

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE**

BENJAMIN DOEHR, ZACH SOLIZ,
MITCHEL FEUER, KEVIN HOWARD,
ANDRE HOWARD, MICHAEL CORDERO,
ED MCDONALD, THEODORE
HARKNESS, TIM KELLY, MAOR
KRAMER, and CASEY GOODMAN, on
behalf of themselves and all those similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

LUCKY STRIKE ENTERTAINMENT
CORPORATION (f/k/a/ BOWLERO CORP),
AMF BOWLING CENTERS, INC.; LUCKY
STRIKE ENTERTAINMENT LLC,

Defendants.

Case No. _____

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY

Class Action Complaint
Case No.

SIMONSEN SUSSMAN LLP
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COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs Benjamin Doeher, Zach Soliz, Mitchel Feuer, Kevin Howard, Andre Howard, Michael Cordero, Ed McDonald, Theodore Harkness, Tim Kelly, Maor Kramer, and Casey Goodman, by and through counsel, bring this action on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated against Defendants Lucky Strike Entertainment Corporation (f/k/a Bowlero Corporation and hereinafter “LSEC”), AMF Bowling Centers, Inc. (together with LSEC, “Bowlero”),¹ and Lucky Strike Entertainment, LLC (together with Bowlero, “Defendants”), for damages, injunctive relief, and other relief, pursuant to federal and state antitrust and state unfair competition laws, and demanding a jury trial, allege as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This action challenges Bowlero’s multi-year anticompetitive scheme to consolidate bowling centers in communities throughout the United States, drive up the cost of bowling for millions of consumers, worsen those consumers’ bowling experience, and increase its own profits.

2. Plaintiffs and the consumers they seek to represent have suffered substantial injuries as a result of Bowlero’s acquisition scheme, in the form of higher prices, reduced quality, and the veritable destruction of the decades-old pastime of bowling in America.

3. On behalf of themselves, the class members they represent, and the general public, Plaintiffs seek not only monetary compensation but also the equitable and injunctive relief they deserve, namely the unwinding of Bowlero’s acquisitions of bowling centers and the Professional Bowling Association, a prohibition on further acquisitions in bowling and adjacent

¹ In 2012, LSEC’s predecessor entity Bowlmor acquired AMF Bowling Centers, Inc. In 2021, LSEC’s predecessor entity Bowlero Corp. acquired Lucky Strike Entertainment LLC. In this complaint “Bowlero” refers to all iterations of LSEC: LSEC and its predecessor entities before the AMF Bowling Centers, Inc. acquisition, LSEC and AMF Bowling Centers, Inc. after the AMF Bowling Centers, Inc. acquisition, and LSEC and its predecessor entities after the acquisition of Lucky Strike Entertainment LLC.

1 markets, and an order requiring Bowlero to stop extracting discriminatorily favorable terms from
2 suppliers that inhibit entry and expansion by independent rivals.

3 4. This Court has the power to preserve the century-long tradition of operating
4 bowling centers in this country as a fair and honest line of business providing all Americans,
5 regardless of age or socioeconomic status, the opportunity to gather and engage in a national
6 pastime at fair prices.

7 5. Bowling has long held a unique place in this nation's social fabric, and in
8 communities across the country, by providing an inexpensive way to spend an evening with
9 family or friends. Bowling provides a safe and wholesome environment for adults and children
10 alike to socialize, form local groups, compete, and have fun.

11 6. Indeed, in his seminal work *Bowling Alone*, political scientist Robert Putnam
12 argued that league bowling, in which teams of bowlers play together over a season, provides
13 "social capital" and fosters "social interaction and even occasionally civic conversations."

14 7. Traditionally, families and friends have gathered to bowl at local bowling centers
15 run by small independent operators. These centers operate as much as community centers as
16 entertainment venues and cater to the needs of their constituents; for example, many make sure
17 to open their doors daily as early as 9 a.m. to cater to lifelong senior bowlers or provide special
18 deals for valued league bowlers' early practice.

19 8. These traditions and communities historically fostered by bowling—customer
20 service and value-for-money in the truest sense of those terms—have been radically upended by
21 a Wall Street goliath: Bowlero.

22 9. In recent years, Bowlero—the single largest bowling center operator in the
23 world—has entered or spread in dozens of cities in America, not by offering better lanes or a
24 superior customer experience, but by gobbling up its competitors through unlawful acquisitions,
25 and then cutting supply, raising prices, pushing alcohol, promoting gambling, and alienating
26 virtually every customer except those who have no interest in bowling.
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1 10. Bowlero, which also owns a growing portfolio of outdoor amusement and water
2 parks, has over 360 bowling centers in North America and a market capitalization of more than
3 \$900 million. Bowlero’s dominance—fueled by repeated hedge fund and private equity
4 investment on the road to going public—is the product of its Wall Street-engineered unlawful
5 merger-driven playbook.

6 11. To the consolidation experts at Bowlero, the independent bowling centers that
7 long served as the backbone of bowling represented a “fragmented market ripe for roll-up.” And
8 in Bowlero’s quest to become the “Starbucks” of bowling, each independent operator presented
9 “an attractive consolidation opportunity to drive growth.” Bowlero’s larger rivals were targets of
10 this consolidation strategy too: all told it went from operating six centers in the United States in
11 2012 to nearly 350 in 2026 by buying up independent operators and large chains alike.

12 12. As its dominance grew, Bowlero’s end-game strategy—lucrative extraction—
13 grabbed the attention of investors: in Bowlero’s own words, “[w]e’re raising price on
14 everything.” This predatory approach has led to increased prices for America’s bowlers,
15 including through the use of algorithmic dynamic pricing to squeeze every possible dollar out of
16 families hoping to bowl at popular times, as well as for shoe rentals, food and drinks, and league
17 play.

18 13. For Bowlero, owning an ever-increasing number of bowling centers is not about
19 improving bowling for the public, but rather the opportunity to squeeze as much money as
20 possible out of hard-working families once they are in the door. As an executive explained to
21 investors, Bowlero runs the “best mousetrap” possible: bring them into the center to bowl, and
22 then upsell and overcharge them on food and beverage. As a customer harmed by Bowlero’s
23 conduct put it after he received a quote of over \$400 to go bowling at a Bowlero in California
24 with his family around the holidays: “The bowling alley felt to me like the last egalitarian, fun,
25 middle-American thing . . . and for [Bowlero’s pricing practices] to reach its tentacles into that
26 realm felt pretty appalling.”
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14. Bowlero’s “mousetrap” business model has not only increased prices for consumers, but also made the quality of the experience much worse, including lanes that are not properly conditioned and often break down, centers that are understaffed and lacking needed mechanical technicians, unclean bathrooms, and atmospherics like night-club blacklights and extremely loud music that detract from the experience and distract bowlers.

15. Bowlero’s consolidation strategy has been so effective that it now leverages its dominance to obtain more favorable terms from suppliers than its competitors can obtain—savings it then funnels directly into marketing and advertising, giving it an enormous advantage as it drowns out its smaller local competitors on the airwaves and the internet.

16. Bowlero has made it clear that it is not done. Over the last few years, armed with a war chest of ill-gotten gains amassed through its dominance of local bowling markets across the country, Bowlero has begun to expand its acquisition playbook to outdoor amusement and water parks, which threatens further dominance and destruction in both markets.

17. Bowlero’s strategy to dominate bowling markets throughout the country is unlawful and is precisely the type of anticompetitive conduct our nation’s antitrust laws were designed to prevent.

18. Through this action, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves, all others similarly situated, and the general public, seek to halt Bowlero’s unlawful acquisition scheme, to be made whole for the harm it has already inflicted on them, and an order from this Court unwinding Bowlero’s unlawful acquisitions. Such relief is sorely needed to restore a level playing field—so that independent bowling centers can compete once again, without one hand tied behind their backs—and to prevent Bowlero from leveraging its dominance in bowling center markets to roll up and ruin related markets.

PARTIES

19. Plaintiff Benjamin Doehr is a resident of Seattle, Washington. Mr. Doehr is an avid bowler and has been bowling in leagues in the Seattle area since around 2019. In the last four years, Mr. Doehr has bowled at both Bowlero and non-Bowlero locations, and has

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1 experienced price increases at both. Mr. Doebr has particularly noticed increased prices and
2 reduced quality at Garage Billiards & Bowl (“Garage”), a formerly independent bowling center
3 subsequently acquired by Bowlero. Over the last four or five years, Mr. Doebr has observed
4 substantial price increases for bowling, food, and beverages at Garage, as well as increased
5 league registration fees. Bowlero has also cancelled league events at Garage to make room for
6 corporate events, according to Mr. Doebr. At the same time, Mr. Doebr and his friends have
7 noticed that Bowlero has failed to consistently oil the lanes at Garage and replaced its classic
8 bowling pins with string pins, which has further deteriorated the bowling experience. Mr. Doebr
9 has been directly harmed by Bowlero’s anticompetitive conduct.

10 20. Plaintiff Zach Soliz is a resident of Los Angeles, California. Mr. Soliz vividly
11 remembers bowling with his family as a child in Arlington, Texas, and has enjoyed the sport ever
12 since. Since moving to Los Angeles in 2015, Mr. Soliz has bowled regularly, including at both
13 Bowlero and non-Bowlero centers in the last four years. In the last four years, Mr. Soliz has been
14 forced to pay ever-increasing prices at both Bowlero and non-Bowlero centers in his area. In
15 addition, Mr. Soliz has experienced the declining quality of Bowlero centers in his area. Mr.
16 Soliz has been directly harmed by Bowlero’s anticompetitive conduct.

17 21. Plaintiff Mitchel Feuer, who is a resident of Yonkers, New York, has been bowling
18 regularly for nearly 50 years. Lately, he enjoys taking his grandson bowling or getting in some
19 bowling practice on his own. Mr. Feuer has gone bowling at both Bowlero White Plains and
20 Lucky Strike Nyack in the last four years. Mr. Feuer has been dismayed at how much bowling
21 prices have increased during this period; as a longtime bowler, he finds Bowlero’s prices to be
22 “extravagant.” Mr. Feuer estimates he was charged approximately \$45 an hour to bowl and \$12
23 to rent shoes at a recent visit to Bowlero White Plains—and, when he arrived at his designated
24 lane, he realized that Bowlero had failed to even oil it. Mr. Feuer had a similar experience with
25 high prices and poor lane quality at Lucky Strike Nyack. Mr. Feuer also regularly bowls at a
26 nearby bowling center that is not operated by Bowlero. While this non-Bowlero center is not as
27 expensive as Bowlero, it has increased its prices over the last four years as well. Mr. Feuer has

1 paid these higher prices on multiple occasions in the last four years and has been directly harmed
2 by Bowlero's anticompetitive conduct.

3 22. Plaintiff Kevin Howard is a resident of Mount Vernon, New York. Mr. Howard
4 enjoys bowling as a leisure activity with family and friends and has bowled at Bowlero and non-
5 Bowlero locations in the last four years. He last went to a Bowlero location in April 2024, and he
6 paid much higher prices for bowling and food than he had paid in the past at this location. At his
7 April 2024 visit, Mr. Howard paid approximately \$62 for only one-and-a-half hours of bowling.
8 In addition, Mr. Howard noticed that the prices for the food, beverage, and shoe rentals at the
9 Bowlero center had also noticeably increased. To Mr. Howard, the Bowlero location felt more
10 like a dark and loud nightclub than a welcoming and well-maintained bowling alley. Mr. Howard
11 has been directly harmed by Bowlero's anticompetitive conduct.

12 23. Plaintiff Andre Howard (no relation to Plaintiff Kevin Howard) is a resident of
13 Oakland, California. Mr. Howard has been bowling since he was seven years old and is an active
14 participant in bowling leagues and tournaments. Mr. Howard has bowled at a Bowlero center in
15 his area in the last four years and has experienced increased prices and worsened quality. For
16 example, the last time he bowled at this center, the poor maintenance of the machines resulted in
17 damage to his bowling ball. At other times, he has noticed that the center's pin-setting machines
18 often break and that Bowlero does not perform timely maintenance on them and does not keep
19 the center clean. Mr. Howard has also bowled at non-Bowlero centers in the last four years. Mr.
20 Howard has been directly harmed by Bowlero's anticompetitive conduct.

21 24. Plaintiff Michael Cordero is a resident of San Francisco, California. Mr. Cordero
22 is the son of a longtime (and very talented) bowler, and Mr. Cordero himself has been bowling
23 regularly for more than ten years. For many years, Mr. Cordero's weekly routine included
24 bowling on either Friday or Saturday with his stepbrother and two other friends at non-Bowlero
25 bowling centers in their area. These weekly games used to cost approximately \$40 an hour.
26 However, the non-Bowlero bowling centers in Mr. Cordero's area—drafting off of Bowlero's
27 increased prices—have significantly increased their prices over the last four years to the point
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1 that Mr. Cordero now must pay approximately \$60 an hour. The result is that Mr. Cordero can no
2 longer afford to bowl each week with his family and friends—instead, he now bowls once every
3 four or five months. Mr. Cordero has paid increased prices at non-Bowlero bowling centers in his
4 area in the last four years and has been directly harmed by Bowlero’s anticompetitive conduct.

5 25. Plaintiff Ed McDonald is a resident of Vacaville, California. Mr. McDonald was a
6 league bowler at his local bowling center in Vacaville when, in 2021, it was acquired by
7 Bowlero. Mr. McDonald is still in his league and bowls weekly at this Bowlero-owned center.
8 While Mr. McDonald’s league used to bowl on Saturday nights, Bowlero moved the league to
9 Monday nights, forcing Mr. McDonald’s league to share space with a different league already
10 scheduled at that time. Since Bowlero acquired his local center, Mr. McDonald estimates that the
11 cost of bowling—for both league and non-league play—as well as food has gotten significantly
12 more expensive. At the same time, the quality of the center has decreased. For example, the
13 bowling alley is now often dirty, the machines (including the reader) often break (including at a
14 recent league game in April 2026), and the alley sometimes runs out of oil in the middle of
15 games. Mr. McDonald has been directly harmed by Bowlero’s anticompetitive conduct.

16 26. Plaintiff Theodore Harkness is a resident of Fairfax, Virginia. Mr. Harkness has
17 been bowling his entire life and currently enjoys bowling with his friends in the Northern
18 Virginia area. Recently, Mr. Harkness bowled at Lucky Strike Tyson’s Corner and was surprised
19 by how expensive it was—he paid approximately \$60 for just two hours of bowling (not
20 including the cost of food and beverages). For nearly 20 minutes of that time, the alleyway shut
21 down because of a machine malfunction and Bowlero neglected to provide Mr. Harkness or any
22 other bowlers a refund. Mr. Harkness has also bowled at non-Bowlero centers in his area over the
23 last four years and has noticed those prices increase as well—though not to the same degree as
24 Bowlero’s. Mr. Harkness has paid increased prices at both Bowlero and non-Bowlero bowling
25 centers in his area in the last four years and has been directly harmed by Bowlero’s
26 anticompetitive conduct.
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1 27. Plaintiff Tim Kelly is a resident of Herndon, Virginia. Mr. Kelly has been a
2 bowler since he was four years old. While he used to bowl competitively, in recent years he
3 would go bowling to have fun and relax. In the last four years, Mr. Kelly has bowled at multiple
4 Bowlero locations and has experienced higher prices and worsened quality. For example, Mr.
5 Kelly estimates that prices at multiple Bowlero locations in his region have doubled, and in some
6 cases tripled (when considering surge prices), since Bowlero acquired them. Mr. Kelly was also a
7 frequent bowler at Bowl America Chantilly, a bowling center that Bowlero acquired and
8 subsequently closed. In the last four years, Mr. Kelly has also bowled at non-Bowlero centers in
9 his area. Mr. Kelly has been directly harmed by Bowlero's anticompetitive conduct.

10 28. Plaintiff Maor Kramer is a resident of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Kramer has been
11 bowling since he was a young child and currently enjoys bowling with friends a few times a year.
12 In the last four years, Mr. Kramer has bowled at both Bowlero and non-Bowlero centers in his
13 area. Mr. Kramer has noticed prices increase at both Bowlero and non-Bowlero centers during
14 that time. For example, he has noticed that Lucky Strike Wrigleyville, acquired by Bowlero from
15 Defendant Lucky Strike Entertainment LLC in 2023, is more expensive and has worse customer
16 service as compared with before Bowlero acquired it. Mr. Kramer has paid increased prices at
17 both Bowlero and non-Bowlero bowling centers in his area in the last four years and has been
18 directly harmed by Bowlero's anticompetitive conduct.

19 29. Plaintiff Casey Goodman is a resident of North Highlands, California. Mr.
20 Goodman is a longtime bowler who enjoys both league and non-league bowling. In the last four
21 years, Mr. Goodman has bowled at both Bowlero and non-Bowlero bowling centers in his area
22 and has faced increased prices at both over that time. In particular, Mr. Goodman has been
23 impacted by Bowlero's consistent increase in league fees and higher prices for food and
24 beverages. He has also experienced worsened quality at Bowlero centers, including lanes
25 breaking down, balls damaged by improperly maintained lanes, and often dirty facilities. Mr.
26 Goodman has been directly harmed by Bowlero's anticompetitive conduct.

30. Defendant Lucky Strike Entertainment Corporation (f/k/a Bowlero Corporation) is a publicly traded corporation incorporated under the laws of Delaware and headquartered in Mechanicsville, Virginia.

31. Defendant AMF Bowling Centers, Inc. (“AMF”), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bowlero, is a corporation incorporated under the laws of Virginia and headquartered in Mechanicsville, Virginia.

32. Defendant Lucky Strike Entertainment LLC is a limited liability company incorporated under the laws of Delaware and headquartered in Encino, California.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

33. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, bring this action against Defendants seeking equitable and injunctive relief, as well as damages, under Sections 4 and 16 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 & 26, for Defendants’ violation of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 2 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, also seek monetary and non-monetary equitable relief, including injunctive relief and restitution, as well as damages, under state antitrust and unfair competition laws.

34. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to Section 4 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 4; Sections 14 and 16 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 & 26; and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337, and 1367.

35. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Section 12 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 22, and 28 U.S.C. § 1391. A substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiffs’ claims occurred in this District, a substantial portion of the affected interstate trade and commerce has been carried out in this District, and Defendants are licensed to do business in, are doing business in, have agents in, are found in, transact business in, or are subject to personal jurisdiction in this District.

36. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they, *inter alia*: (a) are headquartered in the United States; (b) transacted business in the United States, including in

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1 this District; (c) directly sold or marketed goods and services in the relevant markets throughout
 2 the United States as a whole, including in this District; (d) have substantial aggregate contacts
 3 within the United States, including in this District; or (e) directed or engaged in acquisitions and
 4 other conduct the substantial, reasonably foreseeable, and intended effect of which was a
 5 substantial lessening of competition, or the creation of a monopoly causing injury to the business
 6 or property of persons and entities residing in, located in, or doing business throughout the
 7 United States, including in this District. Defendants also conduct business throughout the United
 8 States, including in this District, and have purposefully availed themselves of the protection of
 9 the laws of Washington and of the United States.

10 37. Defendants' conduct as alleged herein substantially affects interstate trade and
 11 commerce by harming competition, raising prices, restricting output, and otherwise harming
 12 Class members throughout the United States.

13 **FACTS**

14 **I. Bowling in America**

15 38. Bowling's history in America dates to the early 1800s, when Dutch settlers played
 16 "lawn bowling" in what later became New York City's first public park, Bowling Green. In
 17 Washington Irving's 1819 classic *Rip Van Winkle*, Rip learns of Dutch immigrants playing an
 18 early form of bowling in the Catskill mountains that sounded "like distant peals of thunder." By
 19 1895, with the ever-growing popularity of the activity, the American Bowling Congress was
 20 formed, and rules, equipment, and alley conditions were formalized, including adding a pin to
 21 make the 10-pin bowling we know today.

22 39. Bowling's popularity exploded after the Second World War, in large part due to
 23 the rise of the suburban middle class and the invention of the automatic pinsetter, which replaced
 24 the need for bowling alleys to employ individuals to manually clear and re-spot falling pins. This
 25 led to bowling centers lowering prices and increasing hours of operation. By the late 1960s and
 26 early 1970s, there were over 12,000 bowling centers throughout the United States and roughly 50
 27 million active bowlers.
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1 40. One aspect that made bowling so popular was that it appealed to families of all
2 economic backgrounds. At their peak some bowling alleys in the 1950s and 1960s even offered
3 nursery and day care services “so parents could enjoy their game with a bit more peace of mind.”
4 Bowling alleys marketed their centers as wholesome and family friendly, and often offered deals
5 catered to this type of customer, like free bowling lessons for children.

6 41. Another driver of bowling’s popularity was league bowling. By the end of the
7 1970s, nearly 10 million Americans participated in a bowling league. As political scientist Robert
8 Putnam famously explored in his work *Bowling Alone*, a big reason for the popularity of bowling
9 leagues was that they were uniquely accessible across class lines—unlike, for instance,
10 “fashionable country clubs,” league bowling was “solidly middle-American” and “common
11 among both men and women, couples and singles, working-class and middle-class, young and
12 old.”

13 42. While participation in bowling leagues has declined dramatically since its peak,
14 bowling remains the number one participation sport in the United States, and approximately 67
15 million Americans bowl at least once a year. In the 2024-25 season alone, the U.S. Bowling
16 Congress, the national governing body for ten-pin bowling, had more than 1 million active
17 members and certified more than 29,000 bowling leagues. Today, there are roughly 3,400
18 bowling centers equipped with nearly 78,000 lanes for these millions of American bowlers.
19 Market research estimates indicate that bowling centers saw combined revenues of \$5.1 billion in
20 2025.

21 43. Bowlero operates roughly 350 bowling centers across North America and
22 currently captures approximately 35% of total U.S. bowling revenue. It is far and away the
23 largest operator in the market—what one market research firm calls the “undisputed category
24 leader in North America.” Its next closest rivals (as measured by number of centers) operate 64
25 (Main Event) and 56 (Round1 Bowling) centers, respectively, and these rivals offer bowling
26 alongside other entertainment activities like arcades and laser tag. Another large rival, Pinstripes,
27 filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2025.

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1 44. The remaining bowling centers in the country are independent. According to one
2 estimate, there are 3,500 such bowling centers that remain—down from nearly 12,000 centers in
3 the mid-1960s. Whereas big chains like Bowlero seek to provide the same flashy and noisy
4 corporate experience across locations, these independent bowling centers are unique to their
5 communities and often still feature the family-oriented offerings like discounts for seniors,
6 family packs, and bargains for league bowlers that defined bowling for decades.

7 45. Bowling centers attract distinct types of customers. These include, among others,
8 family and casual bowlers, league bowlers, small groups, and corporate events. Most bowling
9 centers offer a mix of walk-in and reservation-only bowling.

10 46. As discussed in more detail below, the prices these customers pay have increased
11 dramatically—in large part due to Bowlero’s consolidation, adoption of algorithmically-driven
12 pricing schemes, and food and beverage upselling. Where a general manager of a Los Angeles
13 bowling alley in 1994 could confidently state that “[a] family of four can go bowling on a
14 Saturday night for \$35,” today that same family of four can spend multiple hundreds of dollars
15 for a worse experience.

16 47. In addition to consolidation of bowling centers, the markets for bowling supplies
17 relied on by bowling centers is now dominated by a few major players, including companies like
18 QubicaAMF and Brunswick Corporation, which “provide the bulk of bowling infrastructure”
19 such as “lanes, pinsetters, scoring systems, and lane management software.” Another important
20 supplier is Kegel, which describes itself as the “undisputed leader in lane care and lane
21 maintenance.” Lane care and maintenance, including the use of lane conditioning oils, is
22 essential to maintain the proper usability and overall durability of bowling lanes—without it, the
23 repeated roll of the bowling ball would slowly destroy a lane’s surface. In addition to guarding
24 against wear and tear, proper lane conditioning is crucial to ensure the bowling ball reacts
25 consistently in the lane when rolled. Lane care and maintenance supplies are therefore crucial to
26 a bowling center’s ability to operate and remain attractive to customers.
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II. Bowlero's Roll-Up Scheme

48. Bowlero's current dominant position in the bowling center industry is the direct result of its unlawful consolidation scheme.

49. The acquisition of rival bowling centers has long been the central pillar of Bowlero's corporate strategy. For example, in a November 2025 presentation to investors, Bowlero provided an overview of its most recent consolidation efforts, declaring that it has created "[c]onsistent value [to investors]. . . [t]hrough [a]cquisitions," and noting that it had "deployed \$700M of capital into acquisitions the past three years."

50. Bowlero's roll-up playbook puts independent bowling centers directly in its sights. In fact, one company executive has described the nation's independent bowling centers as "ripe for roll ups." And the company has repeatedly presented its thesis to investors and the public that this "highly fragmented industry" represents "an attractive consolidation opportunity to drive further growth."

A. AMF and Brunswick Acquisitions

51. In the early 2010s, Bowlero's predecessor company, Bowlmor, operated just six locations that, as CEO Thomas Shannon has noted, attracted customers with "racy" advertisements and an "upscale vibe."

52. That was about to change. In 2012, AMF Bowling Worldwide, Inc. ("Prior AMF"), then the largest operator of bowling centers in the country, filed for bankruptcy. Sensing an opportunity, Bowlmor, in a deal funded by certain of Prior AMF's second lien lenders including Cerberus Capital Management and Credit Suisse Group AG, combined with Prior AMF pursuant to Prior AMF's chapter 11 restructuring. The deal brought Prior AMF's 272 U.S. bowling centers under Bowlero's corporate control and overnight made Bowlero—at the time known as Bowlmor AMF—the largest operator of bowling centers in the world with an annual revenue of approximately \$450 million in 2013.

53. As its CFO at the time put it in 2013, Bowlero was on its way to its goal: to “d[o] to bowling what Starbucks did to coffee.” But to achieve its goal, instead of growing organically by building new bowling centers, Bowlero would use a roll-up playbook.

54. In fact, during the following year Bowlero (then still Bowlmor AMF) acquired a leading bowling center competitor, Brunswick Corporation, in a roughly \$260 million cash deal. The acquisition brought Brunswick’s 85 bowling centers (a number of which Bowlero has subsequently shuttered) throughout the country under Bowlero’s control, increasing Bowlero’s center count substantially and its annual revenue to approximately \$600 million in 2014 dollars.

B. Further Private Equity Investment and Professional Bowlers Association Acquisition

55. Bowlero’s rapid consolidation scheme—acquiring hundreds of bowling centers in a matter of years—unsurprisingly caught the attention of private equity. In 2017, private equity firm Atairos Group acquired a substantial ownership interest in Bowlero (then still Bowlmor AMF), in a transaction valued at more than \$1 billion. Atairos Group executives specifically highlighted Bowlero’s “great potential for continuing growth” through “acquisitions” and its “proven, scalable platform” as one of the reasons for the investment. Today, Atairos Group, through A-B Parent LLC, still owns 10% or more of Bowlero’s Class A common stock (and, Atairos Group and Bowlero CEO Thomas Shannon together “own approximately 95% of the outstanding shares of [Bowlero’s] common stock”).

56. After amassing a dominant position in the industry, Bowlero sought to further solidify its grip and set its sights on the Professional Bowlers Association (“PBA”). The PBA, founded in 1958, is the world’s premier bowling organization, and includes thousands of members from more than 20 countries. Critically, the PBA organizes competitive professional bowling tours, including the PBA Tour, PBA Regional, and PBA50 Tours, which are hosted at bowling centers across the country. The PBA also has major television deals with media companies like Fox Networks, CBS, and the CW Network, and its televised tournaments are watched by millions of viewers each year. Bowlero acquired the PBA in September 2019.

1 **C. SPAC Merger and IPO**

2 57. As Bowlero continued to grow, the company's Wall Street investors saw a further
3 opportunity to cash in—this time by jumping on the special purpose acquisition company
4 (“SPAC”) bandwagon of 2020 and 2021. SPAC deals raise capital in an initial public offering for
5 a to-be-announced acquisition and then use that cash to merge with a private company,
6 effectively taking it public.

7 58. In July 2021, Bowlero announced that it had combined with a SPAC called Isos
8 Acquisitions Corporation (“Isos”) and would go public as “BOWL” on the New York Stock
9 Exchange. The deal included what is known as a PIPE (private investment in public equity)
10 transaction of the company's convertible preferred and common stock, anchored by investors
11 from major Wall Street funds like Apollo Global Management, Inc., Brigade Capital
12 Management, Soros Fund Management LLC, The Donerail Group LP, and Wells Fargo Asset
13 Management. Funds managed by affiliates of Apollo, in particular, played a leading role,
14 committing a forward purchasing agreement for Isos of up to \$75 million (and ultimately
15 committing roughly \$100 million to the transaction).² The deal valued Bowlero at \$2.6 billion.

16 59. At the time, Bowlero operated nearly eight times more bowling centers than its
17 nearest rival. In its filing with the SEC, Isos echoed prior statements made by company
18 executives that bowling's “fragmentation presents a consolidation opportunity to drive further
19 growth.”

20 **D. Continued Roll-ups: Bowl America, Independent Bowling Centers, and Lucky**
21 **Strike**

22 60. Sure enough, once publicly listed Bowlero's roll-up playbook continued apace:
23 only a month after going public, Bowlero further increased its dominance by acquiring Bowl
24

25
26 ² A forward purchasing agreement essentially commits the investor to purchasing some amount
27 of SPAC units upon the completion of the SPAC merger and listing on a public stock exchange.
28 The idea is that the agreement provides a cash guarantee to the company merging with the SPAC
and therefore serves as a backstop, helping the SPAC demonstrate to the market that it is a
worthy investment.

America, the operator of 17 bowling centers across Florida, Virginia, and Maryland, for approximately \$44 million.

61. After its Bowl America acquisition, Bowlero's roll-up playbook continued in full force, with Bowlero gobbling up both the independent bowling alleys its executives had described as "ripe for roll up" as well additional larger rivals.

62. Bowlero acquired dozens of independent bowling centers across the country between 2021 and 2024, including:

63. In 2021 a center in Charlotte, North Carolina; a center in Vacaville, California and a center in Spring Hill, Florida;

64. In 2022 three centers in Wichita, Kansas; two centers in The Villages, Florida, one center in Rocklin, California; three centers in Wisconsin including two in and around Appleton and one in Milwaukee; and two centers in and around Omaha Nebraska;

65. In 2023 one center in Cherry Hill, New Jersey; two centers in Cape Coral, Florida; one center in Scottsdale, Arizona; and two centers in Michigan—one in the greater Grand Rapids area and one in the Detroit area; and

66. In 2024 two centers in the greater Detroit, Michigan area.

67. By 2023, Bowlero's revenues had increased from a few hundred million in 2021 to over \$1 billion for the first time, representing more than a third of the industry's total domestic revenues, and the company was operating far and away the most bowling centers in the world.

Bowlero did not hide its dominance, touting to investors on Wall Street that the company was in the "dominant position in a fragmented market" with a "rich opportunity set of assets to roll up" and a "successful acquisition . . . blueprint." Market analysts concurred while noting that Bowlero generated "high EBITDA margins[.]"

68. But Bowlero's acquisitive hunger was still growing with the company looking to further consolidate the industry. Bowlero next targeted rival Defendant Lucky Strike Entertainment, LLC ("Lucky Strike") which operated 14 locations in what Bowlero CEO Thomas Shannon described as "really marquee locations" in cities like Denver, San Francisco,

1 and Los Angeles, and, according to studies commissioned by Bowlero, had a brand that was
2 “meaningfully more powerful” than Bowlero’s. In September 2023, Bowlero completed its
3 acquisition of Lucky Strike in an all-cash deal of approximately \$90 million dollars, bringing all
4 14 Lucky Strike locations under Bowlero’s control.

5 69. The importance of Lucky Strike’s brand to Bowlero—and the centrality of the
6 acquisition to Bowlero’s business—was so profound that by the end of 2024 Bowlero officially
7 rebranded the entire company from Bowlero to Lucky Strike Entertainment, adopting the NYSE
8 ticker “LUCK.” And just this year, Bowlero announced plans to operate more than 200 of its
9 existing locations under the Lucky Strike brand moving forward and in fact to ultimately
10 eliminate the Bowlero brand entirely.

11 ***E. Bowlero’s Roll-Ups Have Enabled It to Obtain Discriminatory Terms from Its***
12 ***Suppliers Not Available to its Competitors***

13 70. Bowlero has weaponized the market dominance it achieved through its roll-up
14 playbook to extract discriminatory terms from its suppliers that are more favorable than those
15 available to its competitors.

16 71. As one Bowlero executive has put it, “there is scale that comes in these
17 acquisitions” and “we can use our scale to drive procurement synergies.” These supplier
18 concessions have been so valuable to Bowlero that, in 2025, it hired a Chief Procurement Officer
19 specifically to “drive efficiencies” in this area. Indeed, Bowlero attributed “benefits from our
20 procurement function” as a main driver of significantly decreasing CapEx in Q4 2025.

21 72. For example, Bowlero has negotiated a deal with Kegel, the world’s leading
22 supplier of bowling lane conditioning oil, for Kegel to develop two exclusive oil options only
23 available to Bowlero and decided to use those two oils exclusively instead of the nine oils that
24 were previously used in its bowling centers. The result is that Bowlero, by leveraging its
25 dominant position, is able to pay significantly less for lane oil than its competitors. Bowlero has
26 used its dominant position to extract other, similar concessions with equipment manufacturers,
27
28

1 either in the form of exclusive products or product discount rates, harming competition in those
2 critical supply markets.

3 73. Likewise, Bowlero has deployed its illegally acquired scale to force major food
4 and beverage suppliers to provide it with price concessions unavailable to its competitors, further
5 limiting independent bowling centers' ability to compete with it. As one market report explained,
6 Bowlero's "volume contracts" for food and beverage "drive favorable margins" for the company.
7 This extractive strategy allowed Bowlero to leave the Bowling Proprietors' Association of
8 America—a non-profit membership organization that represents thousands of independent
9 bowling centers throughout the country and negotiates group rates with key suppliers for its
10 membership—for a period between 2021 and 2022 without any financial repercussions, which is
11 something no independent bowling alley could afford to do.

12 ***F. Recently, Bowlero Has Pivoted to Rolling Up Outdoor Amusement and Water***
13 ***Parks***

14 74. Since 2024, Bowlero has initiated another roll-up strategy to extend its dominant
15 position in the market for bowling centers into the distinct but related markets for outdoor
16 amusement and water parks.

17 75. In May 2024, Bowlero acquired Raging Waves, a large water park in Yorkville,
18 Illinois. Bowlero CEO Thomas Shannon asserted to investors at the time that the transaction
19 presented a potential first step toward extending Bowlero's "operating philosophy" beyond
20 bowling centers to the broader "location-based entertainment industry."

21 76. In October 2024, Bowlero acquired Boomers Parks, a chain of six outdoor
22 amusement parks in California and Florida and a water park, Big Kahuna's, in Destin, Florida.
23 Mr. Shannon told investors at the time that, within weeks of the acquisition, Bowlero "had begun
24 shuttering unprofitable parts of the portfolio." These closures included the Boomers location in
25 Los Angeles, California.

26 77. In early 2025, the pace of Bowlero's cross-market acquisitions accelerated. In
27 March 2025, Bowlero acquired Visalia Adventure Park and Sequoia Springs Splash Park, an
28

1 amusement park and water park, respectively, in Visalia, California. In April 2025, Bowlero
 2 acquired Shipwreck Island Waterpark in Panama City, Florida. And around July 2025, Bowlero
 3 acquired two more water parks, Wet ‘n Wild Emerald Pointe in Greensboro, North Carolina and
 4 Raging Waters in San Dimas, California; an amusement park, Castle Park in Riverside,
 5 California; and two additional Boomers-branded amusement parks in Palm Springs, California,
 6 and Vista, California. As Mr. Shannon explained, this series of acquisitions solidified Bowlero’s
 7 “leadership” across “three verticals[:] bowling, water parks, and high quality family
 8 entertainment centers.”

9 78. According to Mr. Shannon, “the playbook for the water parks and . . . [amusement
 10 parks] is the same as it has been for bowling.” Shannon expects continued expansion into these
 11 related markets, articulating his ultimate goal of splitting revenue “40% bowling, 40% water
 12 parks, and 20% [amusement parks].” As he told investors, “I view this as ultimately becoming
 13 sort of a mini Disney.”

14 **III. Relevant Markets for Operating Bowling Centers**

15 ***A. Relevant Product Markets***

16 79. A relevant product market in which Bowlero’s roll-up scheme has substantially
 17 lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly is the market for operating bowling
 18 centers. Bowling centers are locations for tenpin bowling play equipped with multiple lanes.

19 80. Bowling centers are offered by a distinct group of vendors—namely, bowling
 20 center operators offering the specialized equipment and infrastructure required to qualify as a
 21 bowling center.

22 81. Bowling centers generally comply with the U.S. Bowling Congress’s standards
 23 for products and lane dimensions. The U.S. Bowling Congress is the sanctioning body for the
 24 sport of bowling. It publishes a manual setting forth equipment specifications “to ensure fair play
 25 and to ensure that technological advances in the design and manufacture of bowling equipment
 26 are in the best interests of the sport.”

27 82. Among the standards the U.S. Bowling Congress promulgates are:
 28

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- a. bowling ball required specifications;
- b. ball manufacturing requirements;
- c. tenpin and bowling lane specifications (e.g., approach length, foul line width, lane length, pit length, gutter width, lane panel drop offs, etc.);
- d. deck area requirements;
- e. specifications for pinsetting devices;
- f. specifications for string machine devices;
- g. specifications for automatic scoring devices;
- h. specifications for automatic foul detecting devices;
- i. specifications for lane inspection process; and
- j. specifications for lane dressing or lane surface.³

83. A small group of specialized vendors in each relevant geographic market offers products meeting these specifications. Because bowling centers require such specialized equipment and space, operators of other entertainment and activity centers cannot easily switch to operating a bowling center instead.

84. Bowling centers are a distinct product for antitrust purposes. Other outside-the-home sporting and entertainment options are not reasonable substitutes for bowling centers from the standpoint of consumers.

85. Bowling is not just an activity and form of entertainment; it is a sport. Indeed, the U.S. Bowling Congress maintains a detailed specification manual precisely “in order to protect the nature of the sport of bowling” and “preserve the character and integrity of the sport.”

86. A substantial portion of consumers—including league players who make up at least 10% of Bowlero’s customer base—go bowling to practice and play the sport of bowling.

³ For example, the U.S. Bowling Congress stipulates that “[a] regulation bowling lane, including flat gutters, kickbacks and approach, must be constructed of wood and/or other materials which have been tested according to U.S. Bowling Congress procedures for the specified time period and approved.”

1 The U.S. Bowling Congress, through its USBC Center Certification Department, certifies
2 bowling centers to ensure standardization in tenpin play across the country.

3 87. Other sporting and entertainment options nearby a bowling center are not a
4 reasonable substitute because they do not offer the bowling consumer the ability to bowl. Indeed,
5 Bowlero's CEO Thomas Shannon identifies "bowling" as a completely separate "vertical" from
6 "high quality family entertainment centers." In other words, Bowlero itself views family fun
7 centers as distinct products from bowling centers.

8 88. Bowling centers offer an activity an entire group of people spanning a wide range
9 of ages and mobility or activity levels—including paradigmatically families—can engage in
10 together all year round. Indeed, a substantial portion of bowling centers' customer base is
11 families and other mixed-age or -ability groups.

12 89. For these groups of consumers, many other forms of entertainment are not
13 reasonable substitutes. For example, dance clubs, bars, and other entertainment options geared
14 towards adults are often not reasonable substitutes for bowling centers because families generally
15 do not take children or elderly adults there. Laser tag, mini golf, trampoline parks, and other
16 venues requiring high levels of mobility to participate in the activity are not reasonable
17 substitutes for bowling centers, because grandma or the infant and her parent must sit on the
18 sidelines, separated from and generally not interacting with the others participating in the
19 activity.
20

21 90. In fact, market analysts explicitly distinguish operators of bowling center
22 networks with entertainment venues that include some combination of limited bowling with
23 other activities like virtual reality, laser tag, billiards, video games, mini golf, gravity ropes, and
24 escape rooms.

25 91. Concerts and similar activities are not reasonable substitutes for bowling because
26 concerts generally target a distinct age demographic, concert-going is a completely passive
27 activity, concerts offer very little opportunity for conversation and interaction, and they are
28 generally more expensive and require more planning (advanced tickets) than bowling. Bowling

1 is a unique activity in that the entire group of people, regardless of age and agility, can be
2 together and talk with one another while either participating in or watching the bowling. Indeed,
3 in large part due to these unique attributes, bowling is one of America's favorite and most
4 popular pastimes.

5 92. Amusement parks and water parks are not reasonable substitutes for bowling
6 centers. In addition to the previously discussed differentiating factors, amusement parks and
7 water parks are much bigger than bowling centers, generally require attendees to walk long
8 distances, wear bathing suits, get wet, and dedicate several hours to the visit. In addition,
9 amusement parks and water parks largely cater to children and young adults, while bowling
10 centers offer an entertainment and sporting option that appeals to a wide range of ages.
11 Amusement and water parks are also generally much higher priced than bowling centers. And, as
12 noted above, Bowlero itself views amusement and water parks as distinct products from bowling
13 centers.

14 93. A relevant antitrust market need not include all substitute products or services.
15 The loss of competition between a narrower group of substitutes can cause harm to competition,
16 making the narrower group a properly defined antitrust market.

17 94. The hypothetical monopolist test is a tool used to determine if a group of products
18 (i.e., bowling centers) is sufficiently broad to be a properly defined antitrust product market. If a
19 single firm (i.e., a hypothetical monopolist) seeking to maximize profits controlled all sellers of a
20 set of products or services and likely would undertake a small but significant and non-transitory
21 increase in price or other worsening of terms ("SSNIPT") of one of those products or services,
22 then that group of products or services (i.e., bowling centers) is a properly defined antitrust
23 product market.

24 95. A hypothetical monopolist of bowling centers in a given geographic market could
25 profitably impose a SSNIPT. In other words, in response to such a SSNIP imposed by a
26 monopolist at one bowling center, a sufficient number of consumers would switch to other
27
28

1 bowling centers nearby and not switch away to other forms of out-of-home entertainment,
2 making such a price increase profitable.

3 96. As discussed below, Bowlero competes in localized relevant geographic markets
4 for bowling centers throughout the United States.

5 ***B. Relevant Geographic Markets and Acquisitions in These Markets***

6 97. Consumers prefer to go bowling at bowling centers near where they live or work.
7 Bowling center competition therefore primarily occurs locally. Relevant geographic markets for
8 bowling centers are localized areas around each bowling center. While commuting patterns,
9 traffic flows, and other local characteristics may cause some variation in the distance and time
10 consumers are willing to travel to go bowling, consumers in most markets are generally not
11 willing to travel more than 30 to 60 minutes to go bowling.

12 98. Therefore, the competitive effects of Bowlero's bowling center acquisitions since
13 2021 (together, the "Acquisitions") are appropriately assessed in localized geographic markets
14 within 30 to 60 minutes of a Bowlero bowling center. A hypothetical monopolist controlling all
15 bowling centers in any such localized market within one of the core-based statistical areas (i.e.,
16 metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas) below could profitably implement a SSNIPT in a
17 bowling center in such relevant geographic market:

18 ***1. California***

19 99. **Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA MSA.** This metropolitan statistical area
20 ("MSA") includes, for example, Bowlero's Lucky Strike Los Angeles, Lucky Strike Montebello
21 (formerly Bowlero Montebello), and Lucky Strike Pasadena (formerly Bowlero Pasadena), as
22 well as its Lucky Strike Hollywood (formerly Lucky Strike Hollywood & Highland) and Lucky
23 Strike at L.A. Live locations that it acquired from Lucky Strike Entertainment, LLC in
24 September 2023 (the "Los Angeles Acquisitions").

25 100. Taking this MSA as an example, a hypothetical monopolist controlling all
26 bowling centers within 30 to 60 minutes of travel time to Bowlero's Lucky Strike Hollywood
27 and Lucky Strike at L.A. Live locations could profitably implement a SSNIPT.
28

101. **San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero's Lucky Strike Alameda (formerly Bowlero Alameda) location, as well as its Lucky Strike San Francisco location that it acquired from Lucky Strike Entertainment, LLC in September 2023 (the "San Francisco Acquisition").

102. **Santa Rosa-Petaluma, CA MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero's AMF Petaluma Lanes location, as well as its Double Decker Lanes location that it acquired in October 2022 (the "CA Wine Country Acquisition").

103. **Sacramento-Roseville-Folsom, CA MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero's AMF Rocklin Lanes and Bowlero North Sacramento locations, as well as its Lucky Strike Rocklin (formerly Strikes Unlimited) location that it acquired in October 2022 (the "Sacramento Acquisition").

2. *Washington*

104. **Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero's Garage Billiards & Bowl location that it acquired in May 2019, and its Lucky Strike Bellevue location that it acquired from Lucky Strike Entertainment, LLC in September 2023 (the "Seattle Acquisition").

3. *Arizona*

105. **Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero Old Town, Bowlero Christown, and AMF Tempe Village Lanes locations, as well as Bowlero's Mavrix location that it acquired in July 2023 (the "Phoenix Acquisition").

4. *Colorado*

106. **Denver-Aurora-Centennial, CO MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero Cherry Creek, Lucky Strike Wheat Ridge (formerly Bowlero Wheat Ridge) locations, as well as Bowlero's Lucky Strike Denver location that it acquired from Lucky Strike Entertainment, LLC in September 2023 (the "Denver Acquisition").

1 **5. Kansas**

2 107. **Wichita, KS MSA:** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero Northrock
3 (formerly Northrock Lanes), Bowlero Northridge (formerly West Acres Bowling Center), and
4 Lucky Strike Wichita (formerly the Alley Indoor Entertainment) locations, all three of which
5 Bowlero acquired in May 2022 (the “Wichita Acquisitions”).

6 **6. Nebraska/Iowa**

7 108. **Omaha, NE-IA MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero’s Lucky Strike
8 Elkhorn (formerly The Mark) and Bowlero Council Bluffs (formerly Thunderbowl) locations,
9 which it acquired in October and November 2022, respectively (the “Omaha Acquisitions”).

10 **7. Wisconsin**

11 109. **Appleton, WI MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero’s Super Bowl
12 Family Entertainment Center and Sabre Lanes locations, which it acquired in October 2022 (the
13 “Appleton Acquisitions”).

14 110. **Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero’s
15 AMF West Lanes and Bowlero Wauwatosa locations, as well as its JB’s on 41 location that it
16 acquired in October 2022 (the “Milwaukee Acquisition”).

17 **8. Illinois**

18 111. **Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN MSA.** This MSA includes, for example,
19 Bowlero’s Bowlero Lyons, Bowlero River Grove (formerly Brunswick Zone River Grove),
20 Bowlero Niles (formerly Brunswick Zone Niles) locations, as well as its Lucky Strike
21 Wrigleyville and Lucky Strike Chicago locations it acquired from Lucky Strike Entertainment,
22 LLC in September 2023 (the “Chicago Acquisitions”).

23 **9. Michigan**

24 112. **Grand Rapids-Wyoming-Kentwood, MI MSA.** This MSA includes, for
25 example, Bowlero’s AMF Eastbrook Lanes location as well as its Lucky Strike Holland
26 (formerly BAM! Entertainment Center) and Lucky Strike Grand Rapids (formerly Spectrum
27
28

Entertainment Complex) centers, which it acquired in August 2023 and November 2024, respectively (the “Grand Rapids Acquisitions”).

10. New York

113. **New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero’s Bowlero White Plains location, as well as the Lucky Strike West Nyack location, which it acquired from Lucky Strike Entertainment, LLC in September 2023 and subsequently closed (the “New York Acquisition”).

11. Pennsylvania/New Jersey

114. **Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero’s Bowlero Deptford (formerly Brunswick Zone Deptford), Bowlero Boothwyn, Bowlero Turnersville (formerly Brunswick Zone Turnersville), Bowlero Bristol, and Lucky Strike Feasterville (formerly Brunswick Zone XL Feasterville) locations, as well as its Bowlero Limerick (formerly Limerick Bowl), Lucky Strike Cherry Hill (formerly The Big Event), and Philadelphia locations that it acquired in August 2021, February 2023, and September 2023, respectively (the “Philadelphia Acquisitions”).

115. **Reading, PA MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero’s Berks Lanes and Hiester Lanes locations that it acquired in August 2021 (the “Reading Acquisitions”).

12. Maryland

116. **Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD MSA.** This MSA includes, for example, Bowlero’s AMF Southwest Lanes – MD and AMF Southdale Lanes locations, as well as the Bowl America Glen Burnie location, which it acquired from Bowl America in August 2021 and subsequently closed (the “Baltimore Acquisition”).

13. Washington, DC and Bordering States

117. **Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA.** This MSA includes Bowlero’s Lucky Strike Bethesda (formerly Bowlero Bethesda), Lucky Strike Rockville (formerly Bowlero Rockville), Lucky Strike College Park (formerly AMF College Park Lanes), AMF Marlow Heights Lanes, and AMF Capital Plaza Lanes locations, its Lucky Strike

Gaithersburg location (formerly Bowl America Gaithersburg) that it acquired in August 2021, as well as its Lucky Strike Montgomery Mall location, which it acquired from Lucky Strike Entertainment, LLC in September 2023 and subsequently closed. This MSA also includes Bowlero's Lucky Strike Tysons Corner, Lucky Strike Arlington, Lucky Strike Centreville, Bowlero Annandale, and Bowlero Dale City locations, as well as its Bowl America Burke, Bowl America Bull Run, Bowl America Chantilly, Bowl America Fairfax, Bowl America Falls Church, Bowl America Shirley, Bowl America Woodbridge, and Lucky Strike Sterling (formerly Bowl America Dranesville) locations (together with the Lucky Strike Montgomery Mall location, the "DMV Acquisitions"). Bowlero acquired all of these Bowl America locations in August 2021 and subsequently closed the Bowl America Chantilly location.

14. Virginia

118. **Richmond, VA MSA.** This MSA includes Bowlero's Bowlero West End, Bowlero Richmond, and Bowlero Mechanicsville locations, as well as Bowlero's Bowl America Southwest and Bowl America Short Pump locations that it acquired from Bowl America in August 2021. This MSA also included Bowlero's Bowl America Eastern and Bowl America Midlothian locations that it acquired from Bowl America in August 2021 and subsequently closed (together with the Bowl America Southwest and Bowl America Short Pump locations, the "Richmond Acquisitions").

15. Carolinas

119. **Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC MSA.** This MSA includes Bowlero South Boulevard location, as well as Bowlero Charlotte (formerly Strike City) and Lucky Strike South Charlotte (formerly 10 Park Lanes) locations that it acquired in October 2018 and September 2021, respectively (the "Charlotte Acquisitions").

16. Florida

120. **Jacksonville, FL MSA.** This MSA includes Bowlero Southside (formerly Bowl America Southside) and Bowlero Mandarin (formerly Bowl America Mandarin) locations that Bowlero acquired from Bowl America in August 2021. This MSA also included Bowlero's Bowl

America Orange Park location, which it acquired from Bowl America in August 2021 and subsequently closed (together with the Bowl America Southside and Bowl America Mandarin locations, the “Jacksonville Acquisitions”).

121. **Wildwood-The Villages, FL MSA.** This MSA includes Bowlero’s AMF Leesburg Lanes location as well as its Fiesta Bowl and Spanish Springs Lanes locations that it acquired in September 2022 (the “Villages Acquisitions”).

122. **Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL MSA.** This MSA includes Bowlero’s Bowland Cape Coral and Bowlero Midpoint (formerly HeadPinz Cape Coral) locations that it acquired in April 2023 (the “Cape Coral Acquisitions”).

C. Barriers to Entry and Expansion

123. There are high barriers to entry and expansion in the relevant markets for bowling centers in the United States.

124. Operating a bowling center requires specialized and expensive facilities, equipment, and knowledge. As discussed *supra*, Section III.A, a bowling center generally must comply with the U.S. Bowling Congress’s standards, which specify strict requirements for everything from the lane size to the bowling balls.

125. Operating a bowling center requires a large upfront capital investment in the facility and equipment. A proprietor cannot simply “hang a shingle” as they can in several other business areas. It generally requires millions of dollars in upfront investment to purchase an existing bowling center or build one.

126. Once a bowling center is built, it requires a constant capital investment to keep the bowling center competitive, current, and up to standards, and to fix broken or failed equipment. This is an additional, ongoing—and often uncertain—capital expenditure that makes it hard to predict net revenues and serves as an additional barrier to entry and expansion.

127. Depending on the locale (e.g. urban versus rural), it can be difficult to find the space to build a new bowling center, particularly in places where parking is scarce and

1 commercial business space is expensive. This serves as a further barrier to entry and expansion,
2 particularly in urban and suburban markets.

3 128. It is hard to break into a community as a new bowling center. League players,
4 families, and other groups of bowlers are used to their familiar centers and are reluctant to give
5 new entrants the chance to compete for their business. In other words, brand recognition in
6 bowling is a real and significant element that prevents new entrants from easily breaking into a
7 market.

8 129. In addition, as explained in detail below, Bowlero's anticompetitive conduct—
9 including its acquisitions of rival bowling centers and the PBA, the concessions and unfair
10 advantages it can extract from key suppliers, and the marketing war chest it can deploy (or
11 threaten to deploy)—has further increased the barriers to entry and expansion.

12 130. Finally, Bowlero's dominance resulting from its acquisitions now positions the
13 company to further extend this unlawfully acquired dominance into adjacent or complementary
14 markets—namely, local markets for amusement and water parks—which will further increase
15 barriers to entry and expansion.

16 131. Bowling centers, amusement parks, and water parks generally share suppliers for
17 essential or complementary inputs, from food and beverages to janitorial supplies to arcade
18 machines.

19 132. As Bowlero extends its scale and scope across markets, it builds “procurement
20 synergies,” which pose barriers to entry and expansion, and it builds local buyer power, which it
21 can leverage to extract improved and potentially discriminatory concessions from suppliers.

22 133. Absent intervention, Bowlero's entrenchment and cross-market growth could
23 enable it to foreclose rivals entirely in certain geographic regions through exclusive deals and
24 other unfair advantages with those suppliers. Such an accumulation of buyer power will increase
25 barriers to entry in multiple markets and has already harmed or threatens to harm both Bowlero's
26 coerced distributors and rival bowling centers whose costs have increased relative to Bowlero's.
27
28

134. Bowlero's cross-market integration raises barriers to entry and expansion in additional ways. Bowlero cross-subsidizes its bowling centers and amusement and water parks through on-site, intra-brand marketing—advertising, for example, the Raging Waves water park at Chicago-area bowling centers. Rival bowling centers cannot match either the scale or scope of Bowlero's advertising and cannot similarly or effectively cross-subsidize their marketing efforts.

135. Bowlero also creates cross-subsidies by pooling data it collects on its customers across its properties, which it uses to personalize marketing and pricing for both lines of business. Through cross-marketing and commercial surveillance, Bowlero thereby raises costs for rival bowling centers, who must either increase marketing expenditures or risk losing customers in the face of increased search costs relative to Bowlero. Ultimately, these increased marketing costs have been or will be passed on to bowling consumers in the form of higher prices.

IV. Bowlero's Anticompetitive Acquisitions Have Harmed Competition and Injured Consumers and Threaten Further Competitive Injury

136. Bowlero's consolidation scheme has enabled it to acquire and entrench its dominance, use that power to produce substantial anticompetitive effects in numerous local markets, and leverage it to fuel a new roll-up scheme in the adjacent amusement and water park space.

137. Bowlero's acquisitions substantially increased its market shares and concentration levels in the majority of the relevant markets—thus raising a presumption that the acquisitions substantially lessened competition in those markets.

138. Bowlero's acquisitions eliminated competition with multiple locations with which Bowlero had been competing directly.

139. Bowlero's acquisitions entrenched Bowlero's dominant position in nearly all of the relevant markets as well as nationally, and allowed Bowlero to leverage that unlawfully acquired dominance to obtain preferred deals from suppliers not available to its competitors and to extend its dominance to an adjacent market.

140. There is also significant direct evidence that Bowlero can exercise the power it unlawfully acquired through its acquisition scheme—namely, evidence that Bowlero has increased prices while reducing quality, including by:

- a. reducing lane conditioning and maintenance;
- b. reducing operating hours
- c. reducing maintenance staff and security; and
- d. imposing loud music, blacklights, and massive video boards that make it difficult to bowl and converse with family, friends, or competing bowlers.

141. In some markets, Bowlero has leveraged the dominance it acquired through its roll-ups to drastically reduce output altogether by closing an acquired facility, enabling Bowlero to raise prices at its remaining locations, shunting consumers to more distant, less desirable bowling centers, or inducing them to give up or scale back on one of their favorite activities for lack of availability.

142. While reducing output and quality, and in lieu of any real innovation, Bowlero has implemented a constant stream of policies to rip off its customers, whether through gift cards that cannot actually be redeemed online, center-based “monetization” apps that push gambling on its customers, or its relentless and explicit upselling campaign to extract as many food and beverage dollars from its customers as possible.

143. Bowlero can exercise its power in this harmful way because its anticompetitive scheme has successfully eliminated meaningful competitive restraints.

A. Bowlero’s Acquisitions Have Enabled It to Control High Shares of Concentrated Markets and Were Thus Presumptively Unlawful

144. In virtually all of the relevant markets, Bowlero’s anticompetitive conduct has substantially increased concentration levels and Bowlero’s shares of these markets.

145. For purposes of this complaint, Bowlero’s share of a given relevant market is measured by dividing the number of lanes it operates by the total number of lanes in that market.

Market analysts often highlight bowling center lane counts when assessing acquisitions. At the

1 same time, the share-of-lanes metric is a conservative measure of Bowlero's market shares,
 2 which likely underestimates the company's dominance. When shares are measured by revenues,
 3 Bowlero's shares are even higher given that it generally generates substantially larger revenues
 4 per visitor and per lane than its local, smaller competitors.

5 146. The Herfindahl-Hirschman Index ("HHI") is a well-established method for
 6 calculating concentration in a market. The HHI is the sum of the squares of the market shares of
 7 the market participants. For example, a market with five firms, each with 20% market share,
 8 would have an HHI of 2,000 ($20^2 + 20^2 + 20^2 + 20^2 + 20^2 = 2,000$). The HHI is low when there
 9 are many small firms and grows higher as the market becomes more concentrated. A market with
 10 a single firm would have an HHI of 10,000 ($100^2 = 10,000$).

11 147. The Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission jointly publish the
 12 Merger Guidelines. Rooted in established case law and widely accepted economic research, the
 13 Merger Guidelines outline the legal tests, analytical frameworks, and economic methodologies
 14 both agencies use to assess whether transactions violate the antitrust laws, including measuring
 15 market shares and changes in market concentration from a merger. The Merger Guidelines—
 16 themselves guided by numerous court decisions—support using the HHI method to calculate
 17 market concentration.

18 148. The Merger Guidelines explain that a merger that significantly increases market
 19 concentration is presumptively unlawful. Specifically:

- 21 • A merger that creates a firm with a market share of over 30% and that increases the HHI
 22 of the market by more than 100 points is presumed to substantially lessen competition in
 23 that market and is thus presumptively illegal.
- 24 • A merger is also likely to create or enhance market power—and, again, is presumptively
 25 illegal—when the post-merger HHI exceeds 1,800 and the merger increases the HHI by
 26 more than 100 points.

27 149. Supreme Court precedent separately establishes that a merger that results in a
 28 combined firm with a market share of 30% or more is also presumptively unlawful.

1 150. The increase in market concentration caused by Bowlero's acquisitions is
 2 indicative of the mergers' negative impact on competition. In all but four of the relevant
 3 markets,⁴ Bowlero's acquisition of one or more bowling centers in that market increased
 4 Bowlero's market share to at least an estimated 26% and in some cases to as high as an estimated
 5 95%, and/or increased the HHI by at least approximately 100 points and in some cases by as
 6 much as over 4,000 points, and/or resulted in a post-merger HHI exceeding 1,800 and in some
 7 cases as high as an estimated 8,990.

8 151. In each of these relevant markets, Bowlero's acquisition of one or more bowling
 9 centers was presumptively unlawful either by achieving a combined market share of 30% or
 10 more, or by increasing the HHI by least 100 points to above 1,800. This is the case in each
 11 relevant market in which Bowlero made sequential acquisitions, irrespective of whether those
 12 acquisitions are evaluated in isolation or collectively.

13 152. For example, in 2023 with its acquisition of Lucky Strike, Bowlero acquired two
 14 Lucky Strike locations in Los Angeles, depicted in green on the map below: Lucky Strike
 15 Hollywood & Highland Park (in Hollywood), and Lucky Strike at L.A. Live (in downtown Los
 16 Angeles).

17 153. At the time, Bowlero already owned and operated Lucky Strike Los Angeles (near
 18 LAX airport), Lucky Strike Mar Vista, Bowlero Montebello (now Lucky Strike Montebello), and
 19 Bowlero Pasadena (now Lucky Strike Pasadena), among other centers in the Los Angeles-Long
 20 Beach-Anaheim, CA MSA, which are depicted in blue on the map below.

21 154. Based on publicly available information, Bowlero went from controlling an
 22 estimated 127 lanes across four locations, to controlling an estimated 157 lanes across six
 23 locations.
 24

25
 26
 27 ⁴ The three exceptions are the relevant markets in the Reading, PA; Jacksonville, FL; and
 28 Wichita, KS MSAs, in which Bowlero acquired one or more locations from the same owner and
 did not previously operate in that market.

155. The remaining competitors in this area, depicted in black on the map below, are Shatto 39 Lanes, XLanes LA, Pinz Bowling Kitchen & Bar, Round1 Bowling & Arcade – Burbank, Back Alley Bowling – Glendale, Montrose Bowl, Highland Park Bowl, Alhambra Valley Bowl, and Action Lanes, which collectively offer an estimated 229 lanes.

156. Bowlero's market share in this area therefore went from an estimated 33% to 41%, and the estimated HHI in this market went from 1,606 to 2,118—a more than 500-point increase.

157. Bowlero's September 2023 acquisitions of Lucky Strike Hollywood & Highland Park and Lucky Strike at L.A. Live were presumptively illegal.

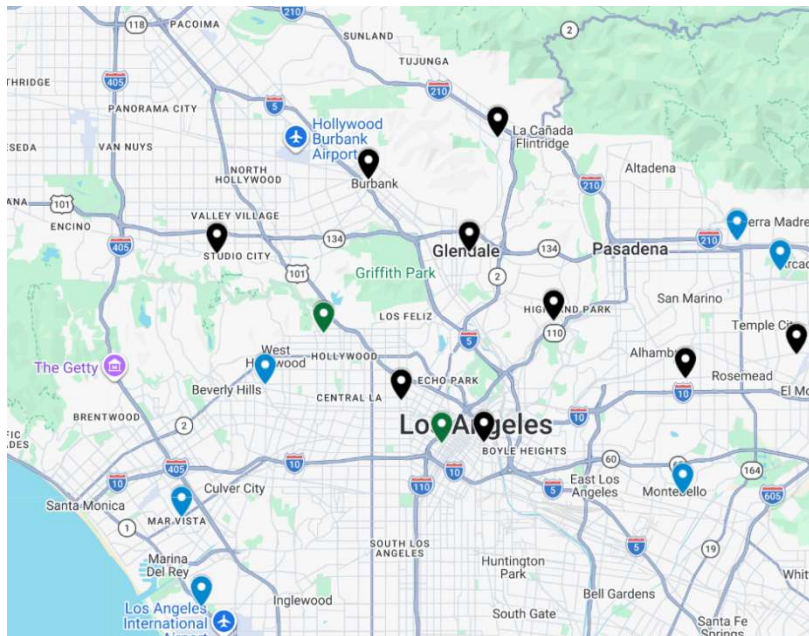


Figure 1

158. Another example is The Villages, Florida. In 2022, Bowlero acquired Fiesta Bowl and Spanish Springs Lane from The Villages of Lake-Sumter, Inc., depicted in purple on the map below.

159. At the time, Bowlero already owned and operated AMF Leesburg Lanes, Bowlero East Ocala, and Bowlero West Ocala in The Villages, FL MSA, which are depicted in blue on the map below.

160. Based on publicly available information, Bowlero went from controlling an estimated 104 lanes across three locations, to controlling an estimated 168 lanes across five locations.

161. The remaining competitors in this area, depicted in black on the map below, are Adrenaline Rush Raceway and Parkview Lanes, which controlled a combined total of 34 lanes.

162. Bowlero's estimated market share in this area therefore went from 52% to 83%, and the estimated HHI in this market went from 3,808 to 7,071—a more than 3,200-point increase.

163. Bowlero's 2022 acquisitions of Fiesta Bowl and Spanish Spring Lanes were presumptively illegal.

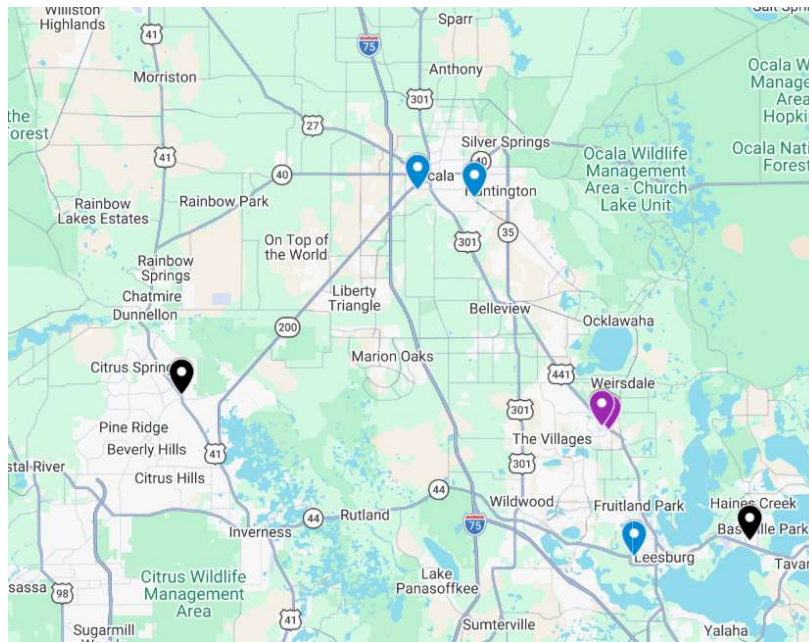


Figure 2

164. A third example is in the Northern Virginia region of the greater D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area. In its 2021 acquisition of Bowl America, Bowlero acquired eight Bowl America locations across Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax Counties, depicted in orange on the map below: Bowl America Dranesville, Bowl America Falls Church, Bowl America Shirley, Bowl

1 America Burke, Bowl America Woodbridge, Bowl America Chantilly, Bowl America Fairfax,
2 and Bowl American Bull Run.

3 165. At the time, Bowlero already owned and operated a Bowlero at Tysons Galleria
4 (now Lucky Strike Tysons Corner), a Bowlero in Arlington (now Lucky Strike Arlington),
5 Bowlero Annandale, Bowlero Dale City, and Bowlero Centreville (now Lucky Strike
6 Centreville).

7 166. Based on publicly available information, Bowlero went from controlling an
8 estimated 180 lanes across five locations, to controlling an estimated 502 lanes across 13
9 locations.

10 167. The remaining competitors in this area, depicted in black on the map below, are
11 Punch Bowl Social and Uptown Alley, which controlled a combined total of 28 lanes.

12 168. Bowlero's estimated market share in this area therefore went from 34% to 95%,
13 and the estimated HHI in this market went from 4,866 to 8,992—a more than 4,100-point
14 increase. Alternatively, excluding from the post-acquisition calculations Bowl America Chantilly,
15 which was closed following Bowlero's acquisition of Bowl America, Bowlero's estimated
16 market share in this area went from 34% to 95%, and the estimated HHI in this market went
17 from 4,866 to 8,914—a more than 4,000-point increase.

18 169. Bowlero's 2021 acquisitions of Bowl America Dranesville, Bowl America Falls
19 Church, Bowl America Shirley, Bowl America Burke, Bowl America Woodbridge, Bowl
20 America Chantilly, Bowl America Fairfax, and Bowl American Bull Run were presumptively
21 illegal.
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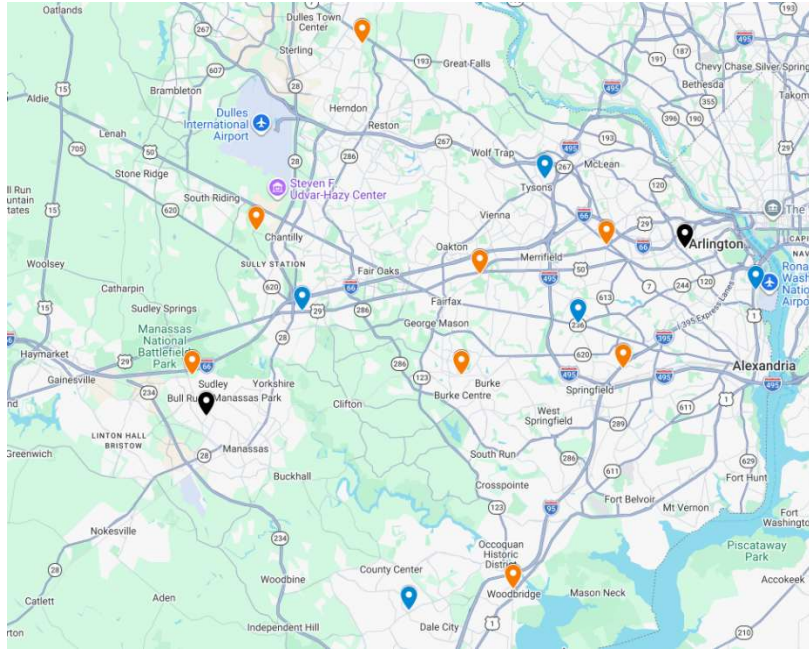


Figure 3

170. Based on publicly available information, in relevant local markets comprised of bowling centers within approximately one hour's driving time of the acquired center(s) in the following MSAs, Bowlero's estimated market share and concentration levels in the market changed as follows:

- Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA MSA: As discussed in paragraphs 152-157, Bowlero's acquisitions of Lucky Strike Hollywood & Highland Park and Lucky Strike at L.A. Live resulted in Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 33% to 41% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 1,606 to 2,118—a more than 500-point increase. These acquisitions were thus presumptively illegal.
- San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA MSA: Bowlero's acquisition of Lucky Strike San Francisco resulted in Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 38% to 49% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 2,098 to

2,951—a more than 800-point increase. This acquisition was thus presumptively illegal.

- Santa Rosa-Petaluma, CA MSA: Bowlero's acquisition of Double Decker Lanes resulted in Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 25% to 56% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 2,415 to 3,978—a 1,562-point increase. This acquisition was thus presumptively illegal.
- Sacramento-Roseville-Folsom, CA MSA: Bowlero's acquisition of Strikes Unlimited resulted in Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 29% to 45% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 1,647 to 2,596—a nearly 1,000-point increase. This acquisition was thus presumptively illegal.
- Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA: Bowlero's acquisition of Lucky Strike Bellevue resulted in Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 36% to 42% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 2,020 to 2,440—a more than 400-point increase. This acquisition was thus presumptively illegal.
- Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ MSA: Bowlero's acquisition of Mavrix resulted in Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 65% to 67% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 4,322 to 4,640—a more than 300-point increase. This acquisition was thus presumptively illegal.
- Denver-Aurora-Centennial, CO MSA: Bowlero's acquisition of Lucky Strike Denver resulted in Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 62% to 64% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 4,112 to 4,310—a nearly 200-point increase. This acquisition was thus presumptively illegal.
- Omaha, NE-IA MSA: Bowlero's acquisitions of The Mark and Thunderbowl Lanes resulted in Bowlero obtaining an estimated 33% market share and the HHI increasing from an estimated 1,370 to 1,899—a more than 500-point increase. These acquisitions were thus presumptively illegal

- 1 • Appleton, WI MSA: Bowlero's acquisitions of Sabre Lanes and Super Bowl

2 Family Entertainment Center resulted in Bowlero obtaining an estimated 32%

3 market share and the HHI increasing from an estimated 1,051 to 1,555—a more

4 than 500-point increase. These acquisitions were thus presumptively illegal
- 5 • Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI MSA: Bowlero's acquisition of JB's on 41 resulted in

6 Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 31% to 40% and the HHI

7 increasing from an estimated 1,319 to 1,880—a more than 500-point increase.

8 This acquisition was thus presumptively illegal.
- 9 • Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN MSA: Bowlero's acquisitions of Lucky Strike

10 Chicago and Lucky Strike Wrigleyville resulted in Bowlero's market share

11 increasing from an estimated 51% to 55% and the HHI increasing from an

12 estimated 2,958 to 3,234—a nearly 300-point increase. These acquisitions were

13 thus presumptively illegal.
- 14 • Grand Rapids-Wyoming-Kentwood, MI MSA: Bowlero's acquisitions of BAM!

15 Entertainment Center and Spectrum Entertainment Complex resulted in Bowlero's

16 market share increasing from an estimated 11% to 34%. These acquisitions were

17 thus presumptively illegal.
- 18 • New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ MSA: Bowlero's acquisition of Lucky

19 Strike West Nyack resulted in Bowlero's market share increasing from an

20 estimated 36% to 41% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 1,963 to

21 2,312—a more than 300-point increase. Alternatively, excluding from the post-

22 acquisition calculations Lucky Strike West Nyack, which Bowlero recently

23 shuttered, Bowlero's market share increased from 36% to 37% and the HHI

24 increased from 1,963 to 2,143—a 180-point increase. This acquisition was thus

25 presumptively illegal.
- 26 • Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD MSA: Bowlero's acquisitions

27 of Limerick Bowl, The Big Event, and Lucky Strike Philadelphia resulted in

28

Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 31% to 48% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 1,342 to 2,568—a more than 1,000-point increase. These acquisitions were thus presumptively illegal. Bowlero's acquisitions of The Big Event and Lucky Strike Philadelphia on their own were also presumptively illegal, as Bowlero's market share increased from an estimated 39% to 48% and the HHI increased from an estimated 1,806 to 2,567—a nearly 800-point increase.

- Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD MSA: Bowlero's acquisition of Bowl America's Glen Burnie location resulted in Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 81% to 91% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 6,708 to 8,272—a more than 1,500-point increase. Alternatively, excluding from the post-acquisition calculations Bowl America Glen Burnie, which Bowlero closed after it acquired Bowl America, Bowlero's market share increased from an estimated 81% to 90% and the HHI increased from an estimated 6,708 to 8,101—a nearly 1,400-point increase. This acquisition was thus presumptively illegal.
- Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA:
 - As discussed in paragraphs 164-169, Bowlero's acquisitions of Bowl America Dranesville, Bowl America Falls Church, Bowl America Shirley, Bowl America Burke, Bowl America Woodbridge, Bowl America Chantilly, Bowl America Fairfax, and Bowl American Bull Run resulted in Bowlero's share of a Northern Virginia market within this MSA increasing from an estimated 34% to 95% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 4,866 to 8,992—a more than 4,100-point increase. These acquisitions were presumptively illegal.
 - In addition, Bowlero's acquisition of Lucky Strike Montgomery Mall was also presumptively illegal, as it resulted in Bowlero's share of a DC-centric market within this MSA increasing from an estimated 78% to 81% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 6,216 to 6,795—a nearly 600-

point increase. Bowlero subsequently closed the Lucky Strike Montgomery Mall location, reducing output in the market and leaving concentration levels still high at an estimated HHI of 6,692.

- Richmond, VA MSA: Bowlero's acquisitions of Bowl America Southwest, Bowl America Short Pump, Bowl America Eastern, and Bowl America Midlothian resulted in Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 32% to 67% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 2,484 to 4,749—a more than 2,000-point increase. These acquisitions were thus presumptively illegal.
- Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC MSA: Bowlero's acquisition of 10 Park Lanes resulted in Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 57% to 69% and the HHI increasing from an estimated 3,740 to 5,082—a more than 1,300-point increase. This acquisition was thus presumptively illegal.
- Wildwood-The Villages, FL MSA: As discussed in paragraphs 158-163, Bowlero's acquisitions of Fiesta Bowl and Spanish Spring Lanes resulted in Bowlero's market share increasing from an estimated 52% to 83% and the estimated HHI increasing from an estimated 3,808 to 7,071—a more than 3,200-point increase. These acquisitions were thus presumptively illegal.
- Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL MSA: Bowlero's acquisitions of Bowland Cape Coral and Headpinz Cape Coral resulted in Bowlero obtaining an estimated 83% market share and the HHI increasing from an estimated 2,945 to 3,757—a more than 800-point increase. This acquisition was thus presumptively illegal.

B. Bowlero's Unlawful Acquisitions Otherwise Have Substantially Lessened or May Substantially Lessen Competition or Tend to Create a Monopoly

171. On top of enabling Bowlero to control high shares of concentrated markets, Bowlero's consolidation scheme has substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant markets in several ways.

172. *First*, the acquisitions eliminated substantial competition between firms previously competing head-to-head to offer the same products, which has led to higher prices and lower quality for consumers in these markets.

173. For example, prior to acquiring Bowl America, Bowlero and Bowl America competed directly for bowling customers in the Northern Virginia region within the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA. Likewise, prior to acquiring Lucky Strike, Bowlero and Lucky Strike often competed directly against each other.

174. Bowlero's acquisitions in the relevant markets in the following MSAs eliminated substantial head-to-head competition because they occurred in relevant markets in which Bowlero previously operated one or more centers and purchased one or more rival centers, or Bowlero purchased two or more centers that did not previously share the same owner: Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA MSA; San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA MSA; Santa Rosa-Petaluma, CA MSA; Sacramento-Roseville-Arden-Arcade, CA MSA; Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA; Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ MSA; Denver-Aurora-Centennial, CO MSA; Omaha, NE-IA MSA; Appleton, WI MSA; Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI MSA; Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA; Grand Rapids-Wyoming-Kentwood, MI MSA; New York-Newark-White Plains, NY-NJ MSA; Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD MSA; Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD MSA; Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA; Richmond, VA MSA; Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC MSA; and Wildwood-The Villages, FL MSA. The reduction in competition left consumers in these markets facing higher prices that they generally could not avoid if they wanted to continue to bowl.

175. As another example, prices at both Lucky Strike Philadelphia and Bowlero competitors in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD MSA rose within a year of Bowlero's acquisition of Lucky Strike Philadelphia in that market.

176. A further anticompetitive effect of the elimination of this head-to-head competition has been that Bowlero has shuttered numerous locations it acquired.

177. Bowlero White Plains used to compete with Lucky Strike West Nyack, a 20-minute drive across the Hudson River via Route 287. After Bowlero acquired Lucky Strike's 14 locations in September 2023, it promptly closed the Lucky Strike West Nyack location, leaving Bowlero White Plains as the only viable alternative for many bowlers in the area. Lucky Strike operated the West Nyack location profitably since its opening in 2007 before Bowlero shut it down. The closure of this location therefore cannot be justified by insufficient demand for two locations in this close proximity. Bowlero shut down Lucky Strike Nyack for one reason: it enabled Bowlero to force consumers in the area to Bowlero White Plains, where it could charge them much more than it could when it was competing with this strong rival with a powerful brand 20 minutes away.

178. The same story has played out in multiple other markets over the last four years.

179. In Richmond, Virginia, Bowlero acquired four Bowl America locations and promptly closed two of them, funneling customers to the three preexisting Bowlero locations in the region or the remaining two Bowl America locations, where it was able to increase prices.

180. In Fairfax, Virginia, Bowlero was already operating Bowlero Centreville, which was roughly equidistant from both Bowl America Chantilly (to the northeast) and Bowl America Bull Run (to the southwest), when it acquired these two Bowl America locations. Less than a year later, it closed Bowl America Chantilly, thereby capturing and diverting nearly all of its preexisting customer base to Bowlero Centreville, where those customers now pay significantly higher prices for a worse experience.

181. In a competitive market, customers would have turned to competitors in the face of Bowlero's heightened prices and onslaught of upselling tactics. Yet, as one Bowlero executive noted, "the consumer is not pushing back on our price movements." This is because Bowlero has acquired so much market dominance, and so reduced output, that consumers have been left with few reasonable alternatives at competitive prices.

182. **Second**, Bowlero's acquisitions have enabled it to use its unlawfully acquired buyer power to extract concessions from suppliers not otherwise available to competitors. The Class Action Complaint Case No.

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1 larger Bowlero gets, the better deals it obtains from suppliers like Sysco Foods (food and
2 beverage), QubicaAMF (bowling balls), and Kegel (lane oil). Indeed, this is one of Bowlero's
3 self-proclaimed reasons for its acquisition spree. As CFO Bobby Lavan put it, Bowlero is now
4 able to "use our scale to drive procurement synergies."

5 183. Bowlero has in turn deployed the massive savings it has unlawfully extracted
6 from suppliers not to lower prices for consumers or to invest in real improvements in its bowling
7 centers, but to drown out any marketing efforts of its rivals with massive advertising campaigns
8 and "partnerships." Bowlero's nationwide scale provides a significant unlawfully acquired
9 advantage over local independent rivals, as it can invest in a single national marketing campaign
10 benefitting all of its hundreds of centers.

11 184. It is these unfair advantages, combined with Bowlero's unlawfully acquired
12 market power, that have enabled Bowlero to squeeze both suppliers and customers and—as it has
13 claimed—to increase operating margins on acquired centers from an average of approximately
14 20% to 40% or higher within only 120 days following an acquisition.

15 185. Indeed, with its acquisition and control of the PBA—which, as one executive put
16 it, created "huge synergies between the center business and the television product"—Bowlero
17 ensures that every single American who streams a bowling tournament or event is bombarded
18 with its brands' logos and ads, as well as marketing pitches for its bowling centers.

19 186. By flooding potential customers with Bowlero advertising, Bowlero primes them
20 to default to a Bowlero location. Consumers today see very little advertising or information
21 about any other bowling center besides Bowlero's. Thus, Bowlero's extraction of
22 discriminatorily favorable terms translates directly to harm to its rivals, creates substantial
23 barriers to entry and expansion, and consequently harms bowlers and competition.

24 187. As the foregoing alleged facts make clear, the larger scale on which Bowlero
25 operates and acquires inputs does not generate any cognizable efficiencies and does not benefit
26 bowlers or competition. Bowlero has not taken the concessions it extracts from suppliers due to
27 its size and passed them through to consumers in the form of lower prices, or used them to invest
28

1 in quality improvements or innovation in its centers. Rather, Bowlero has weaponized these
2 special advantages to unfairly keep its competitors at bay, increase consumer prices, and fund its
3 market-extension strategy into markets adjacent to bowling.

4 188. *Third*, Bowlero’s acquisitions have enabled Bowlero to extend its national
5 dominance to the specific local markets in which it has acquired rival centers, including those in
6 which Bowlero did not previously have a presence.

7 189. For instance, even before its acquisition of Lucky Strike, Bowlero was a dominant
8 force in bowling across the country. It was the largest operator of bowling alleys and operated
9 more than eight times as many centers as its closest rival. Indeed, at the time, financial analysts
10 observed that “Bowlero already generates the highest EBITDA [earnings before interest, taxes,
11 depreciation, and amortization] margins of the live entertainment peer group.” Bowlero’s ability,
12 on the heels of its roll-ups of numerous independent centers and key rivals like Bowl America, to
13 capture margins unavailable to firms in comparable markets untainted by Bowlero’s roll-up
14 scheme demonstrates just how dominant Bowlero’s market position was even before the Lucky
15 Strike acquisition.

16 190. Acquiring Lucky Strike further entrenched Bowlero’s dominance, by, among
17 things, reinforcing and supplementing the key sources of that dominance such as overall size,
18 scale, and customer base, buying power in relation to key bowling, food, and beverage inputs,
19 advertising capabilities, and most importantly brand recognition. Instead of passing on any
20 savings to its customers, Bowlero raised prices: in fact, in December 2023, just two to three
21 months after closing the Lucky Strike deal, Bowlero “identif[ied] pricing opportunities across
22 certain centers” and “took an average price increase of 2%.” With those price increases in place,
23 Bowlero realized an immediate 50% increase in profitability at Lucky Strike locations in the first
24 quarter of 2024 (the first full quarter under Bowlero’s control) as compared with the first quarter
25 of 2023 under former Lucky Strike management.
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191. Over and over, Bowlero's acquisitions in relevant markets have allowed it to translate its national dominance into local market power and the creation of anticompetitive effects.

192. For example, in August 2021, Bowlero completed its acquisition of three Bowl America centers in Jacksonville, Florida: Bowl America Southside, Bowl America Mandarin, and Bowl America Orange Park. Bowl America was already dominant in Jacksonville, holding an over 30% share of the market. The entry of Bowlero—a bowling center powerhouse on a national scale, with shares approaching monopoly levels in several markets throughout the United States—replacing the smaller but still dominant Bowl America substantially reduced the competitive structure of the market by raising entry barriers and by dissuading the remaining centers from aggressively competing.

193. The acquisition raised entry barriers because a major competitive weapon in the successful marketing of bowling is—as Bowlero is the first to emphasize—advertising. As one Bowlero executive put it, “the market opportunity right now really affords us an ability to gobble up a lot of market share with increased brand building and awareness marketing.”

194. Whereas Bowl America was limited in its advertising budget with a national footprint of only 17 centers and pre-pandemic annual revenues of around \$24 million, Bowlero swooped in with a national footprint of roughly 320 centers at the time, annual revenues of more than \$300 million, and a slush fund of favorable extracted concessions from suppliers and exclusive access to marketing opportunities through its ownership of the PBA.

195. Any would-be entrants (or incumbents thinking of expanding) in this market understood that if they dared try, Bowlero could and likely would deploy its advertising war chest to block the rival's efforts to introduce competition. Thus, moving forward a would-be entrant into the market would be more reluctant to challenge Bowlero than it would have been facing the smaller Bowl America.

196. Similarly, following the acquisitions, existing rivals are all the more disciplined, knowing if they dare start a price war with Bowlero, the company can and likely will retaliate

1 aggressively. As a result, the market became substantially more oligopolistic, with prices rising
2 across the board, at the former Bowl America and independent centers alike—precisely what
3 Bowlero envisioned and caused.

4 197. This pattern repeated itself in every single relevant market in which Bowlero
5 acquired rivals but did not have a preexisting presence.

6 198. For example, in May 2022, Bowlero extended its national dominance to Wichita,
7 Kansas by entering this market through the acquisition of three commonly owned centers in one
8 fell swoop. These three centers already controlled an approximately 54% share of the market.
9 Overnight, they fell into the hands of Bowlero, which began to use its war chest of advertising
10 dollars to out-promote its rivals in this market. Bowlero’s rivals heard the message loud and
11 clear: Don’t dare to run your own competitive advertising campaigns, and don’t dare to start a
12 price war. As discussed more fully below, prices in Wichita rose dramatically following these
13 acquisitions, and many longtime league bowlers simply quit the sport.

14 199. This pattern repeated itself in the Reading, PA and Jacksonville, FL MSAs. Not
15 surprisingly, based on publicly available information, no new entrants have entered these markets
16 since Bowlero’s respective acquisitions in each of them.

17 200. And Bowlero is just getting started in terms of wielding what it calls its
18 “marketing muscle” by combining the brand recognition of Lucky Strike with Bowlero’s scale.
19 In fact, Bowlero itself has explained that rebranding all of its centers in given regions to Lucky
20 Strike will allow it to more effectively amortize marketing spend across not only centers in that
21 region but also across the country.

22 201. As CEO Thomas Shannon put it, having over 200 locations will make Lucky
23 Strike a “very, very powerful brand,” and will allow Bowlero to invest in a “serious marketing
24 effort . . . that’s never occurred before.” That is why Bowlero has recently focused “very heavily
25 [on its] . . . marketing investment,” including increasing, on a year-over-year basis between 2024
26 and 2025, its marketing investment by \$4 million and its marketing team investment by \$1
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1 million—investments which translated into increased media impressions, online revenue, and
2 booking conversions.

3 202. *Fourth*, Bowlero was able to further entrench its dominance, lessen competition,
4 and increase barriers to entry through its unlawful acquisition of the PBA, the nation’s premier
5 professional bowling league.

6 203. By acquiring the PBA, Bowlero has been able to significantly integrate the
7 marketing and other business activities of the two companies. Indeed, Bowlero recently
8 appointed an individual to serve simultaneously as Chief Executive Officer of the PBA and
9 Bowlero’s Head of Media, and describes Bowlero’s bowling centers as a “physical extension” of
10 the PBA.

11 204. Bowlero can cross-promote its centers to the millions of PBA Tour television
12 viewers, send PBA Tour stars to its centers, and provide exclusive PBA content and promotions
13 on its thousands of video screens across its hundreds of bowling centers.

14 205. As one market analyst noted, Bowlero acquired the PBA “to take advantage of the
15 brand awareness this could drive for Bowlero and the opportunity to leverage the 20M+ viewers
16 who annually catch the sport on FS1 or Fox networks.” Bowlero President Lev Esker confirmed
17 that the company shared this analyst’s viewpoint, noting simply that “pushing content on the
18 [PBA] telecast . . . increases the awareness of our centers.” In fact, the advertising opportunity
19 afforded to Bowlero through its acquisition of PBA was so great that Bowlero was able to almost
20 immediately decrease its planned marketing spend by roughly \$10 million annually—explaining
21 why CEO Thomas Shannon has suggested his interest in acquiring the PBA in the first place
22 was, among things, to serve “as an infomercial” for the Bowlero brand.

23 206. At the same time, Bowlero can host PBA tournaments at its own centers for free
24 while charging rivals tens of thousands of dollars to host tournaments. Furthermore, Bowlero has
25 superior access to LeaguePals, the PBA’s exclusive provider of cloud-based bowling league
26 management software, allowing Bowlero to automatically enroll its own league bowlers into the
27 PBA League Bowler Certification program at no cost, which qualifies bowlers for PBA-

1 approved tournaments and other perks not available to U.S. Bowling Congress members,
 2 including “real time scores,” “instant recognition through LeaguePals through unique initial
 3 rewards,” and “[m]ore robust National Tournaments with a superior prize fund structure and TV
 4 exposure.” As Bowlero put it to investors, owning the PBA “reinforces” its business model.

5 207. Moreover, the PBA is a vital business partner for many rival bowling centers. As
 6 the PBA itself notes to prospective PBA tournament hosts, hosting a PBA tournament can allow a
 7 bowling center to “[b]uild a strong reputation within the Bowling Community and drive
 8 increased traffic and visibility,” bring in hundreds of bowlers, staff, and a TV crew into a center’s
 9 market, and gain access to digital marketing opportunities through the PBA’s website, social
 10 media channels, and television broadcast deals.

11 208. Bowlero’s acquisition of, and assumption of control over, the PBA has altered the
 12 bowling center market structure to disadvantage competitors in each of the relevant geographic
 13 markets, who know they must stay in Bowlero’s good graces so as not to jeopardize their ability
 14 to partner with the PBA. In this sense, Bowlero’s outsized dominance in the market, and
 15 supercharged buying power, make competitors hesitant to compete aggressively.

16 209. Bowlero need not even exercise its power—by, for instance, acquiring a bowling
 17 center near a competitor or outspending them on advertising—because competitors’ knowledge
 18 that Bowlero has the market power and capital to do those things is threatening enough to keep
 19 competitors in check. All the while, Bowlero is taking a cut of the \$35,000 minimum fee these
 20 competitor centers have to pay the PBA to host a PBA Tour event in order to remain relevant and
 21 competitive in the eyes of local league bowlers.

22
 23 ***C. There is Direct Evidence that Bowlero Has Used Its Unlawfully-Acquired***
 24 ***Dominance to Harm Customers***

25 210. Bowlero’s unlawfully acquired dominance has allowed the company to reduce
 26 output, impose supra-competitive prices, and worsen product quality with impunity. As one
 27 Bowlero executive put it in 2022, even before the Lucky Strike acquisition, “[w]e’re raising price
 28 on everything.”

211. Consumers in all the alleged markets have paid higher prices as a result of Bowlero’s unlawful acquisitions. For example, following Bowlero’s acquisition of three independent bowling centers in Wichita in 2022, Bowlero implemented huge price hikes after taking over all three centers. Some reports indicate that, a year after Bowlero acquired Northrock Lanes, the cost of lanes, food, and beverages had tripled at this bowling center. Another former Northrock Lanes bowler noted that, pre-acquisition, one could bowl five or six games in an hour for \$10, whereas after Bowlero took over, it would cost \$16-17 to play three games during the week and \$22 on the weekend. A former Northrock Lanes league bowler explained that after taking over, Bowlero got rid of league play on Fridays altogether to increase lane space for higher-paying casual bowlers and subsequently increased the league play price so much that eight league teams quit in the first week (all the while doubling the cost of a pitcher of beer from \$8 to \$16).

212. As another example, at Garage Billiards & Bowl, an independent bowling center in Seattle acquired by Bowlero, one bowler seeking to reserve two hours of bowling for three people in 2023 had to pay \$284.36: \$172.00 for reserving a lane for two hours; \$20.06 for three shoe rentals; \$75.00 for a food and beverage mandatory credit; and a \$17.29 “event fee.”

213. Another online commentator observed that Bowlero acquires a “really nice bowling alley with affordable prices and good deals” and then “immediately raise[s] prices, [] stop[s] doing lane maintenance, and barely oil[s] lanes anymore.” This consumer lamented these changes because the acquisition meant there were no other bowling alley options in the area.

214. With even more bowling centers at its disposal after the Lucky Strike acquisition, Bowlero was determined to continue to raise prices in every way it could. Bowlero even brought on a specialized in-house price consultant to “look[] at pricing by hour, by date, by center, by products” and to take advantage of all the “opportunity to be dynamic that the consumer will just spend more”

215. “Dynamic” pricing refers to the practice of using artificial intelligence algorithms to manipulate prices in real-time based on different data inputs, in order to extract the maximum

1 price a consumer will be willing to endure as opposed to having a fixed and transparent set of
2 consumer prices. The inputs used to algorithmically exploit consumers vary and can include time
3 of day, competitor pricing, and external factors like weather or major events.

4 216. For example, a two-pronged strategy that Bowlero employed to raise prices was
5 to artificially drive consumer traffic to Fridays and Saturdays and then implement dynamic
6 pricing to extract as much money from consumers during those high-demand times as possible.
7 As Bowlero President Lee Ekster put it, “[o]ur goal is to fill the centers on the weekends at the
8 highest price we can” and “ultimately dynamic pricing allows you to do that.”

9 217. As part of this strategy Bowlero got rid of popular, family-focused offerings like
10 Summer Games and midweek, fixed-price “All You Can Bowl” specials with the explicit aim to
11 “dr[ive] wallet share pickup in our premium times of Friday and Saturday.” The company has
12 also focused on these times in its marketing, including introducing its #Saturdays4Bowling
13 marketing campaign.

14 218. Once driven to these “premium times,” families faced astronomical prices. For
15 example, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on a family of three hoping to bowl at a Bowlero in
16 California on the last Thursday of December 2025 who received a price quote on Bowlero’s
17 website of \$418.90—a price that one member of the family described as “outrageous for a
18 pedestrian family activity.” Because Bowlero’s algorithm knew its centers would see more
19 demand during the winter holidays, that price was more than double what the Bowlero location
20 would charge for a Thursday afternoon in February.

21 219. Another strategy Bowlero has employed is to make sure centers adopt a
22 monomaniacal focus on upselling its bowling customers on food and beverages. As one
23 executive put it, Bowlero’s market dominance translated directly into it having the “best
24 mousetrap” in the business—use bowling to get people in the door and then maximize food and
25 beverage profit.

26 220. Bowlero’s upselling campaign is intricate and multi-faceted. As the company
27 indicated to investors, it implemented “revamped menus,” a renewed “focus on food and
28

1 beverage sales,” and “mobile ordering [and] tablets,” to “drive the needle on ‘attachments’”—
2 meaning non-Bowling offerings like food, beverage, and arcade games.

3 221. Consumers cannot avoid Bowlero’s relentless upsell campaign. As just one
4 example, whereas Bowlero presents its signature “pizza and pitcher” special as a good deal to
5 customers, when speaking with its Wall Street investors the company is clear about why the
6 special makes sense financially: “there’ll be an upsell on the beer.” Tying in with its campaign to
7 push consumers to weekends, the company takes particular advantage of the “opportunities” to
8 “upsell . . . on the weekends,” on top of already-increased prices due to its dynamic pricing
9 algorithm. And, at least at some of its centers, Bowlero now charges a mandatory food and
10 beverage credit for anyone reserving a bowling lane during a “prime” time—even if those
11 customers just want to bowl.

12 222. Bowlero’s upsell campaign has been very effective in extracting margins at the
13 expense of consumers. For example, the company announced in its Q1 2025 earnings call that its
14 food and beverage sales were up 18% year-over-year in the quarter and that the ratio of food and
15 beverage spend to bowling spend—a key metric for Bowlero that analyzes how many dollars
16 customers spend on food and beverage per dollar spent on bowling—was up to \$.80 across the
17 company and as high as \$1.10 in locations that instituted the company’s new “premium plus”
18 menu.

19 223. Bowlero has been able to accomplish such upselling and price increases due to the
20 dominance it amassed through its unlawful acquisitions, which has also enabled it to
21 dramatically reduce the quality of the bowling experience in the local markets in which it
22 operates with no repercussions.

23 224. For instance, Bowlero has drastically slashed what it considers to be its “least
24 profitable operating hours” during the week in order to push consumers towards weekend play
25 when those consumers tend to pay more. For example, before Bowlero’s acquisition of Lucky
26 Strike, a bowler in Los Angeles could bowl at Lucky Strike L.A. Live beginning at 11:30 a.m.
27
28

1 each weekday. Today, by contrast, Bowlero does not open Lucky Strike L.A. Live's doors until
2 4:00 p.m. each weekday. Bowlero has deliberately limited output and increased prices.

3 225. League play has been impacted as well: when Bowlero takes over a center, league
4 bowlers suffer. For example, leagues have been rescheduled away from Friday and Saturday
5 nights as part of Bowlero's dynamic pricing and upsell strategy. The result is that longtime
6 league bowlers are either forced to pay more (for worse quality of bowling) or simply abandon
7 their league play. And, when they do play, they must contend with the fact that Bowlero has put
8 large screens at the end of lanes playing loud music videos or displaying sports betting content,
9 or otherwise employed black lights, neon "glow" lighting, and loud music making it difficult to
10 concentrate on bowling (let alone hold a conversation with one's teammates).

11 226. This helps explain why Northrock Lanes in Wichita had about 1,000 distinct
12 league bowlers before Bowlero took over as compared with about 400 today. And, because of
13 Bowlero's dominance in the Wichita region, a vast majority of these league bowlers simply
14 stopped bowling altogether. It thus comes as no surprise that Northrock Lanes won "Gold" in
15 local "Best of Wichita" consumer rankings in the bowling category every year but one from 2016
16 to 2022—the year Bowlero took over—and has not won "Gold" since.

17 227. While consistently raising prices for its consumers, Bowlero has sought to
18 ruthlessly cut back its own costs at every turn. These cuts often target center personnel who
19 served important purposes to maintain the quality of the bowling experience. This includes
20 Bowlero's failure to consistently and adequately condition and maintain its bowling lanes. As
21 discussed in paragraph 44, proper lane conditioning is of the utmost importance for bowling
22 quality as it protects and preserves the lane surface, controls ball motion and reaction, and
23 creates consistency and fairness for bowlers. Lack of such conditioning can mean badly
24 deteriorated lanes, unpredictable rolling patterns, and dirt combining with lane oil to form a
25 sticky mixture on the bowling ball. Bowlero customers in many bowling centers have reported
26 sticky or dirty lanes, indicating a failure on the part of Bowlero to properly maintain them.
27
28

1 228. As another example, Bowlero touted to its investors the cost saving it saw from
2 getting rid of both security and maintenance staff at its centers. These changes might save
3 Bowlero money and make Wall Street investors happy, but they further degrade the bowling
4 experience for consumers, by making the centers less safe and service worse.

5 229. One online report indicates that after removing security on weekends at one
6 acquired location in Wichita, Bowlero staff had to call the police to deal with repeat trespassers.

7 230. Customers now also face increased wait times for oft-broken equipment to get
8 fixed. Simultaneously, remaining employees are left overwhelmed and unable to perform the job
9 as they would like. One example of this dynamic is reflected in finding of the U.S. Equal
10 Employment Opportunity Commission which has recently issued determinations of probable
11 cause as to 55 charges of age discrimination lodged against Bowlero.

12 231. Bowlero does not just decrease the quality of bowling at its centers, but it also
13 makes the broader consumer experience worse.

14 232. One example is Lucky Strike gift cards, which Bowlero introduced after its
15 acquisition of Lucky Strike and appear prominently on gift card racks at Costco and other retail
16 stores. Bowlero fails to disclose that the recipient cannot use the gift card to reserve a lane ahead
17 of time at the Lucky Strike of their choice; instead they are forced to reserve the lane and pay
18 ahead of time with a credit or debit card, or alternatively show up at the location when they want
19 to bowl and hope there is a lane available (which will often not be the case on “prime” weekend
20 times). A supplier in a competitive market would not get away with such tactics; consumers
21 would catch on and go elsewhere for bowling gift cards. Bowlero is a behemoth in virtually
22 every major city and town in America, and it can do what it wants, without a meaningful impact
23 on the company’s bottom line.

24 233. And while Bowlero *says* it is innovating with “enhancements” like on-demand
25 menus at each lane and apps that allow consumers to turn bowling into gambling, these changes
26 are drawn straight from Wall Street analysts’ reports about how the company can extract even
27 more profit from its customers.
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1 234. As one report put it, “installing and boosting usage of lane-side ordering kiosks”
 2 and “rolling out [Bowlero’s in-house gambling app] MoneyBowl availability throughout the
 3 network” provide “opportunities to boost . . . overall spending levels per guest.” It is plain as day
 4 that this is not innovation; it is rent extraction designed to keep customers in the “mousetrap”
 5 through constant prompts to spend more at every turn.

6 235. The elevation of gambling across the Bowlero network is an especially
 7 concerning vector. For instance, Bowlero launched its MoneyBowl app in 2022. MoneyBowl
 8 solicits bets from customers on various bowling outcomes (e.g., bowl a certain score) and
 9 provides odds-based payouts or, in states in which gambling laws prohibit such activity, coupons
 10 to be redeemed within the Bowlero center. Bowlero estimated to market analysts that successful
 11 implementation of MoneyBowl would increase games played by customers. And, because
 12 MoneyBowl is linked to each lane’s scoring system, it is constantly tracking customers and
 13 providing what one market report called “an attractive opportunity to learn more about the
 14 customer.” At the same time, Bowlero entered a partnership with sports betting marketing
 15 company BettorView to inundate the many large TV screens at Bowlero locations with
 16 customized sports betting data and special sports betting promotions, further promote region-
 17 specific partnerships Bowlero has with other sportsbook brands, and further promote Bowlero’s
 18 food and beverage offerings.

19 236. Consumers want more, higher-quality bowling at a low cost; Bowlero worsens the
 20 experience of bowling while also flooding them with casino-style “monetization opportunities.”
 21

22 ***D. Bowlero’s Unlawful Acquisitions Have Directly Enabled and Caused Bowlero’s***
 23 ***Competitors to Raise Prices and Worsen Terms to Consumers***

24 237. The lessening of competition resulting from Bowlero’s acquisitions have also led
 25 to increased prices for bowling at bowling centers not acquired by Bowlero. Having seen
 26 Bowlero establishments charging higher prices and facing less price-competition overall,
 27 independent bowling centers have raised their own prices for bowling, causing families and
 28

1 bowling leagues to pay more for bowling even if they are able to find alternatives to Bowlero in
2 their attempts to avoid Bowlero's price increases.

3 238. For example, within less than a year of Bowlero's acquisition of Lucky Strike
4 Philadelphia, which has substantially concentrated the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-
5 NJ-DE-MD MSA market, multiple Bowlero competitors raised prices for both bowling and shoe
6 rentals (including by reducing the maximum number of bowlers per lane). Similarly, Bowlero
7 competitors in Wichita, KS raised prices on both bowling and beverages within a year of
8 Bowlero's acquisition in that MSA.

9 239. That non-Bowlero bowling centers would draft off Bowlero's conduct and raise
10 prices of their own comes as no surprise. Indeed, it was reasonably foreseeable to Bowlero that,
11 by rolling up these various markets, reducing output, and increasing its own prices, other
12 bowling centers would increase prices as a result, as any price competition had been eliminated.

13 **V. Class Action Allegations**

14 240. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and as a class action under
15 Rule 23(a) and (b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of all others similarly
16 situated, seeking equitable and injunctive relief on behalf of the following class (the "Nationwide
17 Injunction Class"):

18
19 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022
20 until the present, purchased bowling from a bowling center operator in the United
21 States.

22 241. Plaintiffs Mr. Doehr, Mr. Soliz, Mr. Feuer, Mr. K. Howard, Mr. A. Howard, Mr.
23 McDonald, Mr. Harkness, Mr. Kramer, Mr. Kelly, and Mr. Goodman bring this action on behalf
24 of themselves and as a class action under Rule 23(a) and (b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil
25 Procedure on behalf of all others similarly situated, seeking equitable and injunctive relief on
26 behalf of the following class (the "Nationwide Injunction Bowlero Purchaser Subclass"):

1 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022
 2 until the present, purchased bowling from Defendant or any current or former
 subsidiary of Defendant in the United States.

3 242. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and as a class action under
 4 Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, seeking monetary relief including
 5 damages and/or restitution on behalf of the following class (the “Nationwide Damages Class”):

6 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022
 7 until the present, purchased bowling from a bowling center operator in any of the
 8 relevant markets.

9 243. Plaintiffs Mr. Doehr, Mr. Soliz, Mr. Feuer, Mr. K. Howard, Mr. A. Howard, Mr.
 10 McDonald, Mr. Harkness, Mr. Kramer, Mr. Kelly, and Mr. Goodman bring this action on behalf
 11 of themselves and as a class action under Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil
 12 Procedure, seeking monetary relief and damages and/or restitution on behalf of the following
 13 class (the “Nationwide Bowlero Purchaser Damages Class”):

14 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022
 15 until the present, purchased bowling from Defendants or any current or former
 16 subsidiary of Defendants in any of the relevant markets; and

17 Plaintiffs Mr. Doehr, Mr. Soliz, Mr. Feuer, Mr. K. Howard, Mr. A. Howard, Mr. Cordero, Mr.
 18 McDonald, Mr. Harkness, Mr. Kramer, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Goodman bring this action on behalf
 19 of themselves and as a class action under Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil
 20 Procedure on behalf of all others similarly situated, seeking monetary relief including damages
 21 and/or restitution on behalf of the following class (the “Nationwide Umbrella Damages Class”):

22 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022
 23 until the present, purchased bowling in any of the relevant markets from any
 24 bowling center operator other than Defendants and any current or former
 25 subsidiary of Defendants.

26 244. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and as a class action under
 27 Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of all others similarly
 28

1 situated, seeking damages and/or restitution on behalf of the following classes (the “Regional
2 Classes”):

3 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
4 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
5 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, CA
MSA.

6 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
7 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
8 Defendant at a bowling center located in the San Francisco–Oakland–Fremont, CA MSA.

9 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
10 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
Defendant at a bowling center located in the Santa Rose–Petaluma, CA MSA.

11 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
12 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
Defendant at a bowling center located in the Sacramento–Roseville–Folsom, CA MSA.

13 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
14 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
15 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Seattle–Tacoma–Bellevue, WA MSA.

16 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
17 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
Defendant at a bowling center located in the Phoenix–Mesa–Chandler, AZ MSA.

18 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
19 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
20 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Denver–Aurora–Centennial, CO MSA.

21 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
22 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
Defendant at a bowling center located in the Wichita, KS MSA.

23 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
24 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
Defendant at a bowling center located in the Omaha, NE–IA MSA.

25 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
26 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
27 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Appleton, WI MSA.

1 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
2 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
3 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI MSA.

4 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
5 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
6 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA.

7 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
8 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
9 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming-Kentwood, MI
10 MSA.

11 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, until the
12 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
13 Defendant at a bowling center located in the New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ
14 MSA.

15 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
16 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
17 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-
18 DE-MD MSA.

19 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
20 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
21 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Reading, PA MSA.

22 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
23 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
24 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD MSA.

25 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
26 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
27 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-
28 MD-WV MSA.

All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
Defendant at a bowling center located in the Richmond, VA MSA.

All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
Defendant at a bowling center located in the Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC MSA.

All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
Defendant at a bowling center located in the Jacksonville, FL MSA.

1 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
2 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
3 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Wildwood-The Villages, FL MSA.

4 All persons or entities who, during the period from and including May 6, 2022 until the
5 present, purchased bowling from a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary of a
6 Defendant at a bowling center located in the Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL MSA.

7 245. The Nationwide Classes are referred to herein as the “Nationwide Classes.” The
8 Regional Classes are referred to herein as the “Regional Classes.” Excluded from the Classes are
9 the Defendants, their parent companies, subsidiaries and affiliates, any co-conspirators, federal
10 governmental entities and instrumentalities of the federal government, states and their
11 subdivisions, agencies, and instrumentalities, any person who has signed a valid arbitration
12 agreement with Bowlero, the Court and Court personnel, and all counsel of record.

13 246. The Classes are so numerous as to make joinder impracticable. While Plaintiffs do
14 not know the exact number of the members of the Classes, Plaintiffs believe there are (at least)
15 thousands of members in each Class.

16 247. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Classes. Such
17 questions of law and fact common to the Classes include:

- 18 a. Whether Bowlero engaged in unlawful acquisitions in the relevant markets.
- 19 b. Whether bowling centers are the relevant product market at issue.
- 20 c. The identity of the relevant geographic markets.
- 21 d. Bowlero’s pre- and post-acquisition share of each relevant market.
- 22 e. The concentration level or HHI of each relevant market before and after
23 Bowlero’s acquisition(s) in such market.
- 24 f. Whether Bowlero is a dominant bowling industry participant at the national
25 level.

- g. Whether Bowlero's Acquisitions have substantially lessened competition or tended to create a monopoly or may substantially lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly.
- h. Whether Plaintiffs are entitled to a presumption that Bowlero's Acquisitions have substantially lessened competition or tended to create a monopoly or may substantially lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly.
- i. Whether Bowlero's Acquisitions caused prices to increase or quality or output to decrease in the relevant markets.
- j. Whether Bowlero receives discriminatorily favorable treatment from national suppliers of bowling center inputs.
- k. Whether Bowlero uses its bowling center business to cross-market or cross-subsidize its other businesses and vice versa.
- l. Whether Bowlero violated Clayton Act Section 7.
- m. Whether Bowlero violated Sherman Act Section 2.
- n. For each Regional Class, whether Bowlero violated the applicable state law.
- o. The appropriate injunctive and related equitable relief; and
- p. The appropriate measure of classwide damages.

248. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Classes, and Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Classes. Plaintiffs and all members of the Classes are similarly affected by Defendants' wrongful conduct in that they suffered damage in the form of paying supra-competitive prices to bowl at bowling centers, and/or face the threat of damage in the form of paying supra-competitive prices to bowl at bowling centers.

249. Plaintiffs' claims arise out of the same course of conduct giving rise to the claims of the other members of the Classes. Plaintiffs' interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, those of the other members of the Classes. Plaintiffs are represented by counsel who are competent and experienced in the prosecution of antitrust litigation and class action litigation.

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252. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Classes would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications, establishing incompatible standards of conduct for the Defendants.

COUNT ONE

253. Plaintiffs restate, reallege, and incorporate by reference each of the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 252 as though fully set forth herein.

255. Specifically, Bowlero made the Los Angeles Acquisitions; the San Francisco Acquisition; the CA Wine Country Acquisition; the Sacramento Acquisition; the Seattle Acquisition; the Phoenix Acquisition; the Denver Acquisition; the Wichita Acquisitions; the Omaha Acquisitions; the Appleton Acquisitions; the Milwaukee Acquisition; the Chicago Acquisitions; the Grand Rapids Acquisitions; the New York Acquisition; the Philadelphia

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Acquisitions; the Reading Acquisitions; the Baltimore Acquisition; the DMV Acquisitions; the Richmond Acquisitions; the Charlotte Acquisitions; the Jacksonville Acquisitions; the Villages Acquisitions; and the Cape Coral Acquisitions.

256. The effects of Bowlero's Acquisitions may be to substantially lessen competition or to tend to create a monopoly—in fact, Bowlero's Acquisitions have already substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly—in the relevant geographic markets for bowling centers. Specifically:

- The Los Angeles Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA MSA;
- The San Francisco Acquisition substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA MSA;
- The CA Wine Country Acquisition substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Santa Rosa-Petaluma, CA MSA;
- The Sacramento Acquisition substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Sacramento-Roseville-Folsom, CA MSA;
- The Seattle Acquisition substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA;
- The Phoenix Acquisition substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ MSA;
- The Denver Acquisition substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Denver-Aurora-Centennial, CO MSA;
- The Wichita Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Wichita, KS MSA;
- The Omaha Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Omaha, NE-IA MSA;
- The Appleton Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Appleton, WI MSA;

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- 1 • The Milwaukee Acquisition substantially lessened competition and tended to create a
- 2 monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI MSA;
- 3 • The Chicago Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a
- 4 monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN MSA;
- 5 • The Grand Rapids Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a
- 6 monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming-Kentwood, MI MSA;
- 7 • The New York Acquisition substantially lessened competition and tended to create a
- 8 monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the New York-Newark-Jersey City MSA;
- 9 • The Philadelphia Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a
- 10 monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-
- 11 MD MSA;
- 12 • The Reading Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a
- 13 monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Reading, PA MSA;
- 14 • The Baltimore Acquisition substantially lessened competition and tended to create a
- 15 monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD MSA;
- 16 • The DMV Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a
- 17 monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-
- 18 MD-WV MSA;
- 19 • The Richmond Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a
- 20 monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Richmond, VA MSA;
- 21 • The Charlotte Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a
- 22 monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC MSA;
- 23 • The Jacksonville Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a
- 24 monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Jacksonville, FL MSA;
- 25 • The Villages Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a
- 26 monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Wildwood-The Villages, FL MSA; and
- 27
- 28

- The Cape Coral Acquisitions substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL MSA.

257. Bowlero cannot show any cognizable efficiencies of sufficient character and magnitude or any other countervailing factors such that the Acquisitions are lawful.

258. Each Acquisition or group of Acquisitions in each MSA violated Section 7 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 18.

259. Each Acquisition or group of Acquisitions also accelerated the trend toward concentration in the industry.

260. Plaintiffs were directly injured as a result of Bowlero's violations of Clayton Act Section 7, and the harm to competition caused by those violations.

261. As a result of Bowlero's violations of Clayton Act Section 7, and the harm to competition caused by those violations, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover damages, in an amount to be proven at trial and automatically trebled, as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 15.

262. Plaintiffs will suffer actual and threatened irreparable injury and loss of property, for which there is no adequate remedy at law, unless the Court enjoins Bowlero from its unlawful conduct and continuing and threatened future violations of the antitrust laws. Plaintiffs are thus entitled to injunctive relief against Bowlero under 15 U.S.C. § 26.

263. Plaintiffs are also entitled to recover from Bowlero costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, as provided by 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 and 26.

COUNT TWO

Violations of Clayton Act § 7, 15 U.S.C. § 18, by Plaintiffs on Behalf of All Classes Against Lucky Strike Entertainment LLC

264. Plaintiffs restate, reallege, and incorporate by reference each of the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 252 as though fully set forth herein.

265. Lucky Strike participated in the acquisitions in the relevant bowling center markets identified in paragraphs 98-100, 105, 110, 112-113, and 116.

266. Specifically, Lucky Strike participated in Bowlero's acquisition of Lucky Strike at L.A. Live, Lucky Strike Hollywood (formerly Lucky Strike Hollywood & Highland), Lucky Strike San Francisco, Lucky Strike Bellevue, Lucky Strike Denver, Lucky Strike Chicago, Lucky Strike Wrigleyville, Lucky Strike Fenway, Lucky Strike Somerville, Lucky Strike West Nyack, Lucky Strike Philadelphia, and Lucky Strike Montgomery Mall (collectively the "Lucky Strike Acquisitions").

267. The Lucky Strike Acquisitions may substantially lessen competition and tend to create a monopoly.

268. In fact, the Lucky Strike Acquisitions have already substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant geographic markets for bowling centers. Specifically:

- The acquisition of Lucky Strike at L.A. Live and Lucky Strike Hollywood (formerly Lucky Strike Hollywood & Highland) substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Los Angeles-Long-Beach-Anaheim, CA MSA;
- The acquisition of Lucky Strike San Francisco substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA MSA;
- The acquisition of Lucky Strike Bellevue substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA;
- The acquisition of Lucky Strike Denver substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Denver-Aurora-Centennial, CO MSA;
- The acquisition of Lucky Strike Chicago and Lucky Strike Wrigleyville substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN MSA;

- The acquisition of Lucky Strike West Nyack substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ MSA;
- The acquisition of Lucky Strike Philadelphia substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD MSA; and
- The acquisition of Lucky Strike Montgomery Mall substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly in the relevant market(s) in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA.

269. Lucky Strike cannot show any cognizable efficiencies of sufficient character and magnitude or any other countervailing factors such that the Lucky Strike Acquisitions are lawful.

270. Each of the Lucky Strike Acquisitions in each MSA listed in paragraph 266 violated Section 7 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 18.

271. Each of the Lucky Strike Acquisitions also accelerated the trend toward concentration in the industry.

272. Plaintiffs were directly injured as a result of Lucky Strike's violations of Clayton Act Section 7, and the harm to competition caused by those violations.

273. As a result of Lucky Strike's violations of Clayton Act Section 7, and the harm to competition caused by those violations, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover damages, in an amount to be proven at trial and automatically trebled, as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 15.

274. Plaintiffs will suffer actual and threatened irreparable injury and loss of property, for which there is no adequate remedy at law, unless the Court enjoins Lucky Strike from its unlawful conduct and continuing and threatened future violations of the antitrust laws. Plaintiffs are thus entitled to injunctive relief against Lucky Strike under 15 U.S.C. § 26.

275. Plaintiffs are also entitled to recover from Lucky Strike costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, as provided by 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 and 26.

COUNT THREE

Violations of Sherman Act § 2, 15 U.S.C. § 2, by Plaintiffs on Behalf of All Classes Against Defendants Lucky Strike Entertainment Corporation and AMF Bowling Centers, Inc.

276. Plaintiffs restate, reallege, and incorporate by reference each of the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 252 as fully set forth herein.

277. Between 2021 and 2024, Bowlero made the Acquisitions in the relevant bowling center markets identified in paragraphs 97-121.

278. Specifically, Bowlero made the Los Angeles Acquisitions; the San Francisco Acquisition; the CA Wine Country Acquisition; the Sacramento Acquisition; the Seattle Acquisition; the Phoenix Acquisition; the Denver Acquisition; the Wichita Acquisitions; the Omaha Acquisitions; the Appleton Acquisitions; the Milwaukee Acquisition; the Chicago Acquisitions; the Grand Rapids Acquisitions; the New York Acquisition; the Philadelphia Acquisitions; the Reading Acquisitions; the Baltimore Acquisition; the DMV Acquisitions; the Richmond Acquisitions; the Charlotte Acquisitions; the Jacksonville Acquisitions; the Villages Acquisitions; and the Cape Coral Acquisitions.

279. Bowlero's Acquisition(s) in each relevant market constituted attempted monopolization of such relevant market in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2.

280. Bowlero possesses market power in each relevant bowling center market as demonstrated by, *inter alia*, its high market shares, barriers to entry, and ability to charge supra-competitive prices in the relevant markets.

281. Bowlero carried out its Acquisitions with the specific intent to monopolize the relevant bowling center markets.

282. There is a dangerous probability that Bowlero's Acquisitions have resulted or will result in Bowlero's achievement of a monopoly in the relevant bowling center markets.

283. Bowlero's Acquisitions have reduced competition and have anticompetitive effects in the relevant bowling center markets, including Plaintiffs' antitrust injury and damages.

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1 284. Bowlero's Acquisitions had no procompetitive benefit or justification. The
2 anticompetitive effects of Bowlero's Acquisitions outweigh any procompetitive justifications.

3 285. All of Bowlero's Acquisitions in the relevant markets constitute an unlawful
4 scheme to monopolize and attempt to monopolize the relevant markets, in which Bowlero
5 possesses market power and there are substantial barriers to entry and expansion. Each
6 Acquisition in a relevant market reinforced and strengthened Bowlero's dominance nationally
7 and in each other relevant market in which Bowlero operated. Bowlero carried out its acquisition
8 scheme with the specific intent to increase its dominance nationally and monopolize the relevant
9 bowling center markets. There is a dangerous probability that Bowlero's Acquisitions have
10 resulted or will result in Bowlero's achievement of national dominance and monopolies across
11 the relevant bowling center markets. Bowlero's Acquisitions have reduced competition and have
12 anticompetitive effects in the relevant bowling center markets and nationally, and have no
13 procompetitive benefit or justification, and the anticompetitive effects of Bowlero's Acquisitions
14 outweigh any procompetitive justifications.

15 286. Plaintiffs were directly injured as a result of Bowlero's violations of Sherman Act
16 Section 2, and the harm to competition caused by those violations.

17 287. As a result of Bowlero's violations of Sherman Act Section 2, and the harm to
18 competition caused by those violations, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Bowlero damages,
19 in an amount to be proven at trial and automatically trebled, as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 15.

20 288. Plaintiffs will suffer actual and threatened irreparable injury and loss of their
21 property, for which there is no adequate remedy at law, unless the Court enjoins Bowlero from its
22 unlawful conduct and continuing and threatened future violations of the antitrust laws. Plaintiffs
23 are thus entitled to injunctive relief against Bowlero under 15 U.S.C. § 26.

24 289. Plaintiffs are also entitled to recover from Bowlero costs of suit, including
25 reasonable attorneys' fees, as provided by 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 and 26.
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27
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COUNT FOUR

***Violations of Washington Consumer Protection Act, Wash. Rev. Code § 19.86, et seq.,
by Plaintiffs on Behalf of the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA Class Against
Defendants Lucky Strike Entertainment Corporation and AMF Bowling Centers, Inc.***

290. Plaintiffs restate, reallege, and incorporate by reference each of the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 252 as though fully set forth herein.

291. Bowlero's conduct, as described above, violates the Washington Consumer Protection Act ("WCPA"), Wash Rev. Code. § 19.86, *et seq.* The Seattle Acquisition may substantially lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly—indeed, it already has substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly—in the relevant market(s) in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA. Bowlero cannot show any cognizable efficiencies of sufficient character and magnitude or any other countervailing factors such that the Acquisition is lawful. Plaintiffs were directly injured as a result of Bowlero's violations of Wash. Rev. Code. § 19.86.060, and the harm to competition caused by those violations.

292. Bowlero's conduct, as described above, violates Wash Rev. Code. § 19.86.20, which prohibits any unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.

293. Bowlero's conduct violates Clayton Act Section 7, 15 U.S.C. § 18, Sherman Act Section 2, 15 U.S.C. § 2, and Wash Rev. Code. § 19.86.060, and therefore constitutes an unfair method of competition under the WCPA.

294. Bowlero's conduct otherwise constitutes unfair methods of competition and unfair practices within the meaning of the WCPA, irrespective of the violation of any other law.

295. Plaintiffs have suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of Bowlero's unfair methods of competition and unfair trade practices. Plaintiffs seek injunctive relief, actual damages, which may be trebled by the court, and any other equitable relief that may be just and appropriate, as provided by Wash. Rev. Code § 19.86.090.

296. Plaintiffs are also entitled to recover from Bowlero attorneys' fees and costs, as provided by Wash. Rev. Code § 19.86.090.

COUNT FIVE

***Violations of Washington Consumer Protection Act, Wash. Rev. Code § 19.86, et seq.,
by Plaintiffs on Behalf of the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA Class Against
Defendant Lucky Strike Entertainment LLC***

297. Plaintiffs restate, reallege, and incorporate by reference each of the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 252 as though fully set forth herein.

298. Lucky Strike's conduct, as described above, violates the Washington Consumer Protection Act ("WCPA"), Wash Rev. Code. § 19.86, *et seq.* The Seattle Acquisition may substantially lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly—indeed, it already has substantially lessened competition and tended to create a monopoly—in the relevant market(s) in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA. Lucky Strike cannot show any cognizable efficiencies of sufficient character and magnitude or any other countervailing factors such that the Acquisition is lawful. Plaintiffs were directly injured as a result of the Lucky Strike's violations Wash. Rev. Code. § 19.86.060, and the harm to competition caused by those violations.

299. Lucky Strike's conduct, as described above, violates Wash Rev. Code. § 19.86.20, which prohibits any unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.

300. Lucky Strike's conduct violates Clayton Act Section 7, 15 U.S.C. § 18, Sherman Act Section 2, 15 U.S.C. § 2, and Wash Rev. Code. § 19.86.060, and therefore constitutes an unfair method of competition under the WCPA.

301. Lucky Strike's conduct otherwise constitutes unfair methods of competition and unfair practices within the meaning of the WCPA, irrespective of the violation of any other law.

302. Plaintiffs have suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of Lucky Strike's unfair methods of competition and unfair trade practices. Plaintiffs seek injunctive relief, actual

1 damages, which may be trebled by the court, and any other equitable relief that may be just and
 2 appropriate, as provided by Wash. Rev. Code § 19.86.090.

3 303. Plaintiffs are also entitled to recover from Lucky Strike attorneys' fees and costs,
 4 as provided by Wash. Rev. Code § 19.86.090.

5 **COUNT SIX**

6 ***Violations of California Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, by***
 7 ***Plaintiffs on Behalf of All California Classes and All Nationwide Classes against Defendants***
 8 ***Lucky Strike Entertainment Corporation and AMF Bowling Centers, Inc.***

9 304. Plaintiffs restate, reallege, and incorporate by reference each of the allegations in
 10 paragraphs 1 through 252 as though fully set forth herein.

11 305. Unlawful prong: Bowlero has engaged, and continues to engage, in the acts or
 12 practices described herein, which taken individually or collectively are unlawful and constitute
 13 unfair competition within the meaning of Section 17200 of the California Business and
 14 Professions Code. Bowlero has violated Clayton Act Section 7, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Sherman Act
 15 Section 2, 15 U.S.C. § 2.

16 306. Unfair prong: Bowlero has engaged, and continues to engage, in the acts or
 17 practices described herein, which individually or collectively are unfair, irrespective of the
 18 violation of any other law, and which individually or collectively constitute unfair competition
 19 within the meaning of Section 17200 of the California Business and Professions Code.

20 307. Plaintiffs have suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of Bowlero's
 21 unfair competition. Under California Business and Professions Code Section 17200, *et seq.*,
 22 Plaintiffs, on behalf of all California Classes and all Nationwide Classes, seek injunctive and
 23 other equitable relief to require Bowlero to cease their anticompetitive conduct and to restore fair
 24 competition, to deny Bowlero the fruit of their illegal conduct, specifically, through restitution,
 25 and to impose such other relief as may be just and appropriate for Bowlero's violations of the
 26 California Unfair Competition Law, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17203 and 17204 and
 27 the Court's inherent authority.
 28

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COUNT SEVEN

***Violations of California Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, by
Plaintiffs on Behalf of All California Classes and All Nationwide Classes against Defendant
Lucky Strike Entertainment LLC***

308. Plaintiffs restate, reallege, and incorporate by reference each of the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 252 as though fully set forth herein.

309. Unlawful prong: Lucky Strike has engaged, and continues to engage, in the acts or practices described herein, which taken individually or collectively are unlawful and constitute unfair competition within the meaning of Section 17200 of the California Business and Professions Code. Defendants have violated Clayton Act Section 7, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Sherman Act Section 2, 15 U.S.C. § 2.

310. Unfair prong: Lucky Strike has engaged, and continues to engage, in the acts or practices described herein, which individually or collectively are unfair, irrespective of the violation of any other law, and which individually or collectively constitute unfair competition within the meaning of Section 17200 of the California Business and Professions Code.

311. Plaintiffs have suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of Lucky Strike's unfair competition. Under California Business and Professions Code Section 17200, *et seq.*, Plaintiffs, on behalf of all California Classes and all Nationwide Classes, seek injunctive and other equitable relief to require Lucky Strike to cease their anticompetitive conduct and to restore fair competition, to deny Lucky Strike the fruit of their illegal conduct, specifically, through restitution, and to impose such other relief as may be just and appropriate for Lucky Strike's violations of the California Unfair Competition Law, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17203 and 17204 and the Court's inherent authority.

COUNT EIGHT

Violations of Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, Fla. Stat. § 501.201 et seq., by Plaintiffs on Behalf of All Florida Classes Against Defendants Lucky Strike Entertainment Corporation and AMF Bowling Centers, Inc

312. Plaintiffs restate, reallege, and incorporate by referenced each of the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 252 as though fully set forth herein.

313. Bowlero's conduct, as described above, violates Clayton Act Section 7, 15 U.S.C. § 18, Sherman Act Section 2, 15 U.S.C. § 2, and therefore constitutes unfair methods of competition under Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act ("FDUTPA"), Fla. Stat. § 501.204, which prohibits any unfair methods of competition, unconscionable acts or practices, and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.

314. Bowlero's conduct otherwise constitutes unfair methods of competition and unfair trade practices within the meaning of the FDUTPA, irrespective of the violation of any other law.

315. Plaintiffs have suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of Bowlero's unfair methods of competition and unfair trade practices. Plaintiffs, on behalf of all Florida Classes, seek injunctive relief, actual damages, and any other equitable relief that may be just and appropriate, as provided by Fla. Stat. § 501.211.

316. Plaintiffs, on behalf of all Florida Classes, are also entitled to recover from Bowlero attorneys' fees and court costs, as provided by Fla. Stat. § 501.2105.

COUNT NINE

Violations of Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 505/2 et seq., by Plaintiffs on Behalf of the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA Class Against Defendants Lucky Strike Entertainment Corporation and AMF Bowling Centers, Inc.

317. Plaintiffs restate, reallege, and incorporate by referenced each of the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 252 as though fully set forth herein.

318. Bowlero's conduct, as described above, violates Clayton Act Section 7, 15 U.S.C. § 18, Sherman Act Section 2, 15 U.S.C. § 2, and therefore constitutes unfair methods of competition under Illinois's Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act ("ICFDBPA"), § 505/2, which prohibits any unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.

319. Bowlero's conduct otherwise constitutes unfair methods of competition and unfair trade practices within the meaning of the ICFDBPA, irrespective of the violation of any other law.

320. Plaintiffs have suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of Bowlero's unfair methods of competition and unfair trade practices. Plaintiffs, on behalf of the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA Class, seek injunctive relief, actual economic damages, and any other equitable relief that may be just and appropriate, as provided by 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 505/10a.

321. Plaintiffs, on behalf of the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA Class, are also entitled to recover from Bowlero attorneys' fees and costs, as provided by 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 505/10a.

COUNT TEN

Violations of Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 505/2 et seq., by Plaintiffs on Behalf of the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA Class Against Defendant Lucky Strike Entertainment LLC

322. Plaintiffs restate, reallege, and incorporate by referenced each of the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 252 as though fully set forth herein.

323. Lucky Strike's conduct, as described above, violates Clayton Act Section 7, 15 U.S.C. § 18, Sherman Act Section 2, 15 U.S.C. § 2, and therefore constitutes unfair methods of competition under Illinois's Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act ("ICFDBPA"), § 505/2, which prohibits any unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.

324. Lucky Strike's conduct otherwise constitutes unfair methods of competition and unfair trade practices within the meaning of the ICFDBPA, irrespective of the violation of any other law.

325. Plaintiffs have suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of Lucky Strike's unfair methods of competition and unfair trade practices. Plaintiffs, on behalf of the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA Class, seek injunctive relief, actual economic damages, and any other equitable relief that may be just and appropriate, as provided by 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 505/10a.

326. Plaintiffs, on behalf of the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA Class, are also entitled to recover from Lucky Strike attorneys' fees and costs, as provided by 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 505/10a.

COUNT ELEVEN

Violations of North Carolina Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 75-1.1, by Plaintiffs on Behalf of the Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC MSA Class Against Defendants Lucky Strike Entertainment Corporation and AMF Bowling Centers, Inc.

327. Plaintiffs restate, reallege, and incorporate by referenced each of the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 252 as though fully set forth herein.

328. Bowlero's conduct, as described above, violates Clayton Act Section 7, 15 U.S.C. § 18, Sherman Act Section 2, 15 U.S.C. § 2, and therefore constitutes unfair methods of competition under North Carolina's Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act, § 75-1.1, which prohibits any unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce.

329. Bowlero's conduct otherwise constitutes unfair methods of competition and unfair practices within the meaning of section 75-1.1, irrespective of the violation of any other law.

330. Plaintiffs have suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of Bowlero's unfair methods of competition and unfair trade practices. Plaintiffs, on behalf of the Charlotte-

1 Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC MSA Class, seek damages to be proven at trial and automatically
 2 trebled, and any other equitable relief that may be just and appropriate, as provided by N.C. Gen.
 3 Stat. § 75-16.

4 331. Plaintiffs, on behalf of the Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC MSA Class, are
 5 also entitled to recover from Bowlero attorneys' fees and costs, as provided by N.C. Gen. Stat.
 6 § 75-16.1.

7 **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

8 332. Wherefore, Plaintiffs Benjamin Doebr, Zach Soliz, Mitchel Feuer, Kevin Howard,
 9 Andre Howard, Michael Cordero, Ed McDonald, Theodore Harkness, Tim Kelly, Maor Kramer,
 10 and Casey Goodman, on behalf of themselves and classes of all others similarly situated,
 11 respectfully request that the Court enter an order or judgment in their favor and against
 12 Defendants, and:

13 a. Declare that Defendants have variously engaged in unlawful, anticompetitive,
 14 and unfair business acts and practices in violation of Clayton Act Section 7, 15
 15 U.S.C. § 18; Sherman Act Section 2, 15 U.S.C. § 2; the Washington Consumer
 16 Protection Act, Wash. Rev. Code § 19.86.20; the California Unfair
 17 Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, *et seq.*; the Florida
 18 Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, Fla. Stat. § 501.204; the Illinois
 19 Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 Ill. Comp. Stat.
 20 § 505/2; and the North Carolina Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act,
 21 N.C. Gen. Stat. § 75-1.1.

22 b. Enjoin Defendants from performing or proposing to perform any acts in
 23 violation of Clayton Act Section 7, 15 U.S.C. § 18; Sherman Act Section 2, 15
 24 U.S.C. § 2; the Washington Consumer Protection Act, Wash. Rev. Code
 25 § 19.86.20; the California Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code
 26 § 17200, *et seq.*; the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, Fla.
 27 Stat. § 501.204; the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices
 28

Act, 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 505/2; and the North Carolina Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 75-1.1.

- c. Order such divestitures as are necessary or proper to restore distinct, separate, independent, and viable businesses; to restore competition; and to prevent and mitigate further harm to competition in the relevant markets;
- d. Order Defendants to pay money damages—automatically trebled—to Plaintiffs for injuries suffered by reason of Defendants’ violations of Clayton Act Section 7, 15 U.S.C. § 18; Sherman Act Section 2, 15 U.S.C. § 2; the Washington Consumer Protection Act, Wash. Rev. Code § 19.86.20; the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, Fla. Stat. § 501.204; Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 505/2; the Nebraska Consumer Protection Act; and the North Carolina Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 75-1.1.
- e. Order Defendants to pay restitution of any money acquired by Defendants’ unlawful, anticompetitive, and unfair business practices, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof § 17203.
- f. Order Defendants to pay the cost of suit, including attorneys’ fees, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 and 26; Wash. Rev. Code § 19.86.090; Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 1021.5; Fla. Stat. § 501.2105; 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 505/10; Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 59-1609; N.C. Gen. Stat. § 75-16.1, and the Court’s inherent authority.
- g. Order Defendants to pay any interest accrued from the date of entry of any money judgment, pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code § 4.56.110; Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 685.010; Fla. Stat. § 55.03; 735 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 5/2-1303; Neb. Rev. Stat. § 45-103; and to pay any interest on any portion of a money judgment designated as compensatory damages from the date of commencement of this action, and on any other portion of a money judgment from the date of entry of judgment, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 24-5.

h. Provide such further and additional relief as the Court deems proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

333. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b), Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all claims in this Complaint so triable.

Dated May 6, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

SIMONSEN SUSSMAN LLP

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