



Date: 9 February 2009

Reg: 0907a

To: ETBF member federations

Dear Friends,

Subject: Amendments of ETBF Championship rules

This is to inform you that the ETBF Presidium at its recent meeting decided not to include the WTBA rule concerning altering the surface of bowling balls as it written in rule 2.10 of the latest issue of the WTBA Universal Playing Rules, but to amend the ETBF rules as follows:

4.1.3 The applicable universal playing rules are found in Chapter 2 of the WTBA Playing Rules, however, rule 2.10 does not apply to ETBF championships. The equipment specifications are found in chapters 9 – 11 of the WTBA Playing Rules.

4.16 Bowling ball procedure

4.16.1 Only bowling balls that are included in the USBC Approved Bowling Ball list may be used in competition. The official list of approved bowling balls is published on the Internet website www.bowl.com.

4.16.2 Bowling balls manufactured prior to 1991 cannot be found on the USBC Approved Bowling Ball list. However, the Championship Committee may accept such bowling balls to be used during the championship if it is proven that they were produced prior to 1991.

4.16.3 Cleaning of the surface of the bowling ball is permissible prior to any delivery during a game. Any cloth product that is non-abrasive, and contains no chemical additives that would modify the surface finish of the ball, would be acceptable to use. Cleaners, which are products meant to clean the ball surface without changing the surface roughness, may be used, and provided they are on the list of approved products.

4.16.4 Adjusting of the surface of the bowling ball by means of scrub sponges, scoring pads, and polish that are on the list of approved products may be done only during any practice session and between games, provided it is done outside of the players' area.

4.16.5 Altering the surface of the bowling ball by means of bonded or coated abrasives may only be done in a designated area and only during any practice session, and between any block of games, as well as between semi-finals and finals of an event.

4.16.6 The list of approved as well as not acceptable products for cleaning and adjusting of the surface of bowling balls can be found on the website www.bowl.com.

4.16.7 Prior to the start of the Official Practice the bowling balls to be used during competition shall be registered.

4.16.8 Immediately following the Official Practice the ball registration list for each player shall be modified only to include the bowling balls to be used during the championship events. Each player will be permitted to have maximum 6 bowling balls registered. No



replacements or additions will be allowed once the first event has started, and no modifications of a bowling ball shall be permitted apart from the altering of the surface as described above. In very special circumstances the Championship Committee may allow a replacement of a registered bowling ball once the first event has started.

4.16.9 Random checks of the identity of the bowling balls used in competition will be performed during the squads at the discretion of the Championship Committee.

4.16.10 Immediately prior to the start of the semi finals of the doubles, trios, and team events, as well as prior to the start of Step 4 in the Masters event the participants' bowling balls shall be inspected. The inspection shall be limited to

- a) Eligibility of the ball*
- b) Serial number*
- c) Weight and balance*
- d) Hardness*
- e) Number of balls*

4.16.11 The penalty for violation of the rule is disqualification and all scores null and void.

4.16.12 A maximum of five gripping holes are allowed in a bowling ball. The player must be able to reach each set of finger holes (not all four simultaneously) while using the thumbhole. Any hole, which cannot be reached, is considered a vent hole. The ball must be balanced twice when one set of finger holes is for fingertip and the other set for conventional grip.

4.16.13 When delivering the ball the player must have his thumb in or over the thumbhole. It may not be 180 degrees away from the thumbhole.

The Presidium also decided to include a new paragraph under 4.19, Smoking and drinking, reading as follows:

4.19.4 If a bowler is caught smoking during a game the penalty will be zero pinfall in that game. If a bowler is caught smoking in between two games of a block of games, the penalty will be zero pinfall for the succeeding game.

The above amendments will apply with immediate effect.

On behalf of the ETBF Presidium

Kind regards

Rune Widell
ETBF Secretary General