



# TBA RULES RELATING TO THE BALL

These are simplified rules relating to the bowling ball, adapted from the TBA Rule book Version 6.2 - 26/7/05.

For the latest rules visit the TBA website at: <http://www.tenpin.org.au>

## CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL PLAYING RULES

### **RULE 114                      BALLS – PRIVATE OWNERSHIP**

Bowling balls used in the game and marked by their owners are considered private and other participants in the game are prohibited from using the same, unless the owner consents to such use.

## CHAPTER 6 – EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

### **RULE 601                      BOWLING BALL SPECIFICATIONS**

**Material** - The ball should be constructed without voids in its interior, meaning that nothing metallic or otherwise is allowed that will alter the imbalance of the ball.

**Surface** - The surface should be free of any grooves or depressions of a specific nature, meaning that nothing should be on the surface of the ball including tape or paint. The finger grips and/or thumb inserts should be below or flush with the surface of the ball.

**Weight & Size** - The ball shall not exceed 27.002” inches (218.3mm) in circumference, or be less than 26.704” inches (215.9mm). The weight of the ball shall not exceed 16 pounds (7.25kg) when drilled, there is no minimum weight.

**Devices** - Adjustable finger and thumb inserts are allowable, as long as they are glued and permanently fixed, and do not protrude above the surface.

**Mechanical Aides** - Are only allowed if you are an amputee, and the device has been approved by TBAL, otherwise the ball must be delivered by manual means.

**Hardness** - The surface hardness of the ball shall be no less than a hardness of 72 on a Shur D Durometer, testing should be done in a room temp of 68 – 74 deg F (20 – 23 deg C). There is no maximum hardness.

**Cleaning** - During sanctioned competition NO CLEANING is allowed, other than with a clean towel. During means consecutive games or series.

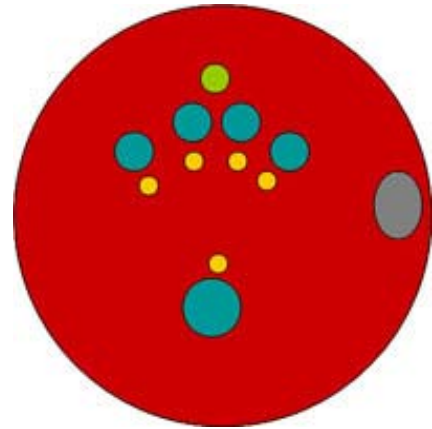
**RULE 602 BALL SURFACE ALTERATIONS**

Altering the surface of the ball by application of a liquid or abrasive during a series of continuous games in a sanctioned competition is strictly prohibited.

**RULE 603 DRILLING**

**12 HOLES ARE ALLOWED**

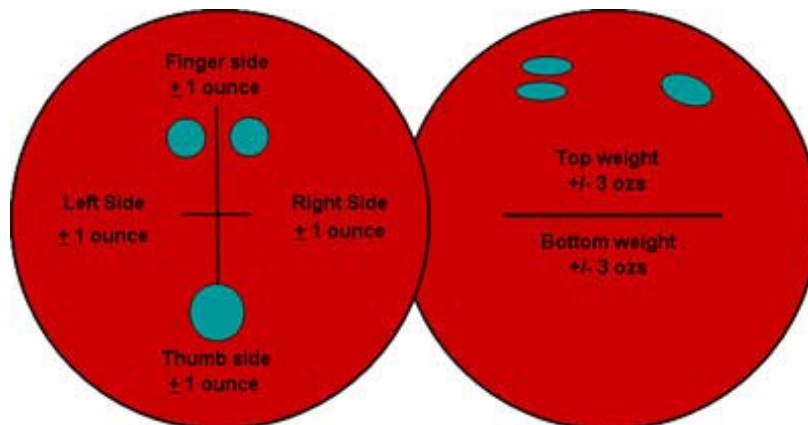
- 5 holes for gripping purposes
- 1 inspection or mill hole no more than 5/8" (1.59cm) in diameter and 1/8" (3.175mm) deep
- 5 vent holes no more than 1/4" (6.35mm) in diameter
- 1 balance hole no larger than 1 1/4" (3.175cm) in diameter including bevel



Any hole drilled for gripping purposes will not be deemed to be a balance hole. However, when delivering a ball that has a thumbhole drilled, the player must have his/her thumb in or over the thumbhole, and not 180° away from the thumb hole. If the bowler delivers a ball and did not have his/her thumb as defined, the ball will be deemed illegal for that delivery and all pinfall lost for that delivery.

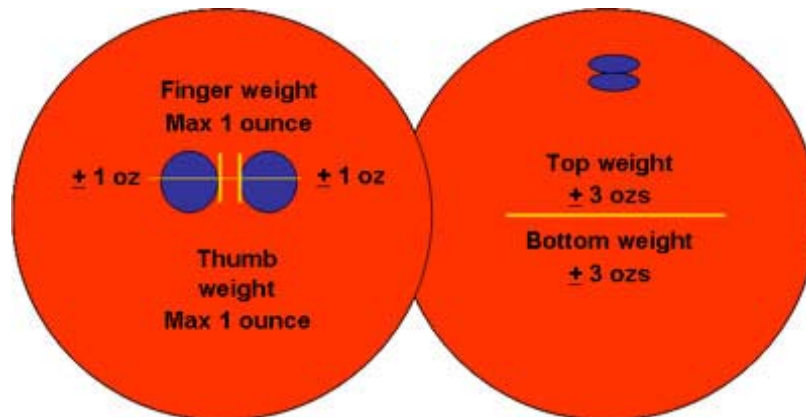
**BALANCE** - The following tolerances will be permissible in the balance of a bowling ball ten (10) pounds or more during sanctioned competition. Six sides are measured, top and bottom, left and right side of grip center, and finger and thumb side of grip center.

- There will be no more than three (3) ounces (85.05g) difference between the top half of the ball and the bottom half of the ball. Where the fingers are drilled is classed as the top half, and opposite is the bottom half.
- Not more than one (1) ounce (28.35g) difference between the sides to the right and left of the grip center line.
- Not more than one (1) ounce difference from the grip center from the fingers to the thumb sides.



- A ball drilled without a thumbhole may not have from the center of the fingers more than one (1) ounce difference between any two halves of the ball.

- A ball without any holes or indentations may not have more than one (1) ounce difference between any two halves of the ball.



***Bowling balls of less than ten (10) pounds have similar restrictions.***

- There will be no more than one (1) ounce difference between the top and bottom half of the ball.
- Not more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  ounce (21.26g) difference between the left and right sides of the grip center.
- Not more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  ounce difference between the finger and thumb sides of the grip center.

**PLUG AND DESIGNS**

- Plugs may be inserted for the purpose of re-drilling the ball. Meaning that the ball can be plugged up and re-drilled.
- Designs may be imbedded in the ball for guides, observation or identification purposes, provided such designs are flush with the outer surface of the ball. An example would be the use of axis tracers and names.
- In all cases there shall be no interior voids.
- Plugs and designs must be made of material similar to, although not exactly the same as the original material out of which the ball was made, and shall otherwise comply with all other specifications for a bowling ball.
- No foreign material may be placed on the outer surface of the bowling ball. Please be aware that finger or thumb grips or even tape from the thumb or fingers, must be flush with the outer surface of the ball, tape or paint placed on the outer surface is prohibited.