

## **LANE CERTIFICATION AND LANE DRESSING INSPECTIONS**

LANE CERTIFICATION. All bowling centers within the boundaries of the Greater Omaha Area Bowling Association, serving USBC certified leagues and tournaments, are required to be USBC certified each bowling season.

This responsibility is under the control of the Association Manager and the Lane Certification Team established under the guidelines of USBC. The team is made up of volunteers, association directors, local certified bowlers and other persons willing to help.

Certification is performed under the supervision of a certified inspector with assistance from both certified and uncertified inspectors. Certain measurements must be taken using specially designed equipment to determine if each lane bed within a center meets the strict, established standards. Those not meeting the standards are given time to correct all deficiencies, and re-inspected until the standards are satisfactorily met.

In addition to setting and enforcing specifications for bowling equipment, the team also helps uphold the credibility of the sport and makes competition fair by analyzing lane inspection data to ensure that USBC standards are equitable.

USBC local association officials visit bowling centers in their areas annually and use a variety of tools and instruments to perform a physical inspection of the lanes and their adjacent components such as the channels, channel depths, pin spots, and pin deck. Center inspections may begin April 1 and must be completed by Aug. 31.

As part of the certification process, associations also perform inspection of the oil applied to lanes in bowling centers to ensure they meet USBC guidelines for oil application; lane oil inspections may also be done randomly outside of the certification process. Sometimes referred to as conditioner, lane oil protects the lane surface and affects the difficulty level of the sport. Lane oil inspections ensure playing field uniformity per USBC guidelines so that USBC league bowlers in Maine are competing on lanes in the same shape as bowlers in California.

USBC rules state that bowling centers must renew their certification by Sept. 1 to host any USBC certified competition for that season

LANE DRESSING INSPECTION: Each bowling center is required to have at least one lane dressing inspection per season. Additional inspections are performed as needed.

Lane certification and lane dressing inspections are two areas that are always in need of personnel to perform these tasks. Anyone interested in joining either of these teams can contact the Association Office.