

TARGETING FOR BEGINNERS

On a bowling lane, there are lots of things to 'look at'. There are dots at the foul line, a different set of dots 8' past the foul line, a set of arrows 15' away, and sometimes a set of 4 dark boards well down the lane. There are also the pins. Most beginners tend to look at the pins because they're the most obvious visual cue. They're also the thing you're trying to knock down so it makes sense. Unfortunately, an object that is 60' from you is not the easiest to hit.

When learning to bowl, it is best to use the arrows as a targeting system. They are consistent across all makes and models of lanes, and they are exactly 1/4 of the way down the lane. Creating this 1:3 ratio on the lane is important as you progress and learn to use different targets.

For right-handed bowlers, the best thing to do is to aim at either the 2nd or 3rd arrow from the right, creating a little bit of angle onto the head pin. Aiming at the 4th (or middle) arrow is comfortable but not very effective. The second arrow is also located near the 'oil line' of the oil on the lane, which will definitely benefit you, for reasons that will be explained in our entry about lane oil.

BOWLING LINGO

Here is some bowling lingo so you can sound like the pros

- The Approach, is the area where bowlers deliver their bowling balls
- The Lane, is the surface the ball rolls on as it makes its way towards the pins
- Gutter Ball, is when your ball enters the gutter and falls off the lane and out of bounds
- A Strike Out, is when you throw three strikes in a row in the 10th frame
- A Split, is when you leave pins standing to both sides of the pin(s) you've knocked down on your first ball, making for a harder spare.
- And A Turkey is when score three strikes in a row

What is a Handicap System and how does it work?...

This is a system that equalizes play against bowlers with different averages... For Example: a league uses a 100% handicap based on 225. If Bob's average is 150, $(225-150=75, 75 \times 100\% = 75)$ Bob's handicap is 75. If Kathy's average is 200, $(225-200=25, 25 \times 100\% = 25)$ Kathy's handicap is 25. If Bob & Kathy both bowl their average, their handicap score would be Bob 225 and Kathy 225. This way no one has an unfair advantage, whether you're a good bowler or a beginner bowler. If Kathy bowls 10 pins above her average (210 score), it gives Kathy a 235 handicapped score, If in the same game, Bob throws 25 pins above his average (a 175 score) his handicapped score would be 250 and he would win the point over Kathy. For Leagues using less than 100% handicap, the handicap would be less, giving a slight advantage to the better bowler. If Bob bowled in an 80% handicapped league, his handicap would be 60 $(225-150=75, 75 \times 80\% = 60)$. Its not too late to join a bowling League at Woodlawn Bowl give us a call **(519) 823-2695** and we will be more than happy to help you find the right league for you to bowl.

BOWLING ETIQUETTE

When it comes to league bowling, pairing experienced bowlers with inexperienced, or recreational, bowlers can sometimes create interesting situations. Like any sport, there are basic rules of etiquette. Just as you wouldn't scream at someone getting ready to tee off on the golf course, you shouldn't scream at someone getting ready to bowl - that sort of thing. Below is a list of some basic "Do's" and "Don'ts" for those of you who don't bowl on a regular basis. But in a nutshell, mind your manners and be courteous of those bowling around you.

DO... Give the bowlers on the lanes next to you (i.e. if you are on lane 4, the bowlers on lanes 3 and 5) the right of way. What does this mean? Before getting on the approach to begin your bowling shot, you must pay attention to the lanes next to you. If someone is already on the approach on the lane on either side of you, you should wait.

DON'T... Talk to bowlers while they are in the process of making a shot. It is important that a bowler has every opportunity to concentrate on what he/she is doing when they are bowling. Once the frame is complete, talk away.

DO... Be polite. Don't antagonize the other bowlers on your pair of lanes. Everybody deserves to have a good time bowling and there is no place for pestering and insulting other bowlers in bowling.

DON'T... Use another bowler's equipment without asking. This kind of goes without saying, but someone's equipment can be very important to them. This rule applies to everything from balls and bags to towels and hand cleaner. Nowadays a lot of the equipment that bowlers use to bowl is pretty expensive as well.

DO... Enjoy your bowling.