

SHOP TALK

JERRY FRANCOMANO

To do or not to do

Well, here we go again. A new bowling season already is under way and everywhere are dreams of the perfect game or league championship. The following are just some ideas of what to do or not to do to help make this season the best ever for you, your teammates, and fellow league bowlers.

Do...have that grip checked out to make sure no changes have taken place in your hand during the summer.

Don't...put that dull urethane ball in a ball cleaner. Wipe it off with alcohol to get the dirt and grime out of the pores.

Do...change those fingers inserts that you used all last season. They will lose their shape and texture from extended use and cause you to grip the ball unnaturally.

Don't...go right out and attempt to bowl your league without stretching and exercising a bit or bowling a game or two of practice so your body can get ready to roll.

Do...introduce yourself to your center's manager on duty so you know who to give your words of constructive criticism to and also so you know who to thank for a job well done.

Don't...take league officers for granted. They have a tough job to do, so make sure you appoint people who are willing and capable of doing the job.

Do...get in those practice sessions you promised yourself this season. Many centers offer daytime and weekend specials—take advantage of them.

Don't...try to get one more season out of those old, worn shoes. Shoes that will not slide or stop you properly will hurt your game if not your body, too.

Do...support and applaud our local associations. They are the ones who stand behind and help to guide the leagues we bowl in. They take the heat when things go wrong, so let's give them a "thanks for the support" when things go well.

Don't...forget that bowling is supposed to be a fun sport. Enjoy yourself even when the bowling gods are not smiling on you. It will make the nights that they bless you even better.

Do...support the people who organize and run the tournaments in our area; they give those of us who thrive on competition the opportunity to play our game on a different level.

Don't...blame your teammates or the lanes for a loss or a bad night. A season is made up of many games over many weeks and the better you deal with each one, the better you will feel at season's end.

Do...ask questions and talk to the pros in our area; they will be glad to help you if they can. Many of them give lessons and would be more than willing to help you with your game.

Don't...confine yourself to bowling in just one center. Try that second league in a different house or practice in different centers from time to time; it will make you a better player.

Do...read that book or watch that video. Take that lesson or attend that seminar on bowling and learn all you can. Remember: "knowledge is the key."

Above all, do have a great season, enjoy yourself, do the best you can, and remember that your favorite pro shop is there to help you make this your best year ever.

Jerry Francomano, one of the area's top bowlers for many years, operates the Sports Plus/Carmen Don Pro Shop in Alexandria. He will happily answer any equipment- or pro shop-related questions sent to BOWL Magazine.

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- NCABA awards you can win!
- Local media contacts
- "The Guru" reviews George Allen's *The Mental Game*
- Steve Harter discusses the bowler's approach