9.1 — Best Practices

9.1.1 Recommended Settings configuration for a new pro shop

Recommended Settings configuration for a new pro shop

9.1.1 **TIP** best practice

When setting up Spectre Cloud for the first time, the Settings section contains more options than most new operators expect — and the choices made here shape how the app behaves across every spec sheet, every Oval Calculator run, and every printed document your shop produces. Getting the configuration right at the start is significantly easier than correcting a mis-set option after dozens of spec sheets have been created against it. This page walks through the recommended Settings configuration for a new pro shop, in the order that makes the most sense to work through.

□□ Where to Find Settings

All settings covered on this page are accessed from the same location:

1. Click or tap your **pro shop name** in the top-right corner of any Spectre Cloud screen.
2. Select **Settings** from the dropdown menu.
3. Work through the sections described below in order.

□□ Step 1 — Shop Display Information

Before configuring any technical settings, confirm that your shop's display information is accurate. This information appears on every printed spec sheet and document your shop produces — getting it right now means every document from the first drilling onward is correctly branded.

- □ **Pro shop name** — enter your full trading name exactly as you want it to appear on spec sheets.
- □ **Address** — your shop's physical address.
- □ **Phone number** — the number bowlers should use to contact you.
- □ **Email address** — confirm this is the address you monitor for billing and account notifications.
- □ **Logo** — upload a high-resolution PNG with a transparent background if available.

□□ **Note:** See section 8.1.1 for detailed guidance on each display information field. Complete this step before moving to technical settings — a shop name or address that needs to be corrected later does not retroactively update documents already printed.

□□ Step 2 — Language

Set the app interface language to match your shop's working language. Spectre Cloud supports **English**, **French**, and **Spanish**. The language setting affects the app interface — field labels, menu items, and system messages — but does not translate free-text content you have entered, such as bowler names or spec sheet notes.

- □ Set language before entering any bowler data — the interface is most legible in the language you will be reading it in during a live fitting.
- □ For multi-staff shops where staff members work in different languages, each user account can set its own language preference independently.

□□ Step 3 — Measurement Units

Set your preferred unit system for measurements. Spectre Cloud supports both imperial and metric entry for applicable fields. Most bowling pro shop measurements — hole sizes, spans, pitches, oval cuts — are expressed in imperial fractions in North America and may differ in other markets.

- Choose the unit system that matches how you physically measure — if your measuring tape is in inches, set imperial. If your tools use millimetres, set metric.
- Confirm the unit setting before entering any spec sheet data — switching units after spec sheets have been created in a different unit system creates inconsistency in the historical record.

⚠ **Verify with Spectre team:** Confirm which specific fields support metric entry and whether switching units after initial setup converts existing records or leaves them as originally entered.

Step 4 — Span Type Default

Set the default span type that will be pre-selected on every new spec sheet. Choose the type that matches how your shop physically measures spans — the default can be overridden on individual spec sheets, but setting it correctly here means one fewer decision to make during every fitting.

- **Full Span (F)** — back edge of thumb hole to back edge of finger hole. Most common for fingertip and conventional fitting in North America.
- **Cut to Cut (C)** — near edge of thumb hole to near edge of finger hole. Used by some fitting systems as an alternative standard.
- **Oval (O)** — measured to the centre of the oval cut. Used when the oval is the primary span reference.
- Choose the span type your entire shop uses consistently — if different drillers use different span types, resolve that inconsistency at this stage rather than letting it persist in the spec sheet record.

⚙ Step 5 — Oval Calculator Settings

The Oval Calculator settings are the most consequential configuration decisions for day-to-day spec sheet production. Work through each in order:

Oval Cut Direction

Select the option that matches your drill press setup:

- **NONE** — for experienced fitters who determine oval cuts manually, shops with non-directional presses, or any workflow where a single oval value without axis labels is preferred. See sections 5.5.1–5.5.3 for full guidance.

- **Forward / Back (F/B)** — for presses where the oval axis runs forward and back relative to the grip.
- **Left / Right (L/R)** — for presses where the oval axis runs laterally.

Oval Calculation Method

Choose between EDGE and CENTER based on your fitting philosophy and the bowler profile your shop primarily serves:

- **EDGE** — anchors pitch at the leading edge of the oval. More accurate for bowlers with meaningful forward pitch and larger oval cuts. Recommended default for most active fitting shops.
- **CENTER** — anchors pitch at the geometric centre of the oval. Appropriate for recreational fits, small ovals, or shops maintaining legacy record continuity. See sections 5.6.1–5.6.5 for full guidance.

Add Pitch Thumb

Determines whether thumb pitch is included in the finger oval calculation:

- **Off** — recommended default for most shops. Start with this off and enable it deliberately for specific competitive bowlers where full grip geometry matters.
- **On** — for performance-focused shops serving predominantly competitive bowlers with significant thumb pitch.

Oval Degree Increment

Set the resolution at which oval angles are expressed:

- **5°** — recommended default for most shops. Matches the graduation resolution of standard drill press angle settings.
- **1°** — for shops with precision equipment capable of single-degree accuracy, or performance-focused operations where the additional resolution is meaningful. See section 5.6.6 for full guidance.

Flip V/H on Oval Cuts

Controls whether Vertical and Horizontal oval cut labels are swapped to match your press axis convention:

- □ Run a test hole on a scrap ball or plug before setting this — physical confirmation is more reliable than assumption. See sections 5.7.1–5.7.2 for the test procedure and worked example.
- □ Set this correctly before creating any spec sheets — oval orientation errors traced back to a Flip V/H misconfiguration affect every spec sheet created while the setting was wrong.

□□ Step 6 — Plugins

Review which plugins are active on your account and confirm they match your shop's current needs. Each plugin adds a monthly charge to your subscription — enable only those you will actively use from the start. Plugins can be added at any time as your shop's needs evolve.

Plugin	Cost	Enable at setup if
Bowler Plus	$5 USD/month	Your shop collects full addresses, captures consent signatures, or uses hand photography as part of the fitting record
Arsenal Plus	$5 USD/month	You want bowlingdatabase.com integration, barcode scanning, suggested layouts, layout conversion, or 3D layout rendering from day one
Job Board	$15 USD/month	Your shop manages a ball service queue and wants a digital to-do list and service history per ball

□□ Step 7 — Notification Preferences

Configure which notifications you receive and how. For a new single-operator shop, the recommended starting configuration is:

- □ All billing and security notifications enabled by email — these are critical and should never be missed.
- □ Product update notifications enabled — as a new user, feature announcements and tips from the Spectre team are more useful at this stage than after you have established routines.
- □ Workflow notifications set to your preference — enable in-app notifications if you find the reminders helpful; disable email workflow notifications for a solo operator who generates all the activity themselves.

See section 8.1.4 for full notification configuration guidance and recommended settings by shop type.

Step 8 — Layout System Default

Set your preferred layout system — the system that will be pre-selected on every new spec sheet's layout section. Choose the system your shop uses consistently:

- **VLS** — for IBPSIA-trained operators following standard curriculum.
- **2LS** — for shops preferring streamlined entry with fewer input values.
- **PAL** — for PAP-focused fitters and competitive bowler specialists.
- **Manual** — for shops using a proprietary system or manufacturer-guided layouts.

Settings Configuration Checklist

Setting	Confirmed
Shop display information complete and accurate	☐
Language set to shop working language	☐
Measurement units match physical tools	☐
Span type default matches measuring method	☐
Oval Cut Direction matches drill press setup	☐
Oval Calculation Method chosen and understood	☐
Add Pitch Thumb configured	☐
Oval Degree Increment matches press capability	☐
Flip V/H verified with a test hole	☐
Plugins enabled match current shop needs	☐
Notification preferences configured	☐
Layout system default set	☐

Related Sections

- 8.1.1 — Updating your pro shop name and display information
- 8.1.4 — Managing notification preferences
- 5.5.1 — Setting up: Oval Cut Direction = NONE in Settings
- 5.6.5 — Choosing EDGE vs. CENTER: which method fits which bowler

- 5.7.1 — Using Flip V/H on oval cuts to match your machine's axis
- 6.1.1 — Step 1: Create the bowler profile

 Tip: Once you have completed this checklist, drill a test ball with a full first-ball workflow — create a bowler profile, build a spec sheet, run the Oval Calculator, add the ball to the Arsenal, review the spec sheet, and drill. The test run surfaces any setting that was not configured quite right before it affects a real customer's equipment. Thirty minutes on a scrap ball at setup saves hours of correction later.

9.1.2 When to clone a spec sheet vs. create a new one

When to clone a spec sheet vs. create a new one

> 9.1.2 best practice

Spectre Cloud gives you two ways to start a new spec sheet for a bowler: create one from scratch or **clone** an existing one. Choosing the right approach for each situation saves time, prevents errors, and keeps the bowler's drilling history clean and meaningful. The decision is not always obvious — this page explains the logic behind each option and gives clear guidance for the situations that come up most often in a working pro shop.

□□ What Cloning Does

Cloning a spec sheet creates an exact copy of an existing sheet — all measurement fields, pitch values, span values, oval cuts, layout, and notes are duplicated into a new spec sheet attached to the same bowler. The clone is independent from the original: changes made to the clone do not affect the source sheet, and the source sheet remains in the bowler's history unchanged.

- □ The clone is a new spec sheet — it gets its own creation date and can be edited freely.
- □ The source spec sheet is preserved exactly as it was — cloning never modifies the original.
- □ The clone is attached to the same bowler profile as the source — it does not copy across to a different bowler.
- □ All fields are copied — including layout values, notes, oval cuts, and hole depth settings.

□□ **Note:** Cloning copies values, not the underlying fit philosophy. If a value in the source sheet was a compromise or a temporary setting, it carries into the clone — review every cloned field before drilling, not just the ones you intended to change.

□□ Create New vs. Clone — The Core Decision

Situation	Recommended approach	Reason
First ball for a new bowler	Create new	No existing data to build from — start clean
Second ball to the same spec as the first	Clone	All values are identical or nearly identical — clone and update ball name only
Second ball with minor fitting adjustments	Clone	Most values carry over — clone, update what changed, and the differences are visible by comparing the two sheets
Second ball with a significantly different fit	Create new	So many values are changing that cloning creates more cleanup work than starting fresh
Re-drill of an existing ball to the same spec	Clone	The drilling is a replication — clone and link to the existing Arsenal entry
Re-drill with layout or pitch changes	Clone	Changes are deliberate adjustments from a known baseline — clone makes the before/after comparison clear
Bowler transitioning from conventional to fingertip	Create new	Grip type change means span, pitch, and oval values all change — a clone carries the wrong baseline
Drilling a ball for a different bowler with similar specs	Create new for the other bowler	Clone only works within the same bowler profile — never copy one bowler's spec to another
Replacing a lost or damaged ball with an identical model	Clone	The fit is the same — clone, update ball name and Arsenal entry, drill
Seasonal re-drill after a long break	Clone with caution	Re-measure before deciding — if the bowler's hand has changed, update cloned values rather than assuming they are still current

□ When to Clone

Clone when the new spec sheet will be **more similar to an existing one than different from it**. The key signals:

- **Same bowler, same grip type, same or similar ball** — the most common clone scenario. A competitive bowler adding a second ball to the bag with the same finger sizes and pitch preferences as their first ball.
- **Re-drilling the same ball** — whether the ball is being resurfaced and re-drilled to the same spec, or the bowler wants a small layout adjustment while keeping all other values the same.
- **Deliberate incremental adjustment** — a bowler who wants to try 1/8" more forward pitch on the ring finger while keeping everything else identical. Clone the last sheet, change one value, and the two sheets document the before and after cleanly.
- **Replacing a ball** — the old ball is retired or lost, and the replacement is to be drilled identically. Clone the most recent spec sheet for the old ball, update the ball name, and link to the new Arsenal entry.
- **Backup ball** — drilling a second ball to the same layout and fit as the primary. Clone the primary ball's spec sheet, update ball name and Arsenal entry.

When to Create New

Create a new spec sheet from scratch when starting fresh is cleaner than cleaning up a clone:

- **First ball for any bowler** — no existing spec to build from.
- **Significant fitting change** — grip type change, major span adjustment, complete pitch rework. When more than half the fields need to change, starting fresh is faster and less error-prone than updating a clone.
- **Re-fitting after a long gap** — a bowler returning after years away whose hand measurements, weight, or physical condition may have changed enough to warrant a complete re-measure rather than carrying forward old values.
- **Correcting a fundamentally flawed previous spec** — if the source spec sheet contained errors that were never corrected, cloning it propagates those errors. Start fresh and treat the previous sheet as reference only.
- **Different fitting philosophy** — switching from CENTER to EDGE, changing span type, or adopting a new layout system. A clean sheet documents the new approach without legacy values complicating the record.

How to Clone a Spec Sheet on Desktop

1. Open the bowler's profile from the **BOWLERS** list.
2. Locate the spec sheet you want to clone in the **Spec Sheets** section.
3. Click the **Clone** button or option associated with that spec sheet — typically accessible from the spec sheet's action menu (three-dot menu or similar).
4. A new spec sheet is created with all values copied from the source. It opens ready for editing.
5. Update the **ball name** first — this is the most important change on any clone, as it determines the Arsenal link.
6. Update any other fields that differ from the source spec.
7. Re-run the **Oval Calculator** if any pitch or span values were changed — do not assume the cloned oval values are still correct after a measurement change.
8. Save the spec sheet.

□□ How to Clone a Spec Sheet on Mobile

1. Navigate to the bowler's profile and tap the **Spec Sheets** section.
2. Tap the action menu on the spec sheet you want to clone.
3. Tap **Clone**.
4. Update the ball name and any changed values.
5. Re-run the Oval Calculator if pitch or span values changed.
6. Tap **Save**.

⚠ Clone Carefully — Common Mistakes

- □ **Forgetting to update the ball name** — the most common clone error. A cloned spec sheet with the source ball's name creates a confusing duplicate in the bowler's history and may create an incorrect Arsenal link. Update the ball name before anything else.
- □ **Not re-running the Oval Calculator after changing pitch values** — cloned oval cut values are only valid if the pitch and span values are unchanged. Any pitch or span adjustment requires a fresh Oval Calculator run.
- □ **Assuming all cloned values are still current** — a spec sheet from two years ago may contain measurements that have changed. Re-measure and review rather than trusting the clone blindly, particularly after a long gap.
- □ **Cloning across bowlers** — Spectre Cloud clones within a bowler profile only. If you want to use one bowler's spec as a reference for another, open both profiles side by side

and manually carry across only the values that are genuinely applicable — do not clone and reassign.
- **Using a clone to correct a previous error** — if the source sheet contained a mistake, cloning it copies the mistake. Fix the source sheet if the record needs correcting, or create a new sheet with accurate values from fresh measurements.

Using Clone to Document Incremental Changes

One of the most valuable uses of cloning is building a deliberate change history for a bowler. When a bowler reports that their fit does not feel right and you want to make a small adjustment, cloning the current spec sheet before making the change creates a clear before-and-after record:

1. Clone the current spec sheet.
2. In the clone, make only the intended adjustment — for example, increase ring finger forward pitch from `1/4"` to `3/8"`.
3. Re-run the Oval Calculator.
4. Save and drill from the clone.
5. The original spec sheet remains in the bowler's history as the baseline — if the adjustment does not produce the intended improvement, the previous values are one tap away for reference.

Tip: Add a brief note to the cloned spec sheet explaining why the change was made — "*Ring finger pitch increased 1/8" — bowler reported finger sitting too loose at release.*" A spec sheet history with annotated changes tells a story about the fitting evolution that raw numbers alone do not.

Related Sections

- 6.1.2 — Step 2: Create a blank spec sheet for the ball
- 6.1.8 — Common mistakes on the first ball and how to avoid them
- 04.x — Spec Sheets: creating, cloning, and managing records
- 07.x — Arsenal: linking spec sheets to ball entries
- 9.1.1 — Recommended Settings configuration for a new pro shop

Tip: When in doubt, clone. A clone that turns out not to need any changes is just a new spec sheet with a head start. A new sheet created from scratch when a clone would have done the job is not a problem either — the cost of the wrong choice is a few minutes of re-entry, not a data integrity issue. The cases where the choice genuinely matters are the ones where a clone carries forward a wrong value and it is not caught before drilling.

9.1.3 Keeping your bowler database organized

Keeping your bowler database organized

9.1.3 best practice

A well-organised bowler database is one of the most practical assets a pro shop can build over time. In Spectre Cloud, organisation is not imposed by the system — it is something the operator builds through consistent habits applied visit by visit. A database that is clean, consistently named, and actively maintained pays back every time a returning bowler walks through the door. One that has grown without discipline becomes a source of confusion and errors. This page covers the habits and practices that keep the bowler database useful as it grows.

□□ Naming Conventions for Bowler Profiles

The bowler's name is the primary field used to search and identify profiles. Consistent naming across the database makes search results reliable and eliminates the ambiguity that leads to duplicate profiles.

- □ **Use full legal name** as the primary name field — first name and last name in full. Nicknames, preferred names, or short forms can go in the Notes field.
- □ **Consistent capitalisation** — enter names with standard title case (John Smith, not john smith or JOHN SMITH) so the profile list sorts and reads consistently.

- **For bowlers with the same name** — add a distinguishing detail to avoid confusion. A birth year in brackets (`John Smith (1978)`), a location (`John Smith — Eastside`), or a league affiliation (`John Smith — Thursday Men's`) makes the two profiles immediately distinguishable without searching through their spec sheet history to tell them apart.
- **For junior bowlers** — consider noting the parent or guardian's name in the Notes field, particularly for younger children whose profiles may otherwise be hard to locate when a parent calls on their behalf.
- Do not create profiles with first name only — a database full of single-name entries becomes unsearchable as it grows.
- Do not abbreviate last names — `John S.` is not a useful record when a different John S. joins the database six months later.

Searching the Database Effectively

Spectre Cloud's bowler search matches against the name field. Getting the most out of it requires knowing how it works and what it does not do:

- **Search by partial name** — entering the first three or four letters of a last name narrows the list quickly without needing to spell the full name correctly.
- **Search by first name** if the last name is unknown or uncertain — useful when a bowler calls and gives only a first name.
- **Try alternative spellings** if a search returns no results — a name entered as `MacDonald` will not appear in a search for `McDonald`. Check both spellings before concluding the bowler has no profile.
- **Search before creating** — every time, without exception. The habit of searching first is the single most effective preventive measure against duplicate profiles.
- Do not rely on the phone number or email field for searching unless Spectre Cloud explicitly supports searching by those fields — confirm the search behaviour with the Spectre team and update your intake process accordingly.

The Notes Field — What Belongs There

The Notes field on a bowler profile is a flexible free-text space intended for information that helps any staff member serve that bowler well. Used consistently, it becomes a concise briefing document that makes every return visit faster and more personalised. Used inconsistently, it becomes a mix of useful information and irrelevant clutter that staff stop reading.

The following categories of information belong in the Notes field:

- **Dominant hand** — the single most important note for a new profile. Confirm and record it at the first fitting.
- **Grip type preference** — particularly if the bowler has a strong preference or has previously had issues with a specific grip type.
- **Physical considerations** — arthritis, injury history, unusual hand geometry, or anything that affects the fitting approach. Record factually and respectfully.
- **Communication preferences** — prefers text over call, or vice versa. Ball-ready notification method.
- **Equipment preferences** — ball weight, surface preferences, brands the bowler likes or dislikes.
- **Service notes** — anything relevant to how the bowler interacts with the shop: pays upfront, picks up promptly, needs extra time during fittings.

The following do not belong in the Notes field:

- Drilling details — these belong on the spec sheet, not the profile notes.
- Sensitive personal information beyond what is relevant to the fitting relationship.
- Subjective personal comments about the bowler that you would be uncomfortable showing them.
- Temporary reminders that are no longer relevant — clear outdated notes periodically so the field stays useful.

Managing Duplicate Profiles

Duplicate profiles are the most common database integrity problem in Spectre Cloud. They happen when a staff member creates a new profile without searching first, or when a bowler's name is spelled differently on two visits. Once duplicates exist, the bowler's spec sheet history is split across two records and neither is complete.

Preventing duplicates

- Search before creating — every time, for every bowler.
- Train all staff to follow the same intake procedure — a duplicate created by a new staff member is just as disruptive as one created by an experienced one.
- When a bowler is uncertain whether they have a profile, search by first name, last name, and common alternative spellings before concluding they are new.

Resolving duplicates when found

Spectre Cloud does not have an automatic profile merge function. When a duplicate is identified:

1. Identify which profile is more complete — typically the one with more spec sheets and a fuller Notes field.
2. Open the less complete profile and note any spec sheets or information it contains that are not in the primary profile.
3. Manually recreate any missing spec sheets on the primary profile if the drilling history is worth preserving — use the information from the duplicate as the source.
4. Add any unique notes from the duplicate profile to the primary profile's Notes field.
5. Once the primary profile is complete, delete the duplicate.
6. Confirm the deletion removes only the duplicate profile and not the primary — open the primary profile after deletion to verify it is intact.

□□ **Note:** Contact the Spectre support team before deleting profiles if you are uncertain — deletion is permanent and cannot be undone. If in doubt, rename the duplicate with a clear marker (e.g., `John Smith — DUPLICATE — do not use`) and leave it inactive rather than deleting immediately.

□□ Keeping Bowler Status Current

Not all bowlers in your database are active customers. Over time, the database naturally accumulates profiles for bowlers who have moved away, stopped bowling, or passed away. Keeping these records does not harm the database — Spectre Cloud has no record limit — but a database that mixes active and long-inactive profiles requires more filtering during searches.

- □ **Keep inactive profiles** — do not delete a bowler simply because they have not visited recently. Their spec sheet history has value if they return, and deletion is permanent.
- □ **Note inactivity in the profile** — a brief note such as `Moved away — June 2023` in the Notes field signals to any staff member that this profile is historical without requiring them to open the spec sheet history to understand the context.
- □ **Update contact details when they change** — a bowler who mentions a new phone number or email address during a visit should have their profile updated before they leave the counter.

□□ Multi-Staff Database Discipline

In shops where multiple staff members create and edit bowler profiles, consistent habits matter more than in a solo operation — inconsistency introduced by one person affects every other person who uses the database.

- □ **Document your naming convention** — write it down and make it available to all staff. A one-page intake procedure covering profile creation, naming, and notes standards

is enough.

- **Review new profiles periodically** — a monthly check for duplicates, incomplete profiles, or naming inconsistencies takes fifteen minutes and prevents the database from degrading over time.
- **Assign one person as the database owner** — in shops with several staff members, having one person responsible for database quality means inconsistencies get caught and corrected rather than accumulating indefinitely.
- **Include database standards in staff onboarding** — a new staff member who learns the intake procedure correctly from day one is far less likely to create duplicates or naming inconsistencies than one who develops their own habits by observation.

Multilingual Shops

In shops serving bowlers in more than one language, the bowler database may contain names in multiple scripts or with diacritical characters. A few additional considerations apply:

- **Enter names in the bowler's preferred form** — accented characters (é, ü, ñ) should be entered correctly rather than replaced with unaccented equivalents. Spectre Cloud supports Unicode entry.
- **Search with and without accents** — if the search function treats `e` and `é` as different characters, a name entered with accents will not appear in a search without them. Test search behaviour for your specific language combination and adjust intake instructions accordingly.
- **Notes field language** — staff members may add notes in different languages in a multilingual shop. This is acceptable as long as the notes remain useful to all staff — consider using a shared language for notes if the shop serves a primarily bilingual customer base.

Periodic Database Maintenance

A bowler database maintained only at the point of entry drifts toward disorder over time. A brief periodic review — monthly in a busy shop, quarterly in a quieter one — keeps it reliable:

- **Scan for obvious duplicates** — sort the bowler list alphabetically and look for names that appear more than once. A visual scan takes a few minutes and catches most duplicates.
- **Check for incomplete profiles** — profiles with no spec sheets, no contact information, and no notes are usually test entries or incomplete intake records. Investigate and either complete or delete them.
- **Update stale contact information** — phone numbers and email addresses change. A periodic reminder to bowlers to confirm their contact details — at the start of a new

season, for example — keeps the database current.
- **Review the Notes field on frequently visited profiles** — outdated notes are worse than no notes because they create false confidence. A note that says `prefers text messages` from three years ago may no longer be accurate.

Related Sections

- 6.1.1 — Step 1: Create the bowler profile
- 6.1.8 — Common mistakes on the first ball and how to avoid them
- 8.1.6 — Data privacy and your bowler records
- 9.1.1 — Recommended Settings configuration for a new pro shop
- 9.1.2 — When to clone a spec sheet vs. create a new one
- 03.x — Bowlers (Clients): managing your bowler list

Tip: The best time to maintain the database is during the natural quiet moments of the shop day — the first fifteen minutes before opening, or the last few minutes before closing. Small, regular maintenance sessions prevent the kind of accumulated disorder that eventually requires a dedicated afternoon to untangle. A database that is checked briefly every week stays clean almost automatically.

9.1.4 Using Auto-Suggestions effectively for faster fitting sessions

Using Auto-Suggestions effectively for faster fitting sessions

> 9.1.4 best practice

Spectre Cloud includes an **auto-suggestion system** that generates recommended values for pitch, span, and oval cuts based on the measurements you have entered and IBPSIA-standard fitting guidelines. Used well, auto-suggestions dramatically reduce the time spent on routine fittings — the system does the reference work while you focus on the bowler in front of you. Used poorly, they become a source of unchecked errors that make it into the drill press. This page explains how the suggestion system works, when to follow suggestions, when to override them, and how to build the habit of using them efficiently without becoming dependent on them.

⚡ What Auto-Suggestions Does

As you fill in a spec sheet, Spectre Cloud analyses the values entered so far and populates suggested values for fields that have not yet been completed. Suggestions are generated in real time — as each measurement is entered, the system recalculates and updates its recommendations for the remaining fields.

- **Pitch suggestions** — forward and lateral pitch recommendations for finger and thumb holes, based on grip type, finger measurements, and IBPSIA standard ranges.
- **Span suggestions** — recommended span distances for middle and ring fingers based on finger joint measurements and the selected span type.
- **Oval cut suggestions** — recommended oval sizes based on forward pitch values, track type, and the oval calculation method configured in Settings.
- Suggestions appear as pre-filled or highlighted values in the relevant fields — they are proposals, not locked values. Every suggestion can be overridden by simply typing a different value.

⚠ **Verify with Spectre team:** Confirm the exact fields for which auto-suggestions are generated in the current version — specifically whether oval cut suggestions are generated automatically or only when the Oval Calculator is explicitly run, and whether thumb pitch suggestions are included alongside finger pitch suggestions.

How Suggestions Are Generated

Spectre Cloud's suggestions are derived from IBPSIA-standard fitting formulas applied to the measurements entered on the spec sheet. The system does not personalise suggestions based on the individual bowler's history — it applies the same standard formulas to the entered measurements regardless of how many times the bowler has been drilled before. Understanding this limitation is important for using suggestions correctly.

- Suggestions reflect **what the IBPSIA standard recommends** for a bowler with these measurements — a reliable starting point for any fit.
- They account for **grip type** — suggestions for a fingertip fit are different from those for a conventional fit with the same measurements.
- They account for **span type** — a Full Span measurement produces different suggestions than a Cut to Cut measurement of the same physical distance.
- They do not account for **the bowler's release style**, physical preferences, or previous fitting history.
- They do not account for **what the bowler has told you** during the fitting conversation — a bowler who says their current ball feels too tight on the thumb needs a human judgement call, not a recalculation of the standard suggestion.

When to Follow Auto-Suggestions

Auto-suggestions are most reliable and most useful in the following situations:

- **New bowler with no drilling history** — for a first-time fit with no baseline to work from, the IBPSIA-standard suggestion is the best available starting point. Accept it, fit the bowler, and adjust from there if needed.
- **Routine recreational fits** — conventional grip, standard pitch preferences, typical oval sizes. The suggestion covers the vast majority of these fits accurately and fast.
- **Confirming your own calculation** — even if you have independently calculated the correct values, checking them against the suggestion provides a quick sanity check. If the suggestion matches your calculation, proceed with confidence. If it differs significantly, understand why before deciding which to use.
- **Training new staff members** — auto-suggestions give a new driller an IBPSIA-grounded reference point while they build their own fitting intuition. They should follow suggestions as a default and learn to recognise when and why to deviate.
- **High-volume sessions** — in a busy shop where multiple bowlers are being fitted in quick succession, accepting accurate suggestions for straightforward fits frees your attention for the fits that genuinely require more consideration.

✏ When to Override Auto-Suggestions

Suggestions are a starting point, not a verdict. Override them when your fitting knowledge and the bowler in front of you indicate a different value is more appropriate:

- **Bowler has a known preference that differs from standard** — a bowler who has always used reverse thumb pitch and bowls comfortably should continue with that value regardless of what the standard formula suggests.
- **Physical considerations not captured in the measurement fields** — arthritis, scarring, unusual grip geometry, or a physical condition that affects how the bowler holds the ball may require values outside the standard range.
- **Competitive bowler with an established fit** — an experienced competitive bowler whose specs have been refined over years of fitting should be adjusted from their known baseline, not reset to a standard suggestion.
- **The suggestion produces a value outside your experience of what works** — if the suggested pitch value is higher or lower than anything you have drilled successfully for a bowler with this profile, trust your experience and investigate before accepting.
- **The bowler reports dissatisfaction with their current equipment** — if a bowler's current ball was drilled to standard values and does not feel right, the standard suggestion for the same measurements will produce the same result. The override should reflect what you are trying to change.
- Do not override suggestions without a reason. An override based on habit or preference rather than fitting knowledge introduces errors the same way an unchecked suggestion does — just in a different direction.

□□ Building an Efficient Suggestion-Based Workflow

The most effective use of auto-suggestions integrates them into the fitting flow without making them a bottleneck or an afterthought. The following workflow sequence makes suggestions work for you rather than around you:

1. **Enter measurements first, completely.** Suggestions improve in accuracy as more fields are completed — enter all measurements before evaluating any suggestion. A suggestion based on partial data is less reliable than one based on a complete set.
2. **Review suggestions as a group, not field by field.** Once measurements are in, scan all suggested values together. Individually they are data points; together they form a picture of the proposed fit. An unusual combination — very high forward pitch combined with a very small oval, for example — is easier to notice when reviewing the full suggestion set than when checking each field in sequence.
3. **Accept or override with intention.** For each suggested value, make a deliberate decision: accept because it is appropriate, or override because you have a specific reason. Do not accept passively — a suggestion accepted without evaluation is the same risk as a value entered without checking.
4. **Discuss departures from standard with the bowler.** If you are overriding a suggestion significantly — particularly on pitch — explaining why to the bowler builds their confidence and creates a shared understanding of the fitting rationale. A bowler who understands why their thumb pitch is different from standard is better equipped to give useful feedback after their first session with the ball.
5. **Save and re-run the Oval Calculator.** If any pitch or span values were overridden, confirm the Oval Calculator reflects the final values before printing or drilling.

□□ Suggestions vs. Bowler History — Knowing Which to Trust

For a returning bowler with multiple spec sheets in Spectre Cloud, you have access to two reference points: the system's suggestion based on current measurements, and the bowler's own drilling history. When they differ, the history usually wins:

Scenario	Which to trust	Reason

Suggestion matches history	Either — they agree	The standard formula and the bowler's experience point to the same value — high confidence
Suggestion differs slightly from history	History, with investigation	Check whether measurements have changed — a different measurement may legitimately produce a different suggestion
Suggestion differs significantly from history	History, unless there is a specific reason to change	The bowler has been fitted and has bowled with the historical values — they are proven for this bowler
Bowler reports the historical values have not been working	Suggestion as a starting point for adjustment	The history is a baseline to move away from — the suggestion provides a reference direction
New bowler, no history	Suggestion	No alternative baseline exists — the standard formula is the best available starting point

□□ Auto-Suggestions and Arsenal Plus

With **Arsenal Plus** active, the suggestion system is supplemented by layout recommendations based on the bowler's PAP and the ball's core specifications — see section 7.1.5 for full guidance on the Suggested Layouts feature. The two systems are complementary: auto-suggestions handle the grip fit, while Arsenal Plus handles the layout. Both are starting points that benefit from the fitter's evaluation and override where appropriate.

□ Teaching New Staff to Use Suggestions Well

- □ **Follow suggestions by default for the first ten fittings** — building familiarity with what standard suggestions look like makes deviations recognisable later.
- □ **After each fitting, compare the accepted suggestions to the finished spec sheet** — if overrides were made, discuss why. If suggestions were followed without evaluation, discuss what the fitter would have changed and why.
- □ **Make the comparison visible** — show new staff the IBPSIA reference behind a suggestion so the formula is understood, not just the output.

- **Graduation point** — a driller who consistently knows before looking what the suggestion will be for a given measurement set has internalised the standard. At that point, the suggestion has done its job as a teaching tool and becomes a confirmation rather than a guide.

Related Sections

- 9.1.1 — Recommended Settings configuration for a new pro shop
- 9.1.2 — When to clone a spec sheet vs. create a new one
- 5.6.5 — Choosing EDGE vs. CENTER: which method fits which bowler
- 7.1.5 — Suggested Layouts feature — using bowler data to suggest a layout
- 6.1.3 — Step 3: Set grip type and enter finger measurements
- 6.1.4 — Step 4: Enter thumb information (round or oval)

Tip: The most reliable sign that you are using auto-suggestions well is that you rarely need to think about them. A suggestion you glance at, confirm is reasonable, and accept in under a second is the system working as intended. A suggestion that surprises you — one you would not have arrived at yourself — is the system doing its most valuable work: catching a measurement entry error or flagging a combination outside your usual experience. Pay attention to those surprises. They are either corrections or learning moments, and both are worth the two seconds it takes to investigate.