

International Bowling Federation Compliant String Center Requirements

Background Information

After extensive research and consideration, the International Bowling Federation (“IBF”) is embracing string pinspotter technology and has approved the use of string machines for sport leagues and sport competitive tournament play worldwide (“Sport Bowling”). Centers wishing to use string machines for Sport Bowling must comply with the requirements set forth herein (“IBF String Center Requirements”). These requirements are intended to ensure consistency across approved string machine centers (“IBF Compliant String Center”) and maximum alignment with free-fall centers.

The IBF fully supports any federation around the world that allows the use of string machines for Sport Bowling. Specifically, Bowling Federations that:

- Extend their memberships to IBF Compliant String Centers.
- Recognize Sport Bowling leagues and tournaments which are held in IBF Compliant String Centers.
- Recognize bowler averages and scores bowled on string machines in IBF Compliant String Centers.

IBF String Center Requirements

The criteria below are taken from universally recognized requirements for Sport Bowling on free-fall machines and adapted for string machine centers as appropriate. To be an IBF Compliant String Center a bowling center operating string machines must meet the following criteria:

1) Lanes

The bowling center must contain IBF compliant bowling lanes and components in accordance with the current version of the IBF Statutes and Playing Rules, Chapter 9: Lane Specifications. Specifically, sections 9.1 Introduction, 9.2 Construction, 9.3 Approach, 9.4 Foul Line and Detective Device, 9.5 Length and Width, 9.6 Surface and 9.7 Markings or Design.

2) Pin Deck

The pin deck should be in accordance with the current version of the IBF Statutes and Playing Rules, Chapter 9: Lane Specifications, section 9.8.

3) Gutters

Round gutters and flat gutters should be in accordance with the current version of the IBF Statutes and Playing Rules, Chapter 9: Lane Specifications, section 9.8.

4) Kickbacks

For the purposes of IBF String Center Requirements the relevant aspects of the kickback are material, placement, spacing and height.

- The kickback may be constructed entirely of hardwood. Other materials such as synthetic, either alone or in combination with hardwood which result in consistent performance properties with solid hardwood, may be used.
- The kickbacks must be installed parallel to the lane.

- The kickbacks must extend from a point opposite or within 15" (381 mm) ahead of the number 1 pin spot to the rear cushion wall. See Figure A.
- The distance between the wood faces of the two kickbacks must be 60.125" +/- 0.125" (1527.18 mm +/- 3.75 mm). See Figure B.
- The kickback height above the lane shall be 17" (431.8 mm) or higher.
- The kickbacks, behind the tail plank, may be covered with impregnated fiber glass, hard vulcanized fiber, or laminated phenolic (Grade "C" or "CE").

Figure A

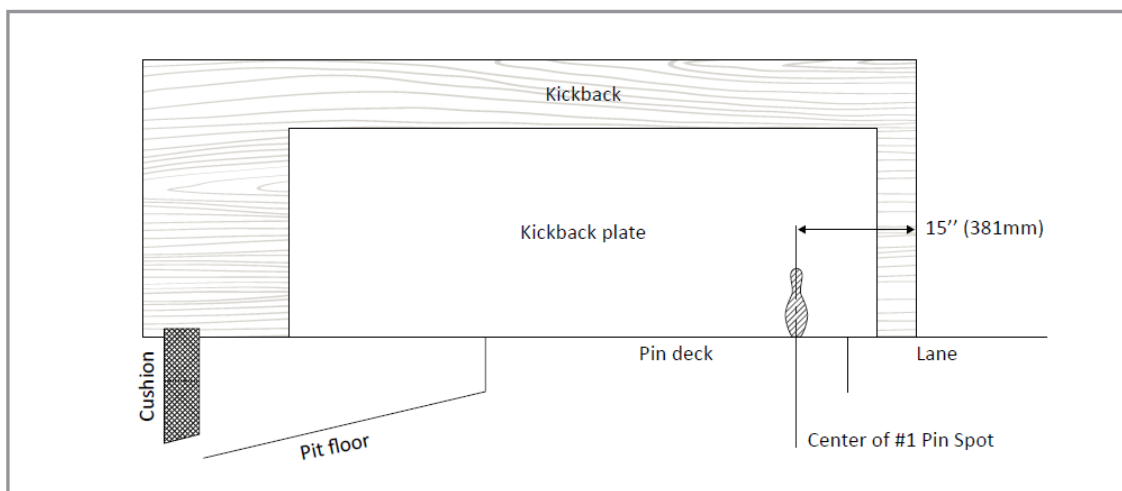
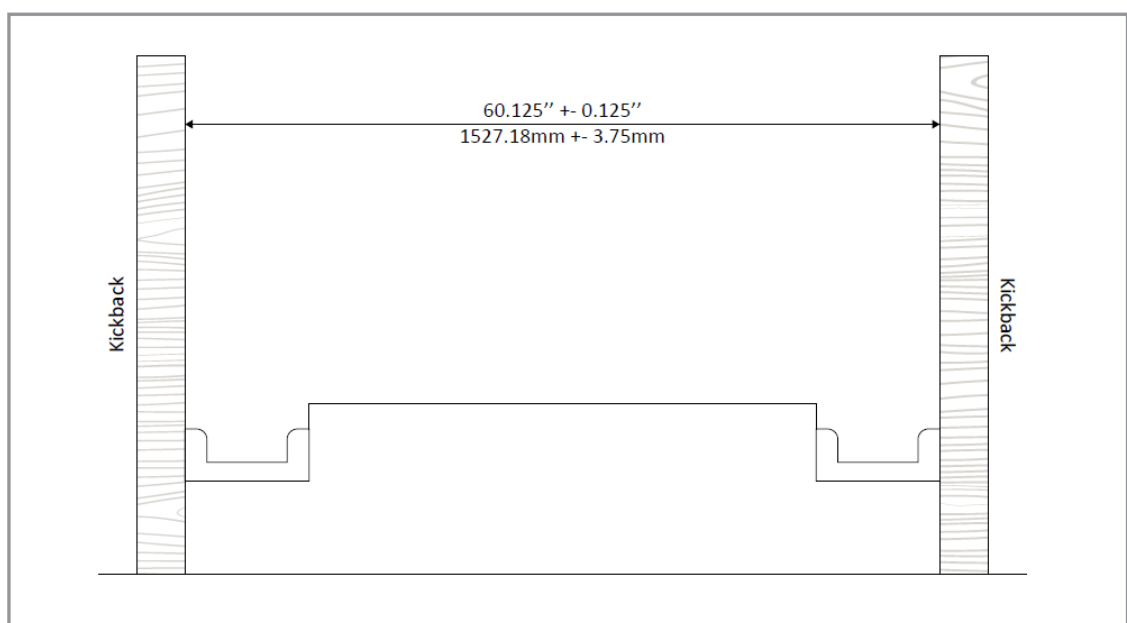


Figure B



5) Kickback Plates

- The kickbacks may be covered with a kickback plate of a thickness not to exceed 3/16" (4.78 mm).
- The materials listed below may be used:
 - Hard vulcanized fiber
 - Laminated phenolic (Grade "C" or "CE")
 - Rigid thermoplastic copolymer

Other materials may be used provided they have consistent performance properties with ones listed above.

6) Pins

The string pins used must be IBF compliant in accordance the current version of the IBF Statutes and Playing Rules, Chapter 10: Pin specifications. Specifically, sections 10.1 Introduction, 10.2 Material, 10.3 Weight, 10.4 Finish, 10.5 Design and Measurement, and 10.6 Maintenance of Pins.

These pins are allowed to be modified with a small hole drilled in the top and out the side of the head of the pin for the purpose of attaching the pin to the string. See Figure C. After material has been removed as a result of these holes, the pin must remain within the pin weight tolerance allowed by IBF.

To promote even wear across all pins and more consistent play, it is recommended that IBF Compliant String Centers maintain a pin rotation program that ensures pins are rotated every 90 days minimum.

Figure C

