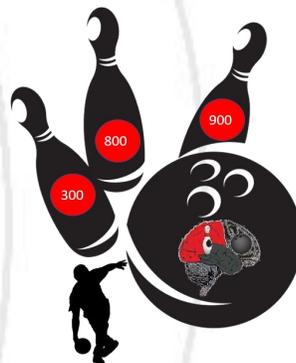


**Bowlology Academy Presents Becoming a Bowlologist -
A detailed description of the various areas of expertise a Bowlologist
needs and the tools of the trade**

by

Josh Hyde B.L.P. Bowlologist



BOWLOLOGY



Knowledge Requirements of a Bowlologist

From covering Tom Smallwood at the 2009 PBA World Championship to the passing of legendary Mark Roth to the latest bowling ball, I cover it all as a Bowlologist should when it comes to the sport of bowling. Items included are how to bowl, running a tournament or league, knowing the history of the sport, the latest equipment announcements, the ins, and outs of tournament analysis, how to score a game and coaching from a beginner to an advanced bowler. A Bowlologist also understands the physical game on the lane, the must knows of the rules of the game, and being an ambassador to the sport. A Bowlologist would also know how to run a pro-shop and know the fundamentals of ball design. Knowing the distance of the patterns and knowing how many milliliters of oil is on the lane are other points a Bowlologist would know.

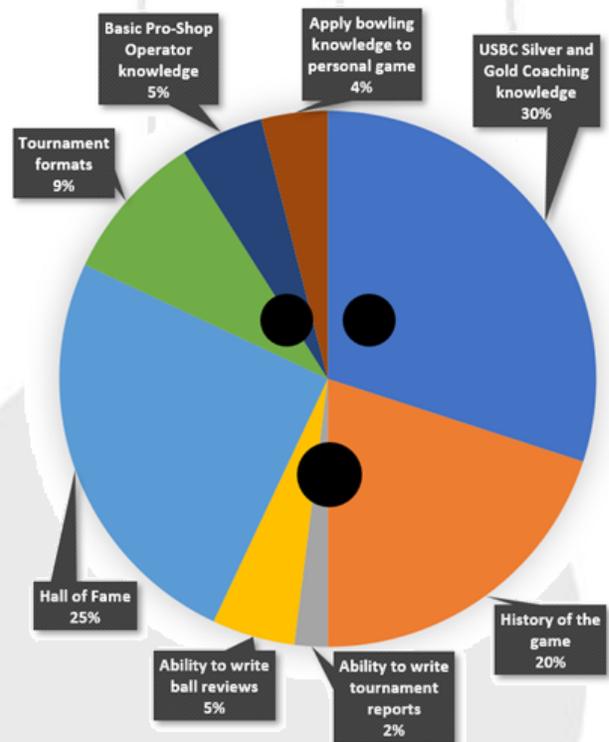
In December of 2021, I did a bowling pin study on how many degrees a pin must fall in a successful single pin spare. If any bowlers have a thought-provoking question, Bowlologists should be able to provide information and data based on analysis.

These are knowledge requirements that are essential for a Bowlologist.

Bowlologist Job Description

This is a breakdown of a Bowlologist's tasks and responsibilities

- USBC Silver and Gold Coaching knowledge
 - *Knowledge of the sport*
 - *Physical game*
 - *Lane play*
 - *Ball dynamics*
- History of the game
- Ability to write tournament reports
- Ability to write ball reviews
- Hall of Fame
- Tournament formats
- Basic Pro-Shop Operator knowledge
- Apply bowling knowledge to personal game



Attending tournaments and associating with the bowling management is another factor in being a successful Bowlologist. This helps the Bowlologist contribute to the sport of bowling and interact with bowling center proprietors and pro-shop operators. Another good resource is the local USBC Association where a volunteer can be an asset to the local sport. Most cities host tournaments where help is needed for setting up brackets, managing side pots, organizing lanes, or promoting the tournament. Getting involved in local bowling events is the first step towards a bigger industry job.

A Glimpse into the Career of a Bowlologist

In the past, Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter has included articles about how to become a Bowlologist. In November of 2020, I became part of the United States Bowling Congress committee member for the Hall of Fame. I am humbled by this great honor. At one time, the USBC had 10 million members in its entire organization. All bowlers have had to join the USBC to achieve their PBA card. Bowlers like Dick Weber and Earl Anthony are members of the PBA Hall of Fame and USBC Hall of Fame. This is the grass roots to becoming one of the best bowlers in the world. I have obtained the USBC Hall of Fame committee status because of my 10-year IBMA membership. This all started when I approached PBA President Steve Miller in 2001 at the PBA National Championship (now known as the PBA World Championship) and asked him how I could become a PBA member. A week later, I got my PBA card and a personal note that said "Congratulations to our #1 fan!". Two years later, I began my coaching career. I took a Level 1 USBC Coaching class. Five years after that, I started this publication. Three years later, I started the Bowlology column. The first column was on the Perfect Strike. In 2015, I began to take bowling modules for the USBC coaching program. Then I was able to obtain my Bronze Level coaching credential. Four years later, I would receive the Silver Level coaching credential. Along with these coaching accolades, my main purpose was to promote the PBA. In 2009, I ran into the Editor of the *American Bowler* at a PBA Regional where he asked me to write an article about that tournament. He would also help me publish my first book in 2012—"Bowling from Another View".

Below is a glimpse of my accomplishments that enabled me to become a Bowlologist:

Started Nov 2011 Bowlology column

2001 Honorary PBA member

2003 Level 1 USBC Coaching program

2009 Wrote article for "American Bowler"

2012 Balls of the Lanes column (includes Brunswick logo);

I write column in exchange for Brunswick bowling balls)

2012 Authored "Bowling from Another View" book

2012 Bowling modules

2008 Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter

2015 Regional staff member for Vise

2015 Bronze Coach Level

2012-2013 Josh Hyde's Bowling PBA Media Guide

2015 50th Anniversary TOC Media Kit

2014 PBA Hall of Fame committee member

2020 USBC Hall of Fame committee member

2017 1st 300 game

2019 Silver Coach Level

A Note from a Bowlologist

The Mount Rushmore of Bowling is Dick Weber, Earl Anthony, Walter Ray Williams, Jr. and Jason Belmonte. All four of these bowlers know how to throw strikes when needed. Over the years, I have studied the game in depth. I have been fortunate to know the greatest bowlers on Earth. In writing this book, I had the opportunity to receive my bronze and silver certifications from the USBC. I would like to thank the USBC coaching staff for allowing me to obtain these two coaching certifications. Every bowler wants to get ten pins down in one shot—this is called a strike. Then, they would like to get a 300-game. A few years ago, I came up with a number: 10-30-300. This number represents the three main numbers that a bowler would like to attain. A bowler strives to get ten pins down in one shot on the first ball. Then, the bowler would like to get 30 in the first frame. Finally, but certainly not least, they would like to get a score of 300. Therefore, 10-30-300 represents the bowling number. In becoming a Bowlologist, a person must have the knowledge to coach a fellow bowler about bowling ball dynamics and the history of bowling. From gutter balls to strikes, bowlers want to get better. A bowler may ask themselves this question: How can I get better? The answer is both simple and complicated. It depends where they are in their bowling game. It takes one more spare to increase their average by ten pins, rather they want to win the league championship or win the U.S Open. It all comes down to making repeatable shots.

Writing this book has been the biggest project in my bowling career. I really want bowlers to understand the game, advancing their personal game to a higher level. Watching bowling tournaments and bowling at my local center has given me experience and helped me write about the sport of bowling. Growing up there were a number of bowling manufacturers that made their own bowling balls. Today bowling ball manufacturers are making bowling balls stronger and more powerful.

If bowlers looked back throughout the 20th Century, they would see how scores have drastically skyrocketed. It was a different surface and different oils. Bowling centers would use an old bug sprayer to oil the lanes. Bowlers would know where to throw the ball. A board would be marked to have a decent score. If bowlers did not play that the area of the lane, they were not going to score that night. It was a tougher game back then. It was very rare for a bowler to throw an 800 series. Now days, 800 is easier to shoot with the bowling ball and lane technology that a bowling center mechanic applies. Bowlers need to know their equipment in order to score. When a bowling center has a house shot, it is easy to score. However, there is still going to be pins left on the pin deck after the first ball. Bowling a 300 is still an art and an achievement. Bowlers that have been bowling for 40 years might say there is a scoring epidemic, in that the bowling ball technology makes bowling easier. However, when a bowler does not have the correct form and does not have the proper ball in their hand, they are not likely to have high scores.

Becoming a Bowlologist

Back in 1997, my mom and I went to the Bowling Hall of Fame & Museum in St. Louis, Missouri. This was my second visit there. I had always wanted to see old bowling films and talk with the curator about bowling history. He said that he would give me a tape to watch anytime I wanted to. On the way back home, I had told my mom that I really wanted to be a bowling specialist. Then she proceeded to make up a word for me, Bowlologist. I totally believed that it is what I have become. Back in November of 2011 of this publication, I had started the Bowlology column. It highlighted my knowledge about the sport I passionately loved.

When I was growing up, I was going to amateur and professional tournaments. By going to both of these types of tournaments over the years, I was able to observe a number of bowlers bowl, study how they played the lanes, and analyze their physical game. I also studied bowling ball dynamics, learned the history of the game including PBA Trivia, and attended over a 100 PBA tournaments. I became an honorary member of the PBA. Throughout the years, I have studied the game. When I was growing up I would watch the video by Don Johnson titled **“A Pro’s Guide to Better Bowling”**. Going to countless pro and amateur bowling tournaments has helped me along the way as I watched the greatest bowlers. I also had a mock pro-shop and would bowl mock PBA tournaments. This helped me throughout my entire bowling career. I have been to a number of pro-shops and bowling centers around the Midwest and East Coast in the USA.

I am so thankful to my Mom and Dad for taking me to these tournaments. Roger Hyde, my Dad, was the most skilled pro-shop operator and ball driller in the area. He knew the dynamics of the bowling ball and was adept at drilling for the ABC (currently known as the USBC). He helped me understand a great deal about the bowling ball. This is what my Dad taught me.

To fully become a Bowlologist, a person has to get to a bowling center and start applying their skills and knowledge to see what works and what does not. In the past, I have written about how to make adjustments from changing balls to moving a bowler’s feet. There have been a number of times in which I have made adjustments with my ramp, and I have changed balls to get the correct ball motion in order to score higher. On December 2, 2018, I was using the Quantum Edge® ball and could barely shoot over 150, but then I switched to my Forest Green Quantum® and averaged 219. Another time, I changed zones but used the same ball and was able to score higher. The knowledge that I have learned over the years is through my Dad (Roger Hyde) and Parker Bohn III. These individuals have strengthened my knowledge of the sport that I love.

Back when I was a kid, I would imitate the greatest bowlers of all time. I watched Mike Miller who was a two-finger bowler and saw him win the PBA National Championship in 1991 beating PBA Hall of Famer Norm Duke for the title. Now that was impressive! Kelly Coffman was a bowler who had an impressive strike ball. I watched Jason Belmonte using a two-handed style to knock over ten pins with a bowling ball. Here are some of the pros that I have seen throughout my career as a Bowlologist. Walter Ray Williams, Jr. is perhaps the greatest of all time. He moved from playing inside to moving outside. He was still able to have the same ball reaction to score. Pete Weber is perhaps the greatest bowler to have never won the Chris Schenkel Player of the Year honor. He won ten titles with various types of bowling ball technology. Early on (’95-’96), he had a difficult time with resin reactive balls. Weber then retooled

and discovered what he needed to do with these balls in order to compete on the PBA Tour. It does not get any better than that. This is what a Bowlologist should be striving for.

Bowling Essentials

Throughout my bowling career, there have been two main elements that I have tried to cover. Since 1989, I have been a PBA fan. When Mike Aulby won the 1989 Showboat in Atlantic City, New Jersey, I was hooked. The very next week, he would go on to win the Budweiser Open in North Olmsted, Ohio. By 1990, I attended my first major tournament which was the Seagrams Cooler U.S. Open when Ron Palombi Jr. won his first major. In 1989, Mike Aulby would win his second jewel of the Triple Crown of bowling at the U.S. Open by defeating Jim Pencak. That same year, Aulby would win the first of his three Masters titles. Learning how to keep score in bowling was probably the hardest fundamental to learn. By 1995, I became a pro at learning how to keep score.

There are two binders that I have been working on. These bowling essentials are covered in these binders: one is PBA-related and the other is instruction on how to bowl. Even though I write the Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter, JHB covers both amateur and professional tournaments. I have also established Josh Hyde Bowling. I have three letters—I, T and P. They stand for Instruction, Tournament and Professional Bowling. These are the three main elements of bowling. These three key factors of bowling are what makes bowling a sport. In recent months, I have written about becoming a Bowlologist. I also know a great deal about the sport of bowling—how to throw the ball. Bowlology is my own bowling instruction to improve a bowler's skills, from the physical game to ball dynamics.

The USBC is the national governing body for bowling. They have created uniform rules and standards that apply from local to national tournaments for amateur and professional bowlers to gain a foundation as they aspire to become PBA members. USBC has rules and guidelines in which bowling can be regulated for every bowler in the United States. Other countries are modeling their own homegrown versions of the USBC after the success of the United States Bowling Congress. USBC promotes bowling for everyone—from the Joe Bowler that bowls his local league to the Jason Belmonte and other PBA greats. USBC offers tournaments at the local, state, and national levels. They even have different patterns red, white, and blue. The USBC honors scores are as follows 300, 299, and 298. The governing body of bowling allows bowlers to compete for national titles. This tournament is called the Open Championships. The United States Bowling Congress will build eighty lanes for the 20,000 teams that will participate in the tournament. In previous years, bowling centers used to be able to buy the actual lanes to add to the lanes in the bowling center.

The PBA Tour should be educational and interesting. When Joe Bowler fine-tunes his game, he can try out his talent on the PBA Tour. When I created the bowling tournament hierarchy, I wanted bowlers to understand what they are up against when they try the grass roots of bowling tournaments — local and PBA Regional tournaments.

Is bowling a Sport

[The word "sport" is defined as "an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment."]

Some bowlers today may say that bowling is not a sport. This is because of the bowling ball technology. Another reason why they may say bowling cannot be considered a sport is because the athletes do not have to run or break into a sweat.

However, bowling is indeed a sport. If people do not think that bowling is a sport, I would like to ask them: "What do they call throwing a 16-pound ball down a lane and hitting ten targets?"

Bowling is indeed a difficult sport to come by, even if bowlers are able to drill a ball to do specific tasks at hand. If a ball does not see friction on the lane, no matter how much of a strong layout they have drilled into the ball, it will not hook. The bowlers still must have the skill to throw the ball to knock over pins. The ball cannot get a strike by itself.

Bowling is a sport because a bowler must make a delivery to knock over the pins. Until the bowling industry makes a remote control bowling ball, in my mind, bowling will always be a sport.

We all love to bowl. We love the competition. Whether it is in a league or a tournament, for a local-town trophy or the Tournament of Champions, bowlers are competing to win. Throwing a 16-pound ball to get down ten pins in one or two shots is not an easy task. Even though today it may be slightly easier to roll a 300 game now than it was in the 70s, a perfect game is still a perfect game and is still an extremely difficult feat.

For people who may think that bowling is not a sport, I would suggest they try a sport (local) bowling league. These are more challenging lane patterns and are used on the PBA Tour. When they can average 230 a game on these patterns, maybe I will rethink my stance. Until then, bowling is definitely a sport.

Regulating Equipment for Professionals

The PBA is the greatest entity in the sport of bowling. Yet it affects everything from how different bowling balls are marketed to which shoes and gloves are acceptable on the tour.

In 2011, Lenny Nicholson was on Xtra Frame (now known as Flo-Bowling), talking about how one of the traditions of bowling was not letting pros use high-tech bowling balls. This may sound like a good idea, but in reality, bowling fans do not want to see low-tech balls going down the lane. For all the scratch bowlers that watch the PBA Tour, this would not let them see the type of ball motion they are considering when purchasing a new ball.

What might be a better answer is not regulating the angles which a PBA player can drill. Making regulations on drill layouts limits the excitement of bowling. This could be one of the area that the PBA could look into, enabling players to know what they need to do in order to hit the pocket in a direct way.

Johnny Petraglia told bowling digest that in making the lanes harder, the USBC could regulate how much adaptation a bowler could do to their ball. This is one area that make bowling more of a challenge. If the PBA could investigate in this procedure, more people might consider bowling more a sport due to the added difficulty.

The plastic ball championship was a good tournament, but some players were not as happy because they could not use their full "arsenal." This would be like NASCAR race only allowing cars to go a certain speed or MLB players only being able to use one weight of bat. Sports fans want to see the best players face all possible variables.

Bowlologist Philosophy

“Bowlology”—the study of bowling with the desired result being that the student gains more knowledge of and more respect for the sport.

Serious bowlers know the bowling lingo today. However, when there are new bowlers or a family of four going out to bowl—they are not aware of some of the specifics of the sport of bowling.

I went bowling one time, and my caregiver stepped over the foul line nearly falling. She did not know that there was oil on the lane, so I told her. She asked why, I explained to her that it is like golf where there are trees, bunkers, water hazards, and rough. I also explained that this helps the bowler know where to throw the ball and where not to throw the ball. Then she was able to understand.

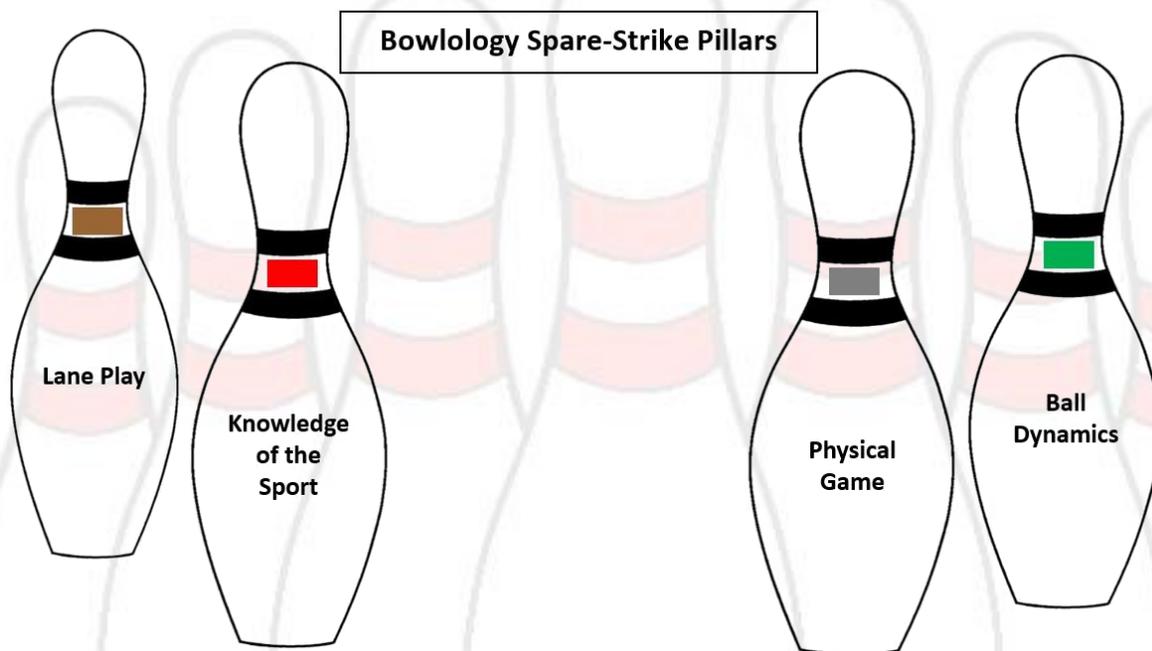
I had another caregiver who bowled and had high-performance bowling balls yet could not describe pin location to me. She also told me she had bowled a 240-game and a 250-game, but did not shoot a 600 series. On top of that, she told me she was better at converting splits than spares. She was a right-hander but slid on the right foot instead of the left foot.

A golf professional that I know once told me that he would take a first-time golfer out on the range and work with them on their driving, chipping and putting before they could even go play a round of 9-holes.

There is no expectation for a first-time bowler. Many, when they start, do not want to get serious about the game. At the same time, there should be some guidance for first-time bowlers to learn basic bowling techniques. There is generally no one at the bowling center to help first-time bowlers learn more about the game. Yes, they may just want to bowl one time a year; but if they want to learn something more, there is no one to help them strengthen their knowledge of bowling.

The caregiver with the high performance bowling balls would have been better off with a simple ball and instead focused on learning bowling basics.

The difference between the pro bowlers and amateur bowlers is that amateurs look at where the ball enters the pocket as opposed to pros looking to see how the ball goes through the pins. If a bowler can make the ten go out on a half pocket shot and also carry the solid pocket hit and have a light hit pocket and strike they know they are going to be able to score throughout the tournament or league. All bowlers are trying to strike in different ways. The US Open pattern on the PBA Tour is by far the hardest pattern to string a number of strikes together. Just ask Pete Weber, winner of 5 US Open titles. This is not an easy task to complete.



When Bowlology was founded in November of 2011, the Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter wanted to give bowlers some knowledge of the sport. These spare- strike pillars are essential to Bowlology in that they are the four pillars that a Bowlologist will need in order to help bowlers, coaches and pro-shop operators.

--The First Pillar is Knowledge of the Sport which involves split making, makeable splits, lane courtesy, the perfect strike, score keeping, playing field, pin knowledge, pin carry, and general bowling knowledge.

--The Second Pillar is the Physical Game. If a bowler does not have a solid foundation, he or she is not going to be able to execute in every frame. Timing puts away the trail leg, the finish position and the arm swing. These are the main attributes of a bowler's physical game.

--The Third Pillar is Lane Play which is how the bowler plays the lanes making hand position and speed adjustments. In most sports, the athletes are not going to have to worry about the surface of the field. However, in bowling, bowlers do have to know what the lanes are doing in order to be a contender in a league match. The same holds true when Jason Belmonte needs a strike to win the U.S Open. Lane play is a big portion of a bowler's game.

--The Final Pillar is Ball Dynamics. This is where the bowler and the pro-shop operator need to be on the same page. Each bowler is different. If a pro bowler wins a Major and Joe Bowler wants to use the same ball with the same layout and surface, more than likely Joe Bowler will not have the same results as the pro bowler due to differences in their game. They may use the same ball except with a different layout and surface. This is why it is so important for the pro-shop operator to know Joe Bowler's game. Pro-shop operators generally know the dynamics of the bowling ball. Ideally, the bowler needs to find a pro-shop operator that has some coaching experience. If he/she has a pro-shop operator and a coach, all three need to come up with a game plan so that the bowler can be successful on the lanes.

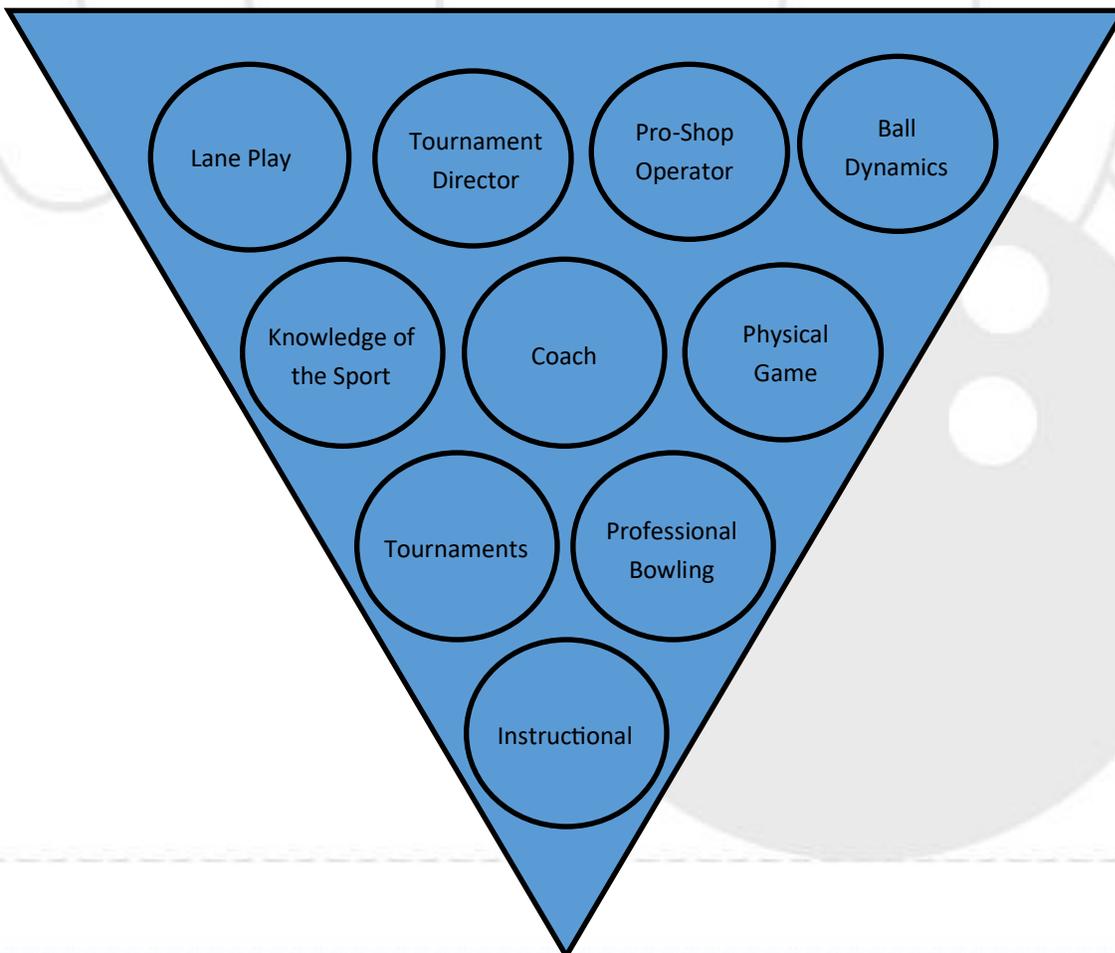
These four Bowlology Spare-Strike Pillars will enable bowlers, coaches and pro-shop operators to identify bowling knowledge.

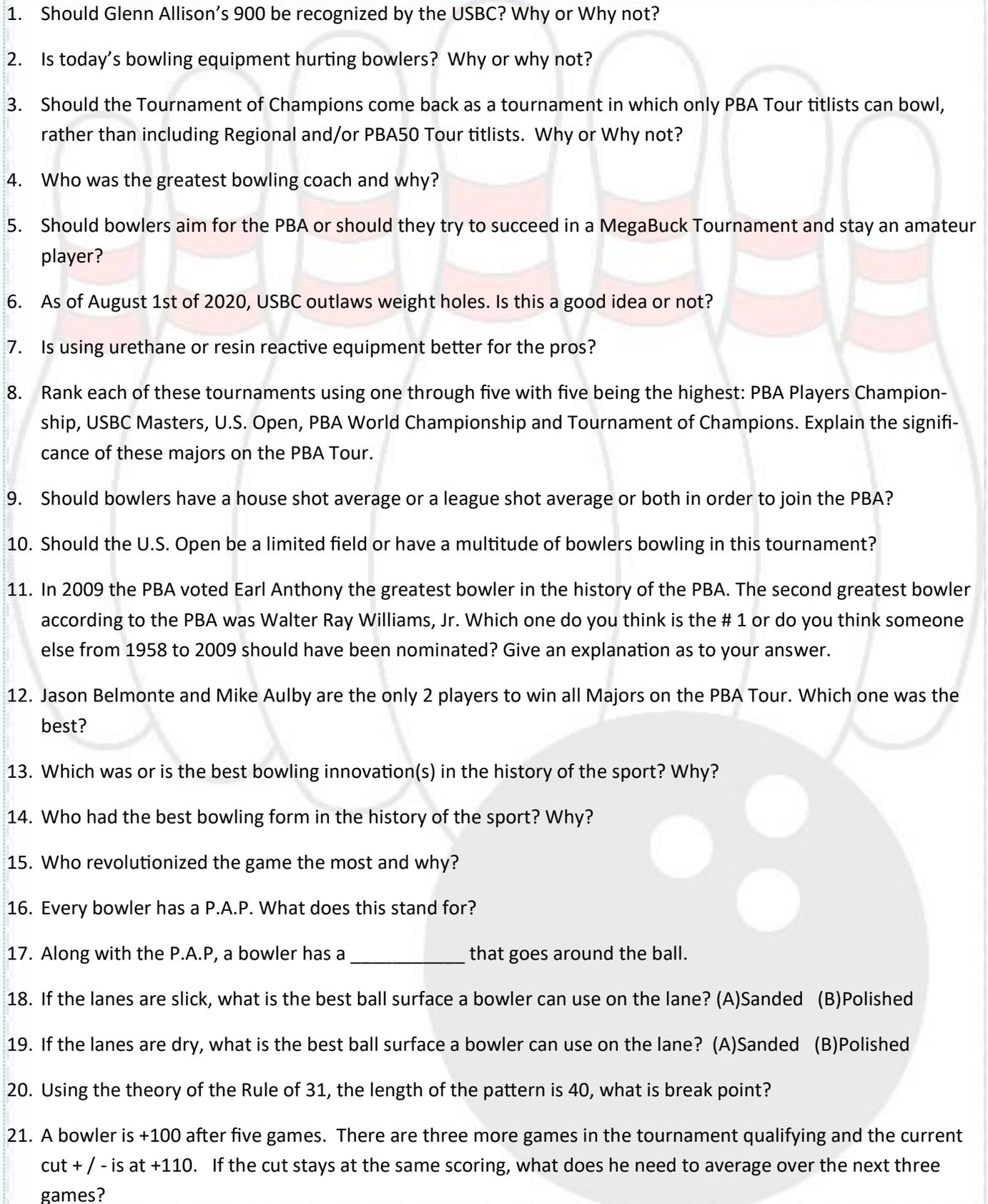
Ten in the Pit - Important Bowling Numbers

Every Bowlologist Should Know

10	The maximum number of pins a bowler can knock down in one or two shots
10	The number of frames in a single bowling game
10	The number of pins on the lane
15	The number of feet from the back of the approach to the foul line
20	Minimum score per frame that a bowler can obtain for a 200 game
30	The amount of pins that a bowler can achieve in one frame
39	The number of boards on a bowling lane
60	The number of feet from the foul line to the headpin
75	The number of feet from the back of the approach to the headpin
300	The maximum score for a bowling game

Bowlologist Pin Deck



- 
1. Should Glenn Allison's 900 be recognized by the USBC? Why or Why not?
 2. Is today's bowling equipment hurting bowlers? Why or why not?
 3. Should the Tournament of Champions come back as a tournament in which only PBA Tour titlists can bowl, rather than including Regional and/or PBA50 Tour titlists. Why or Why not?
 4. Who was the greatest bowling coach and why?
 5. Should bowlers aim for the PBA or should they try to succeed in a MegaBuck Tournament and stay an amateur player?
 6. As of August 1st of 2020, USBC outlaws weight holes. Is this a good idea or not?
 7. Is using urethane or resin reactive equipment better for the pros?
 8. Rank each of these tournaments using one through five with five being the highest: PBA Players Championship, USBC Masters, U.S. Open, PBA World Championship and Tournament of Champions. Explain the significance of these majors on the PBA Tour.
 9. Should bowlers have a house shot average or a league shot average or both in order to join the PBA?
 10. Should the U.S. Open be a limited field or have a multitude of bowlers bowling in this tournament?
 11. In 2009 the PBA voted Earl Anthony the greatest bowler in the history of the PBA. The second greatest bowler according to the PBA was Walter Ray Williams, Jr. Which one do you think is the # 1 or do you think someone else from 1958 to 2009 should have been nominated? Give an explanation as to your answer.
 12. Jason Belmonte and Mike Aulby are the only 2 players to win all Majors on the PBA Tour. Which one was the best?
 13. Which was or is the best bowling innovation(s) in the history of the sport? Why?
 14. Who had the best bowling form in the history of the sport? Why?
 15. Who revolutionized the game the most and why?
 16. Every bowler has a P.A.P. What does this stand for?
 17. Along with the P.A.P, a bowler has a _____ that goes around the ball.
 18. If the lanes are slick, what is the best ball surface a bowler can use on the lane? (A)Sanded (B)Polished
 19. If the lanes are dry, what is the best ball surface a bowler can use on the lane? (A)Sanded (B)Polished
 20. Using the theory of the Rule of 31, the length of the pattern is 40, what is break point?
 21. A bowler is +100 after five games. There are three more games in the tournament qualifying and the current cut + / - is at +110. If the cut stays at the same scoring, what does he need to average over the next three games?

Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Game 5	Game 6	Game 7	Game 8	Score	+ / - 200	Current Cut + / - 200
205	225	205	240	225				1100	100	110

22. During a tournament, a bowler decides that he needs more surface. He uses a 1500 Abralon pad during competition. Is this legal?
23. What are the phases of ball motion? A. Hook, Skid, Roll B. Roll, Skid, Hook C. Skid, Hook, Roll
24. How tall is a regulation bowling pin?
25. What is the circumference of a bowling ball?
26. What do they call the scale used to weigh a bowling ball?
27. True or False? The Oil Pattern is oiled from Gutter to Gutter. This is called the Flat Pattern.
28. What is an asymmetrical weight block?
29. What is a symmetrical weight block?
30. True or False. In an asymmetrical weight block, there is a mass bias.

High Game _____

High Average _____

High Series _____

USBC Membership Yes No

PBA Member Yes No

IBPSIA Yes No

IBMA Yes No

Name: _____

Email: _____

Feel free to email Josh Hyde at joshhydeb Bowling@gmail.com

If you have any questions please contact me.