

REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER
June 27, 2021
Johnston, Iowa

Greetings from the office of the Iowa State USBC Bowling Association!

First, I'd like to thank all the delegates for being here today and this weekend for our annual meeting. This is normally the time of year we all take a step back from bowling, but because of the circumstances of the world this past 15 months, here we are, and I am glad to have this time together.

Covid-19 not only devastated our world and our daily lives, it affected everything we do and enjoy, including our bowling.

I can give you facts and figures from the tournaments for 2020 and 2021 but I'm sure that is not of huge interest to anyone. So, let's just go for a short recap of the events.

I'll start with 2020.

Open Tournament - cancelled after seven weekends of competition. Total prize fund payout was \$83,305.00 with 1,028 checks issued. The tournament was reduced from 954 teams to 454 teams.

Women's Tournament - cancelled after just two weekends of bowling. Entry was reduced to 93 teams from the original 421 scheduled. Prize fund checks for the ladies totaled \$12,010.00.

Mixed Tournament - was held in Muscatine and fielded 67 teams with a prize payout of \$7,101.00.

Women's Senior Tournament - was to be held in Jefferson but was cancelled.

So here comes the 2020-21 bowling season and we're still in the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Board of Directors decided to hold the 2021 tournaments and voted to place the 2021 tournaments back in the locations of the 2020 tournaments and move the contracted 2021 tournament sites to 2022.

Entry forms were made available in the usual manner and the entries rolled in! I scheduled everything that was received until each tournament started.

The Iowa State USBC Board of Directors along with the hosting proprietors and local associations established "Covid-19 Rules" for all tournaments. Captains/contact persons were notified of the rules we proceeded with our normal events but offered refunds for those not comfortable with the situation or the rules.

So here are the figures for the 2021 tournaments.

Open Tournament - 42 teams were refund; 694 teams bowled, prize fund payout of \$118,624.25 included added prize fund from USBC and Burlington. 16,300 games were rolled along with 6,800 series! Awards for 100 Pins Over Average (game) were earned by 18 bowlers while there were 55 bowlers who bowled 150 Pins Over Average Series!

Women's Tournament - 8 refunds, 241 teams bowled, total payout of \$37,831.00 including added prize fund from USBC and earmarks from the former WBA.

Mixed Tournament - 78 teams scheduled, 53 teams bowled, tournament shortened due to Covid-19 outbreaks the 2nd and 3rd weekends.

Women's Senior - held in Jefferson, 63 doubles competed for a prize fund of \$3,468.00.

Comparing the 2021 tournament entry figures to a more "normal" 2019 tournament season, the Open was reduced by 27%, the Women's by 49%, the Mixed by 47% and the Women's Senior by 45%.

Enough of the negatives, let's move on!

We're winding up the 2020-2021 season and we're moving forward and working hard to make 2021-2022 a bright and shiny new season with bowlers returning to the lanes and the leagues and the tournaments! We can do this!

Our membership figure for 2020-2021 as of May 31 is 21,144 adults and 3,465 youth. Although this is a decrease from 2019-2020 (26,491 adults and 4,379 youth), it is our hope that those who chose not to bowl in 2020-2021 because of Covid will be eager to get back to the sport we all love!

Following this meeting comes the final parts of the season, preparing for the annual audit, getting the annual report book ready and just winding down and preparing for the new season.

BUT things are a bit different this year...along with the winddown of the season, I'm packing and sorting and getting ready for the office to move.

Retirement is a strange step, but it's time. I have greatly enjoyed my work with bowlers and the bowling industry these past 15 seasons, and I know when it gets close to Nov. 1 and I don't need a bag to bring the mail in, I'm going to sit back and reflect on all the fun, and the work. Will I miss it? Of course, I will. Am I still going to bowl? Absolutely! Will I still help? If needed, I will always be here for bowling as long as I'm able!

I will always be thankful for the opportunity I had to work for the ladies starting 2006-07 and I knew I wanted to give it my best shot with the guys and their tournament too and I'll always treasure the time with Iowa's bowlers. It's truly been a special part of my life.

Thank you for being here, thank you for bowling, and thank you for being a part of my great bowling adventure.

Sincerely,

Charla Wilke

Association Manager