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Dear Bowler,

Congratulations on winning a position on your Zone's Contingent to the Ontario Open 5 Pin Championships. These Championships are being conducted from **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8** to **SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2009** at Sherwood Centre in Hamilton.

While only one team or individual can win in each event, we wish you the best of luck in the Provincial Championships. Winners this year (with the exception of the Senior Mixed Team) will advance to the Canadian Championships scheduled from **JUNE 3 – 6, 2009** in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

We have provided you with a package of information regarding the Provincial Championships which includes the following:

- Map of Hamilton
- Rules & Regulations
- Schedule of Events
- Bowlers' Investment Seminar Information
- Bowlers' Investment Seminar Entry Form – **(Singles Only)**
- Ontario Open Triples Event – **(Singles Only)**

PERSONALIZED BOWLING BALLS

Sherwood Centre will allow bowlers to use their own personalized bowling balls.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Hotel accommodation has been arranged at the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, 116 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario. Their telephone number is (905) 529-5515.

PLEASE NOTE: THE SHERATON HAMILTON HOTEL IS NOW COMPLETELY NON-SMOKING THEREFORE IF YOU REQUIRE A SMOKING ROOM I WOULD SUGGEST YOU ARRANGE YOUR OWN HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AT ANOTHER HOTEL.

The room rate is \$80.00 plus 3% DMF (\$2.40), 5% PST (\$4.00) and 5% GST (\$4.00) for a total of \$90.40 per night based on single, double, triple or quad occupancy. **The 3% DMF (Destination Marketing Fee) is a fee that has been implemented by the City of Hamilton. This fee will be collected by the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel on behalf of Tourism Hamilton and will apply to all guest room rates.**

NO ROOMS WILL BE BOOKED FOR MORE THAN FOUR (4) PEOPLE IN A ROOM. If you will not share a double bed, I would suggest that you book your own room. There will be a very limited number of cots available at a cost of \$28.00 (taxes included) per cot per night. **Cots must be pre-ordered and pre-paid on your Participant Information Form.**

Please also be advised that corner rooms are considered to be deluxe rooms by the hotel. The room rate for a corner room is \$90.00 plus 3% DMF (\$2.70), 5% PST (\$4.50) and 5% GST (\$4.50) for a total of \$101.70 per night.

PLEASE NOTE:

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL CORNER ROOMS HAVE ONE (1) KING BED IN THEM. THESE ROOMS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR MORE THAN TWO (2) PEOPLE SHARING A ROOM. ANY CORNER ROOMS REQUESTED CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND WILL THEREFORE BE SUBJECT TO HOTEL AVAILABILITY!!!!

When you check into the hotel you will be asked for a credit card or refundable cash deposit to cover your incidental charges (i.e. parking, telephone calls, movies etc.).

To receive the above room rates all rooms MUST be booked through your Team Coach. NO ROOMS WILL BE BOOKED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. The Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association will accept payment by cheque, money order, VISA or Mastercard. If you are paying by cheque or money order, please make it payable to the "Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association". **POST-DATED CHEQUES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** If your cheque is post-dated, your room reservation **WILL NOT** be booked and your cheque will be returned. **If you are paying by credit card, your payment will be processed to your credit card on the date we receive your Participant Information Form.**

Room reservations will be accepted on a **first-come first-served basis.** When our room allotment at the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel is full, anyone still requiring a room reservation will be responsible for finding their own hotel accommodations. **NO ROOMS WILL BE BOOKED WITHOUT THE APPROPRIATE PAYMENT.** **Please get your reservations in early to avoid any disappointment.**

We would also like to point out that check-in at the hotel is 3:00 p.m. All rooms have been guaranteed by our Association. As we do guarantee all rooms with the hotel, we must pay for them whether they are occupied or not. **In order for you to cancel your hotel accommodation, we must have twenty-four (24) hours notice, otherwise you will be charged for the room.**

Your Team Coach will be providing you with a "PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM". **ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST COMPLETE A PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM WHETHER THEY ARE SHARING A ROOM WITH ANOTHER BOWLER OR NOT.**

Once you have completed your Participant Information Form please return it to your Team Coach along with the appropriate payment **IMMEDIATELY.** The Team Coach will then return all Participant Information Forms for the team to the Provincial Office prior to the deadline date of **MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009.**

ASSESSMENT FEE

ALL BOWLERS, COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES PARTICIPATING IN THE ONTARIO OPEN 5 PIN CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE REQUIRED TO PAY A \$30.00 ASSESSMENT FEE.

THIS ASSESSMENT FEE MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE ON THE “PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM” PROVIDED TO YOU BY YOUR TEAM COACH. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST COMPLETE A PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DRESS CODE FORM

When you qualified for the Open back in December at the Zone roll-offs, you were given a Bowler's/Coaches' Questionnaire to complete. Attached to that questionnaire is an “**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DRESS CODE FORM**”. Please be advised that each participant **MUST** complete and sign this form to acknowledge they understand and agree to abide by the dress code as outlined. **Failure to sign this form may result in not being permitted to compete in the event.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM

Also attached to the Bowler's/Coaches' Questionnaire is an “**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM**”. In order to ensure our Association of liability coverage, our insurance company has insisted that an Acknowledgement of Risk and Release of Liability Form be signed by **ALL PARTICIPANTS** in our Provincial Championships. **Participants who do not complete and sign the form will not be allowed to bowl.** This is an action that may seem drastic but is necessary for the well being of your Association.

VICTORY BANQUET AND AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

ALL COMPETITORS AND TEAM COACHES MUST WEAR THEIR FULL UNIFORMS TO THE VICTORY BANQUET. THERE WILL BE NO ADMITTANCE TO THE VICTORY BANQUET IF COMPETITORS AND TEAM COACHES DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE RULE.

The Victory Banquet and Awards Presentations will be held on **SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2009** at the Hamilton Convention Centre, 1 Summers Lane, Hamilton, Ontario in Chedoke Ballrooms A & B. Cocktails will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at 6:30 p.m.

There will be a \$30.00 cost to all Bowlers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Guests to attend the Victory Banquet. All Victory Banquet Tickets **MUST** be ordered and paid for in advance on the “**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM**” provided. There will be two different colour banquet tickets.....**one for bowlers and coaches and one for guests only.** All banquet tickets ordered will be sent directly to your Team Coach. The winning teams and singles champions will be refunded the cost of the Victory Banquet Ticket (\$30.00) provided they have pre-paid for their banquet ticket. A cash bar will also be available at the banquet.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO BANQUET TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DAY OF THE VICTORY BANQUET (SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2009) THEREFORE IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU ORDER YOUR BANQUET TICKETS AHEAD OF TIME TO AVOID ANY DISAPPOINTMENT!

GUEST PASSES

For guests who plan to attend the Open Championships, the following prices will apply:

4-Day Passes (Guests Only).....\$ 6.00 (GST Incl.)
Victory Banquet and Awards Presentations.....\$30.00 (GST Incl.)
Bowlers' Investment Seminar.....Free Admission with 4-Day Pass

The above passes and banquet tickets **MUST** be ordered and paid for in advance on the “**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM**” provided. Please keep in mind that you are ordering 4-day passes for your guests only. The deadline date for ordering passes and banquet tickets will be **MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009**.

Complimentary competitor lane passes for all contingent members (bowlers, coaches and assistant coaches) will be distributed through the Team Coach along with any guest passes and tickets ordered.

PLEASE NOTE: NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE BOWLING CENTRE WITHOUT A PASS. ANYONE WHO LOSES THEIR LANE PASS WILL BE CHARGED TO HAVE IT REPLACED.

Daily admission passes can be purchased at the bowling centre at a cost of \$3.00 per day (GST included). **NOTE: DAILY PASSES CANNOT BE PRE-ORDERED.**

PERFECT GAME POOL

The concept, introduced at the 1996 National Championships, allows each bowler the chance to pay \$20.00 and the entire pool will be available to anyone who bowls a perfect game, at any time, during the 2009 Open Championships. **Last year Barb Hamilton from Central Ontario bowled a Perfect Game and won in excess of \$19,000.00!!** Naturally, if more than one “450” game is bowled, the pot will be split among those bowlers.

However, if a perfect game is not bowled, the pool will be split among the male and female entries and 25% (twenty-five per cent) of the money contributed for this year only will be distributed to the men's and ladies' high single from the tournament. If a perfect game is not bowled, the remaining 75% will be carried over to make an even larger pool for next year.

EXAMPLE:

250 Bowlers @ \$20.00 = \$5,000.00

ANY OR ALL PERFECT GAME(S) WOULD WIN OR SHARE \$5,000.00

If a perfect game is not bowled, let's assume our 250 entries are 150 men and 100 women.

MEN'S HIGH SINGLE

150 @ \$20.00 = \$3,000.00
25% to High Single = \$750.00

LADIES' HIGH SINGLE

100 @ \$20.00 = \$2,000.00
25% to High Single = \$500.00

From this example, \$3,750.00 would be carried over to the 2010 pool.

It is the responsibility of the bowler to enter themselves in the Perfect Game Pool on the “**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM**” provided. You can also enter the Perfect Game Pool at Sherwood Centre prior to the teams starting on **THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009**.

PLEASE NOTE: SINGLES COMPETITORS MUST BE ENTERED IN THE PERFECT GAME POOL PRIOR TO BOWLING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009 IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE.

BOWLERS' INVESTMENT SEMINAR

We have enclosed information regarding the Bowlers' Investment Seminar. **It is the responsibility of the Singles Competitors to enter themselves in the Bowlers' Investment Seminar.** All singles competitors have been mailed an entry form.

TEAM PICTURES

We will be taking team pictures again this year. The cost of the pictures will be \$6.00 (GST included). These pictures **MUST** be ordered and paid for in advance on the "**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM**" provided. The deadline date for picture orders will be **MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009.**

PARKING AT SHERWOOD CENTRE

Parking at Sherwood Centre is limited and therefore we would ask that you please try and car pool whenever possible. **If you park across the street in the plaza, your car may be towed and you will be responsible to pay all fines incurred.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS AND GUESTS

Please be advised that the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association **WILL NOT** tolerate any acts of vandalism or loud noises in the hotel of any kind during these Open Championships.

With regards to any noise complaints, please be advised that the Sheraton Hotel will give **ONE WARNING ONLY!** If there is a 2nd complaint about a room, the hotel will ask the person(s) involved to leave the hotel. **THERE WILL BE NO ROOM REFUNDS ISSUED IF THIS OCCURS.** Violators will be reported to the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association and could result in automatic suspension of their membership privileges.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please contact your Team Coach. We look forward to seeing you in Hamilton and wish you the best of luck in the Provincial Championships.

Yours truly,

ONTARIO 5 PIN BOWLERS' ASSOCIATION

Rhonda Gifford

Rhonda Gifford
Program Coordinator

Enclosures: