



NOTE: Effective August 1, 2020

USBC MODIFIES RULES

DRILLING SPECIFICATIONS

“Balance holes are NOT permitted.”

- All holes drilled must be used for gripping purposes on every delivery
- No more than (3) ounces of weight on any halves of the ball.

Holes or indentations for gripping purposes shall not exceed five and shall be limited to one for each finger and one for the thumb, all for the same hand with no drilled holes exceeding 1-9/16” diameter and 4-1/2” deep.

(Note: This includes holes required to install removeable devices). The player is required to use all the gripping holes on every delivery with the same hand except when using a house ball. A ball left in a bowling center by a bowler for public use is not considered a house ball.



Any gripping hole that does not have the thumb or fingers inserted into it throughout the approach would be classified as a balance hole, which is not allowed. Any secondary hole drilled inside of a gripping hole that is not intended for gripping purpose is considered a void and not allowed except for vent holes.

If a bowler does not have a thumb hole, there must be a scribed or engraved “+” near the center of the palm to indicate the grip orientation. The ball must be delivered in the marked orientation (i.e. palm must cover the “+”).

RULE 18

“Use of Isopropyl Alcohol”

- *Playing Rules to allow more flexibility to return to bowling while adhering to health guidelines related to COVID-19.*

USBC created an exception for Rule 18, which restricts the use of liquid cleaners to clean the outer surface of the bowling ball during USBC certified competition. USBC will temporarily allow the use of isopropyl alcohol, aka rubbing alcohol on the outer surface of the ball anytime during or between games.

As the pandemic continues, it’s vital to sanitize frequently touched surfaces. USBC recommends isopropyl alcohol because of its time-honored ability to kill viruses and bacteria helping to stop the spread of COVID-19. Please note the difference between using USBC-approved bowling ball cleaners and disinfecting the bowling ball with isopropyl alcohol. The exception for Rule 18 applies only to isopropyl alcohol – no other USBC-approved cleaners will be allowed during competition.

(Q) **Can I clean my ball with an USBC-approved cleaner between tournament squads?**

(A) The Southwest Tournament allows you to clean your ball with USBC approved ball cleaner between squads only. You can not clean between practice and your first ball of competition. (No cleaning between Double & Singles)

(Q) **When does competition start?**

(A) Competition starts when a bowler throws their first ball for a score in a tournament event. If practice is allowed before the event, competition starts when practice starts.

(Q) **If I used a towel with a liquid cleaner on it to clean my ball prior to the start of the competition, can I use that same towel to clean the ball during the competition?**

(A) No, another towel should be used. That same towel can only be used during the competition once the towel is dry. Any dry towel or cloth that does not alter the surface of the bowling ball is allowed. This includes the use of dry shammys.

