

String Pins Q&A



What are String pins?

They are standard bowling pins with a hole drilled into the top of the neck and one horizontal on the side. The string passes down and then out of the side where it is knotted. The string is then retracted so the knot is not seen. The string is then adjusted on the pinsetter to assure uniform length and tension.

How is scoring recorded?

Scoring is recorded when the 'string' extends more than a predetermined amount. There are no cameras involved. If however, a pin or pins remain standing but have moved, it may be recorded as fallen. These must be reset as otherwise it's illegal pinfall. If the pinsetter does not record it as fallen the pin will go back to its original spot for the spare shot.

Is pinfall reaction different?

The interaction of the strings can occasionally affect scoring in an advantageous way. Equally it can work against you too. **Importantly** string 'action' can be late but still be legal. Attention by all players to what is happening after the ball hits the pins, is very important. Once the guard **immediately starts to drop** in front of the pins, any that then fall are illegal and must be reset. A provisional ball, see BTBA General playing rule 10 applies in the event of a protest.

Does the BTBA recognise high scores on string pins?

Yes. They are treated the same as scores on freefall.

Are averages attained in a string pin centre adjusted in any way when entering an event in a free fall centre?

No. The BTBA treat averages on either machine identically.

What if the centre has a mix of freefall and string machines?

A mix of the pinspotters is acceptable in a sanctioned league. A schedule would in the main have all teams playing on each pair of lanes across a season.