the calculations, we do NOT qualify for a sport shot rerating.

In conclusion, I want to state that our league members are not opposed to rule changes that improve the fairness of sanctioned competitions. However, rerating an entire league can result in very serious consequences for the future of the league and the financial health of the center it bowls in. As such, the method used to rerate a league needs to be fair, accurate, and acceptable to all. In our opinion the method currently used by the USBC is none of these, and we respectfully ask that the USBC reconsider how it calculates rerates and make the necessary adjustments to ensure the most accurate and fair results possible.

Sincerely,

Chris Freemesser
Craig O'Brien
Kevin Martin