**As we gear up for another year of tournaments, here are the important changes we have implemented for the upcoming season**

In preparation for the upcoming season, the officers and directors of the MBA met to discuss several important topics to further improve our organization.  In addition, we also invited some non-directors from all levels of abilities to our meetings to offer any feedback and suggestions to ensure that our changes would be directly beneficial to the organization.  Thank you to Randy Harvey, Neil Vitale, Kyle Johnston, Ed Heyden for your input.  Also thanks to Jasmine Collins for proof reading the entire set of by-laws!!  Here are the changes for the current season.

1. **Tournaments will be certified with the USBC as "Challenge"** - The past season saw a significant upswing in the overall scoring at most of our tournaments, we would be forced to further increase the lower threshold of the A class higher and higher.  In order to attempt to make our tournaments more challenging as well as to reign in the scores a bit, we have decided to certify our tournaments as "Challenge".  USBC defines a "Challenge Tournament" with a lane oil ratio of between 4:1 and 8:1 (less than 4:1 is classified as "Sport" and greater than 8:1 is classified as "House").  We intend to instruct all houses to dress their lanes with a 6:1 oil ratio.  We will use the USBC Challenge Conversion Chart to convert averages from House to Challenge.  A copy of the chart is on the MBA Website for your reference.
2. **Tournament entry has increased to $70 ($75 for Masters)** - We were unable to continue our relationship with Levy Restaurants at the University of Notre Dame in working our concession stand at the home football games beginning this season.  The loss of this main source of income resulted in a loss of $400 per tournament out of the prize fund.  To help recoup this loss, we were forced to raise the tournament entry fees $5.  We hope to make up the rest of the difference by increased recruitment (so, please recruit your friends) as well as more tournament sponsors.  If you have or know of a business that would may be interested in sponsoring a tournament or at the minimum purchasing an advertising banner, please contact Ted Zimmerman or myself.
3. **We have added an H Class**- As the scores keep increasing, the bottom end of the lower classes also gets higher and higher.  This tournament was designed for the 170 average and above bowler to be able to compete on an even basis.  With this reason, we have added an H Class with a zero point of 165.  Bowlers with a house or tournament average of 182 or less (168 Challenge) will be placed in the H Class.
4. **Handicap during match play has been increased to 90% -** In an effort to keep the competition even between all levels of competition, it was agreed upon by all in attendance that the match play handicap should be increased to 90%.  The previous rule was one that was in place from the beginning (1975) which 70 - 80% handicap was the norm in adult leagues.
5. **Youth SMART waiver forms are now on the MBA Website -** For the convenience of all youth bowlers, I have placed the required SMART waiver form on the MBA website under the Schedule tab.  The form must be signed by their parent or guardian and submitted before a youth bowler can participate in their first MBA tournament.

For your convenience, the schedule and complete by-laws are posted on our website, [www.mba300.com](http://www.mba300.com/).  The schedule is also listed on the left margin of this notice.  We hope to see all of you at our first event on September 23rd at Strikes & Spares in Mishawaka.

Thanks,

Ted Zimmerman

Greg Spinner

Tony Ferro

Landon Wiegand

Adam Pitrowski

Jeff Chicos