



All,

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as President of the DPBA for the past 4 Years. As President, one of the most important aspects of my position was to guide the organization in a direction that represented the future long-term best interest of the DPBA. Along with the help and support of the Governing Body, I believe that we accomplished that.

One cannot view the future of the DPBA without understanding the demographics trends within our industry and country. Items like fewer sanctioned bowlers; fewer duckpin bowling establishments; shrinking membership; rising travel costs; and increasing competition for each and every dollar provide significant headwinds for us as an organization. While there are challenges, I believe that the DPBA can thrive as an organization and continue to be, “the best in duckpin bowling.” In an effort to better address some of these items, I believe that the DPBA should adopt:

### **A 6-event schedule**

I believe that the future of the DPBA lies in a 6 event schedule beginning in April and culminating with The Master’s on Labor Day weekend. Reducing our schedule to 6 events does not signal defeat, only a realization of the times. Every year it becomes more and more apparent that October and November represent a challenging time for our members to participate in events. I believe that can be attributed mostly to financial constraints associated with weekly league dues as well as the forthcoming holidays. A 6 event schedule reduces the financial commitment to the DPBA through reduced entry fees and travel. Ultimately it is difficult to commit yourself and your family, from both a financial and time commitment standpoint, to an 8 event schedule. With a commitment from our membership, I believe that a reduced schedule ultimately results in more entries per tour and a more stable organization.

## **The STAR Round, or “Brackets,” for all DPBA events**

I believe that the STAR Round, or “Brackets,” add an immeasurable amount of excitement and increased level of competition and as such should be the Sunday format for all DPBA events. It makes divisional games 4 and 5 much more exciting by providing more bowlers an opportunity to advance while also requiring the eventual champion to win multiple single elimination games. While some may prefer the more traditional “Ladder” format, I submit that it can be influenced by lane conditions and divisional make-up, while favoring higher average bowlers. It’s not unlike the situation when Major League Baseball added a wild card. Many were initially upset and outraged at changing the traditional format, but I believe that time has shown just how exciting and important that change was.

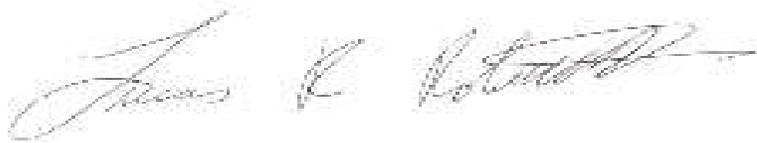
While there are many things I would change and do differently, one of my regrets as President of the DPBA, was that both Joey Sears and Roy Cochefksi, Jr., were not elected into the DPBA Hall-of-Fame this past year. I truly believe that they both more than deserve that honor and remain among the best bowlers of our generation. It is my hope that they be elected to the DPBA Hall-of-Fame when that honor is next voted upon.

I would like to thank the Governing Body for their support, personal counsel, and dedication to the DPBA. I do not believe that you receive the recognition that you deserve. Your contributions are immeasurable.

I would like to thank each and everyone one of our members. I am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to know many of you on a more personal level. The success of the DPBA is based upon your continued commitment.

Please know that while my time as President comes to an end, I remain committed to the DPBA and will continue to be a member and compete in what I believe is the best organization in duckpin bowling.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lucas R. Robustelli". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Lucas R. Robustelli  
President, DPBA