

BOWLING CENTRE CERTIFICATION

All M.T.B.A. or sanctioned leagues and tournaments must be so organized and conducted in such a manner that they comply with all M.T.B.A. by-laws, rules and regulations and only WIBC/ABC approved equipment may be used. The lanes upon which all games are bowled in M.T.B.A. or sanctioned competition must have been certified for the current bowling season.

Bowling Centre Certification Procedures

SECTION 1: Application/Inspection

When a bowling centre requests certification, the MTBA representative(s) designated by the committee shall measure and inspect the lanes and equipment for compliance with WIBC/ABC physical specifications.

When the inspection has been completed, all relevant information, together with the application for a Bowling Centre Certificate signed by the bowling centre's authorized representative, shall be sent to the MTBA. Certificates issued will be for a twelve-month period.

The fees payable to MTBA for Certification for measurement and inspection shall be **€15** per lane per inspection. Inspections should be carried out at least once a year.

SECTION 2: Issuance

On submission of an application, if the MTBA determines that the terms of certification and all other WIBC/ABC requirements have been met, a Certificate will be issued.

SECTION 3: Representation

A Certificate issued to a bowling centre may be displayed in the centre. By so doing, the owner and all operational personnel indicate to MTBA that their best effort will be given to ensure that all bowling equipment, lane dressing and its distribution meets and will continue to meet all requirements for MTBA/sanctioned Competition.

SECTION 4: Retention

In addition to compliance with all other terms and conditions of the certification requirements, retention of a Certificate shall be subject to the following:

a. Dressing shall meet WIBC/ABC specification and must comply with the following: dressing must be distributed from edge board to edge board for the entire predetermined distance down the lane, (for example, 35-40 feet from the foul line).

Following any application of dressing, in the dressing portion of the lane there shall be a minimum of five (5) units of dressing at all points on the lane surface. A unit is defined as a measurement of dressing film thickness equivalent to 0.0167 cubic centimetres of dressing per square foot of lane surface as measured.

Any stripping (cleaning) of dressing from the lanes must be uniform from edge board to edge board and at least from the head pin to the distance to which dressing has been applied.

b. The lane surface shall not be altered or conditioned to create a ball path or otherwise affect the course of the ball or pinfall by use of abrasives, dressing or any other materials or methods.

c. Any adjustment or modification of lane maintenance equipment to create the conditions described in paragraph (b) above is specifically prohibited.

d. Any use of a bowling pin that does not meet WIBC/ABC specifications is prohibited for MTBA/sanctioned competition.

e. Any MTBA representative designated by the committee shall be permitted at any time to inspect a certified centre for compliance with bowling equipment specification and lane dressing requirements; and to inspect all equipment the centre uses to maintain its lanes.

A minimum of one inspection per year shall be required at each Centre.

Whenever a score of 300 is bowled, an inspection of the lanes is required within 48 hours of the score for any MTBA award.

Failure to comply with any of the foregoing shall constitute grounds for score denials and suspension or withholding of MTBA membership of all persons involved, including owners, managers and maintenance personnel.

SECTION 5: Penalty for Non-compliance

Anyone who attempts or directs another to alter or condition lanes to create a ball path or otherwise affect the course of the ball or pinfall, or permits any of the foregoing to occur is liable for suspension of MTBA membership. A non-member found to have taken or permitted such actions may be denied MTBA membership.

SECTION 6: Non-compliance Procedures

When the MTBA finds non-compliance with lane dressing, or surface requirements, or bowling equipment specification, the following procedure will apply:

- a. The bowling centre will be notified by MTBA of its decision and their right to appeal.
- b. If there is no appeal, then the MTBA's decision will be final.
- c. If there is an appeal, it will be heard by the MTBA Appeals Board.
- d. In the event that a Certificate is temporarily suspended or withdrawn, any bowler who withdraws from a league in the bowling centre shall be deemed to have done so for a satisfactory reason and no action will be taken against him/her by the MTBA.

SECTION 7: Bowlers Right to Protest

Only when at least 75% of the bowlers concerned with the tournament or league agree to sign a protest concerning lanes and approaches, that they suspect foul play or negligence can a protest be forwarded to the Technical Board. A fee of **€25** must accompany the protest.