

International Bowling  
Training and Research Center

## Timeline for specification changes

### Aug. 1, 2018

- For balls over 10 pounds **without a weight hole**, allowable static weights will be 3 ounces of side, thumb or finger weight
- For balls over 10 pounds **with a weight hole**, the current specification of 1 ounce of side, thumb or finger weight remains
- No-thumb bowlers who choose the increased static weight/no weight hole option would need to mark by scribe, engraver or tool near the intended center of palm with a plus (+) mark

### Aug. 1, 2019

- Only a dry towel can be used to clean a bowling ball during competition

### Aug. 1, 2020

- A bowling ball's oil absorption rate must be more than 2 minutes, 15 seconds for the ball to be approved

### Aug. 1, 2020

- Elimination of balance holes; bowlers may have up to five holes for gripping purposes and all must be used on every delivery
- No-thumb bowlers would need to mark by scribe, engraver or tool near the intended center of palm with a plus (+) mark



**EQUIPMENT  
SPECIFICATIONS**



USBC conducted extensive research and surveyed bowling's stakeholders.

**To protect bowling's future,  
USBC will adjust bowling  
ball specifications:**

- Eliminate balance holes
- Set new specification for oil absorption

**USBC research shows these  
specifications will slightly  
limit hook potential,  
resulting in:**

- Slower transition of oil pattern
- Less moves for bowlers
- Lower oil volume with same scoring pace

**A Future FOR  
THE Sport®**

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