

## String Pinsetter Update

**USBC will certify string pinsetters and string pin bowling as a new category of equipment and competition effective August 1, 2023, for the 2023-2024 season.**

USBC has done a comprehensive research study on string pinsetters. The USBC Equipment Specifications Committee has approved the final specifications based on the research.

USBC will conduct additional bowler tests in the summer of 2023 to determine if a scoring conversion between string pinsetters and free fall is appropriate or if they are similar enough to forgo conversion.



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**BOWL.com/stringpinsetters**

### **CONTACT US:**

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- **Certified string pinsetters scoring is similar to free fall, but not the same:** USBC's lab data indicates strike percentage on string pinsetters will be 7.1% less than in free fall. This could result in average differences as large as 10 pins or more. Issues with strings helping convert unusual spares have been mostly fixed by the minimum 54-inch string length specifications.
- **String Pinsetter Averages:** Displayed separately on BOWL.com Find a Member. Not allowed in free-fall competition.
- **Tournaments on String Pinsetter Machines:** Free-fall averages can be used for string pinsetter competitions. For members who have established an average on string pinsetter machines and on free-fall machines, the member would enter the tournament with the highest string pinsetter machine average. USBC suggests using either all string pinsetter averages or all free-fall averages and those who do not have such an average would bowl scratch.
- **Center Certification:** Centers with string pinsetters seeking certification must contact USBC. Centers switching to string pinsetters during a league session must end the free-fall league and start a new one with string pins. Centers with older string pinsetters must have their machines modified to meet USBC specifications and have them inspected.