

Hoinke Classic Formal Complaint

-A Case of Integrity over an Undocumented Tournament Rule-

Date: 4/21/24

TO:

- Michelle Herbers, **Hoinke Classic Tournament Director**
Hoinkebowl@strikeandspare.net
- Eileen Siegel, **Hoinke Classic Tournament Scorekeeper**
- USBC,
bowlinfo@bowl.com
rules@bowl.com

CC:

Western Bowl Strike & Spare
6383 Glenway Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45211
513-574-2222

- Charles Cornish, **Western Bowl Strike & Spare Representative**
- Jimmy Waters, **Western Bowl Strike & Spare Representative**

From:

Michael Duncombe, **Hoinke Classic Tournament Participant**

Complaint Summary

Traveling on our relocation journey from Florida to Minnesota, my doubles partner Ms. Franciska Jenne and I, decided to take an alternative route through Cincinnati, OH to bowl the Doubles Event at the Hoinke Classic Tournament on April 20th, 2024 @ 3:30pm. The shift was to be bowled on a 'burnt' pattern as the lanes were oiled for the previous shift. Our beginning pair was on lanes 23/24 and we were to move one pair to the right according to 'Rule 24' of the 2024 Hoinke Classic Tournament Rules.

After completion of Game 1, our pair of lanes was then set to move one pair to the right to lanes 25/26. However, 25/26 was not bowled on during the previous shift, thus was not a 'burnt' shot and instead was fresh oil. The matter was addressed to our Hoinke Classic Tournament Scorekeeper, Eileen Siegel, that our pair of lanes should then 'Skip A Pair' to lanes 27/28 as that pair of lanes was a 'burnt' shot. Eileen Siegel quoted to us that, "We will bowl on 25/26, see what happens, and if it doesn't work out then we will move to 27/28."

Being unaware of 'Rule 24' of the 2024 Hoinke Classic Tournament Rules at that time, the bowlers on our pair of lanes requested to move to 27/28 in which Eileen Siegel went to the front counter to discuss this matter with Western Bowl Strike & Spare Representatives and Hoinke Classic Tournament Operators. It was then determined that 27/28 and 29/30 were not formatted for tournament play because of an error caused by Hoinke Classic Tournament Operators. After a 10 minute delay 27/28 were formatted for single game play in which after our first shot on the lane it broke down for another 5 minutes.

As lifetime bowlers, Ms. Franciska Jenne and I, understand that in life, and especially bowling, what can go wrong- will go wrong. So instead of complaining or making a scene in which many

bowlers rightfully may do with such stakes on the line including the financial investment and potential we financial reward, we wisely and respectably asked the Hoinke Classic Tournament Director, Michelle Herbers, to credit our 3:30pm shift entry towards the 6:00pm shift to ensure we had an equal playing opportunity as the other competitors that were not subject to an error caused by Hoinke Classic Tournament Operators

This is when we were notified of an Undocumented Tournament Rule, according to the Hoinke Classic Tournament Director, Michelle Herbers, that states that we may drop out of our current shift but would then be required to use our Game 1 score and only bowl 2 games on the 6:00pm shift. Being put into a corner with no escape, we completed Game 2 on lanes 27/28, but would then be required to 'Skip A Pair' and move back to lanes 21/22 for Game 3.

Pulling rabbits out of hats when it comes to creating Undocumented Tournament Rules instead of doing the right thing as a good person is what lead me to question not only the integrity of the event, but the integrity of the Hoinke Classic Tournament Director, Michelle Herbers. When the integrity of the Tournament Director is in question AND the *Documented* Tournament Rules are not enacted, then this becomes a matter of great concern for traveling bowlers that may spend thousands of dollars to compete and may loose out of potential tens of thousands dollars because of an error caused by the Hoinke Classic Tournament Operators.

In the Hoinke Classic's 82nd year of being one of the premier Amateur bowling tournaments in the World, there comes a time when passing the torch to the next generation of Tournament Operators may be necessary to continue the legacy of the brand, the functionality and integrity of the event, and most importantly to ensure that traveling participants are protected from Undocumented Tournament Rules.

Resolution Request

1. A refund for the Cost of Entry (\$96) in which will then subject the forfeiture of any and all entitled prize funds.
2. An expressed acknowledgment and apology of the error caused by the Hoinke Classic Tournament Operators to the 'group' we bowled with.
3. An amendment to the 2024 Hoinke Classic Tournament Rules that protects participants from Undocumented Tournament Rules. This amendment then should become a Tournament Rule in each subsequent Hoinke Classic.

Michael Duncombe

Michael Duncombe

4/21/24

Date

This Formal Complaint shall be shared in a public manner to protect traveling participants.