

Bowling Through the Ages

The American Bowling Congress standardized the rules of bowling in 1895, and the first tournament for professionals and amateurs was held in 1901. Women's bowling became official in 1916 with the Women's International Bowling Congress. The WIBC, as it was known, held its first women's tournament in 1917. In 1982, the Young American Bowlers Alliance (YABA) was founded to promote bowling to children and teens.

Several important advances were made in the sport of bowling in the early 1900s. For many centuries, bowling balls were made out of hard wood. Then, in 1905, they began manufacturing them out of rubber. Today's balls are made of urethane and a reactive resin. Finger holes did not gain acceptability until 1889-99 and in the early 1930s, the three-hole ball gained popularity. In 1936, a pin spotter was invented. Before mechanical devices were used to reset the pins, young children sat at the end of the lane and cleared or reset the pins after each bowl. In the 1970s, all scoring was done manually on a score sheet provided by the bowling alley. Today, automatic scoring systems not only keep score, they provide a source of entertainment and instruction for bowlers. Bumper guards and cosmic bowling are two more revelations that make the sport of bowling entertaining for people of all ages and skill levels.

Get Ahead With Bowler's Ed- In-School Bowling. Retrieved February 2, 2007, from www.Bowlersed.com