

1962

New

DUCKPIN SCORING SYSTEM

Being Field Tested

A NEW duckpin scoring system, designed to stimulate added interest in the game among the average bowler, is now being field tested to determine its feasibility.

Just to reach the field testing stage, much discussion has transpired between various integers in the bowling industry with the Duckpin Bowling Council and the National Duckpin Bowling Congress being two of the most interested participants.

Although the proposed system is being field tested, no change has been authorized in the regular scoring system for the 1961-62 season with all averages being the same since the game came into being at the turn of the century.

The basic problem is one of educating the bowler who attempts to draw a comparison between duckpins and tenpins. Even though the present scoring system of both forms of bowling is the same, the degree of difficulty is vastly different.

Twelve consecutive strikes in duckpins would be like a 3:40 mile, an eight-foot high jump, or shooting a golf course in 12 under par. In fact, the other feats might be more realistic. In 60 years of duckpinning, the highest game on record is 241. In tenpins, more than 250 sanctioned perfect games are recorded each year.

The proposed scoring system is simple since it parallels the present system. For a strike, a bowler would receive 20, instead of 10, plus two bonus balls. On a spare, a bowler also would receive 20 plus one bonus ball. For a fill (knocking down all 10 pins on the third ball), a bowler would receive a flat 20. And when less than 10 is knocked down in any box (frame), the

bowler receives that exact score. A perfect 12-strike game would give a bowler 600 score. The sample score below explains the system in greater detail.

The proposed system puts more emphasis on getting all the pins down in the fill as well as on a spare or a strike. This makes the third ball important, whereas under the present system only a few pins can be picked up with the third ball.

and 106 a duckpin score. The average bowler wants to compare the two, whereas the star duckpinner makes the comparison only within his own ranks.

The problem is that good bowlers come from "average" beginners and many proprietors believe that the scoring system has, in instances, been a detriment to the public accepting duckpins as a competitive sport among the general public.

Eddie Goldberg, president of North

COMPARABLE SCORES UNDER PRESENT STANDARD AND PROPOSED SCORING METHODS

		GAME OF LOW AVERAGE										TOTAL
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
PRESENT	10	22	32	41	57	66	76	89	99	106	106	
PROPOSED	20	42	62	71	97	106	126	149	169	176	176	

Pete Santora, BPAA Duckpin Liaison Committee Chairman, puts the situation in its proper perspective.

Said Santora, "Duckpins is basically a fascinating thrill-packed game filled with lots of drama and excitement, but to bowlers who do not fully understand the finer aspects and accept the tremendous challenge it presents—it is a frustrating game, generally producing low scores as a reward. Seasoned above average duckpinners thrive on this challenge, but the many participants who bowl for fun and enjoyment derive little satisfaction out of low scores."

The situation becomes accentuated when two employees at the office discuss their bowling of the night before and compare their 146 and 106. It turns out the 146 was a tenpin score

America Bowling, brought the situation to light in a recent letter to the editor of a Washington, D.C., area bowling publication.

Remarked Goldberg, "Why does duckpin scoring have to stay the way it accidentally aped tenpin scoring when the game started years ago? The answer is, 'It doesn't.' After comparing the record for duckpins and tenpins, Goldberg said, "This unquestionably builds a distorted image of 'scores to accomplishment'. The relative values have been wrong, and the problem lies in our present scoring method."

Star bowlers react that "inflated" scores will cheapen the game. Yet, Goldberg and Santora point out that bowlers have accepted every conceivable change from shallower gutters

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Miss Wilson with 123-43 for 56 games in two events and Edith Adams of Rockville, Md., with 123-24 for 28 games in one tourney.

In the competition at Norfolk's Bowlarama, the 48 men will roll 18 games in the preliminary round, in three six-game blocks, while the 32 women will bowl 12 games, in three four-game blocks.

The top eight men bowlers and the top six women bowlers, on a total pin-fall basis, then will advance into the final round for two days, Monday and Tuesday, March 12 and 13, of head-to-head match play under the BPAA Point System of Scoring.

Each of the finalists will bowl a match, the men four-game affairs and the women three-game tests, against each of the other finalists. The eighth round in the men's division and the sixth round in the women's section will be a position round, with the leading bowler meeting the second-place bowler, the third-place bowler meeting the fourth-place bowler and so on through the standings.

Under the BPAA Point System, a bowler receives a point for every game won and a point for every 30 pins knocked down. In the event of a tie game, a bowler gets credit for a half-point or 15 pins. A bowler also receives a half-point (or 15 pins) if he, or she, loses the majority of games in a match but outpins his, or her, opponent.

In addition to Volk and Dietsch there have been five other men's BPAA Duckpin All-Star champions. Frank Micalizzi of Silver Spring, Md., triumphed in the initial event, in 1955 at Colonial Village, Arlington, Va., and was succeeded by Jim Wolfensberger of Hagerstown, Md., George Pelletier of Danielson, Conn., Norman Titus of Silver Spring, Md., Dietsch and Cliff Kidd of Baltimore.

Miss Walsh won the first women's tournament, in 1959 at Colonial Village, and then Miss Wilson took over with her two triumphs.

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and closer pit cushions to shallower pits and redesigned pins.

None of these changes reflect more accuracy, Santora said, but on paper reflect higher scores. Said the Fair Lanes executive, "Woe to the proprietor who failed to comply with the change."

Santora believes the proposed scoring system will be a "shot in the arm" because it will show star bowlers receiving the biggest average gains even though all averages will be increased

substantially.

To test the proposed scoring system, the Duckpin Bowling Congress has requested leagues in all sections of the nation keep a duplicate record of scores under the proposed system so that the Congress can make comparisons.

League secretaries and bowlers taking part also are asked to forward their comments to the Congress so that the proposed system for scoring duckpins can be adequately judged from the standpoint of both scores and public acceptance.

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