



Bowler's Start-Up

**A Beginner's
Guide to *Bowling*
Start-Up Sports®
Doug Werner**



“Motivates and encourages newcomers of all ages to enjoy America’s favorite recreational pastime.”

**Remo Picchiatti
Bowling Hall of
Famer**





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**A Beginner's Guide
to Bowling**

By Doug Werner

Start-Up Sports® #5

Tracks Publishing
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Dedicated to
Kathleen Wheeler

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Preface

Bowling is the Great American Recreation. It's woven into the fabric of most of our lives. It's almost pointless to talk numbers because nearly everyone has bowled at one time or another. It's like asking folks if they've ever played catch. Or gone to the movies. Or ridden a bike.

And like catch, or the movies, or bicycle riding, we sometimes take bowling for granted. Not because it's forgettable, but because it's so pervasive. It's everywhere. It's always been around and probably always will be.

That's because bowling is a game for everybody. *It's a game everybody can get up and do!*

Anyway, enjoy the book. It's designed to be j-u-s-t informative enough to get you going. And entertaining enough for you to finish.

Then get outta here and bowl a few.

Bowl Dog

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Old time alleys were sorta like saloons. Dark, dank and somewhat suspect. Women were not welcome, but the persistent ones were allowed to bowl behind curtains. *(Photo courtesy of the Bowling Hall of fame and Museum.)*

Intro

Bowler Nation

They used to call them *bowling alleys*.

That name was officially discarded years ago when the first *bowling centers* were built in the 50s. The *alley* word wouldn't do to describe these shiny new edifices springing up across the land. Bowling wanted to reach out to mid-century America and leave its old time, saloon image behind.

And *centers* did just that. Big time. The gleaming, automated bowling center was the kind of place that really wowed `em all. They attracted millions to the sport. Everybody became a bowler. Bowling became mainstream and a mainstay in American culture.

Today, the best centers are like little Disneylands. Replete with restaurants, lounges, child care, billiard tables, amusement/arcade areas, video game rooms, banquet facilities, even volleyball courts. The marketing people like to call them *bowling-based family recreational centers*.

But whatever the name, it's still the *game* that draws

the crowds. Every town that really is a town has a place to bowl. In this country bowling is something of a rite of passage that doesn't ever end. Because people can bowl from age 3 to 103. It's truly a lifetime sport.

Rainbowl coalition

In bowling centers people *play*. Everyone is dressed down and feeling up. It's sorta like a day at the ball park except the entire crowd is *participating* in the game. The air is filled with the sound of crashing pins and a hundred happy voices (well, mostly happy). Because it's a lotta fun knocking down the pins with your pals.

And the people! All *kinds* of people. Old ones, young ones, fat ones, skinny ones, male ones, female ones, black ones, white ones, expert ones, novice ones, rich ones, and not-so-rich ones. Lordy! It's like the entire rainbow coalition every night (and day).

Haven't all these bowlers heard? Americans are supposed to be a very fragmented lot these days. Nobody gets along anymore. Don't they read the newspapers? Don't they watch TV? What exactly is going on in these bowling centers? What would Ricky Lake say?

If it's all that harmonious maybe the next World Summit should be held in a center (*Bowling for World Peace*). Or the next round of Major League Negotiations (*Bowling for Dollars*). For sure the OJ trial should have moved itself into one (*Bowling for Justice*).

Ah, but I digress.

The reason everybody bowls (and most everybody does bowl, or, as in your case, wants to) is because it's just plain fun. It's also convenient, inexpensive, and cozy. Everybody is friendly at the center (what's there to be unfriendly about when you're bowling?) and as far as I know, they don't allow boom boxes inside. Or tobacco (anymore) or guns or gang-related activities of any sort.

It's a swell time and a great game for all.

There it is.