



DUBAI FILIPINO BOWLING CLUB

Accreditation No. FILSOC-CDA-008-2024

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CLUB STORY: DFBC's Legacy of Championships, Milestones, Community Outreach, and Sports Development

The **Dubai Filipino Bowling Club (DFBC)** has a rich history dating back to the mid-'80s when a group of passionate Filipino bowlers at the Dubai Bowling Center on Airport Road laid the foundation for Filipino bowling communities across Dubai and the Northern Emirates. Building on this early enthusiasm, **DFBC was officially established in 1992** to provide continuity, growth, and stability for its members. Initially operating under the umbrella of the **United Sports Filipino Association of the Emirates (USFAE)** of the Philippine Embassy in the UAE, which was formed to unite Filipinos involved in various sports such as tennis, chess, and golf – the club's objectives have always been to foster camaraderie and strengthen ties among Filipinos, while striving to improve members' bowling skills and empowering them to compete at international standards.

Founded with 150 members, DFBC's leadership journey began in 1992 with **Rolly Detaro** as the first president, followed by **Benjamin Descargar**, who introduced the club's original **Constitution and By-laws in 1993**. Subsequent presidents included **Cesar Bautista (1994)**, **Carlos Serrano (1995)**, **Roland Detaro (1996)**, and **Teddy Yu (1997-1998)**. Under Yu, DFBC underwent key transformations, including constitutional amendments and revised league rules, driven by **Vice President Chris Jaguros**.

In 1998, GCC Filipino club leaders initiated a trial run of the GCC Filipino bowling tournament, requesting DFBC to host the **Philippine Friendship Games** in Dubai. This event later became known as the **GCC All-Filipino Bowling Tour (GCC-AFBT)**.

In 1999, DFBC made history by electing its **first female president, Elsie Marcial**, who succeeded Teddy Yu after years of impactful service. Under her leadership, the club reached its pinnacle with the prestigious **Philippine President's Cup**, an award from the **Malacañang** under President **Joseph Estrada**. This honor recognized DFBC's championship victories in both the Women's and Men's Team and Doubles Events at the **3rd Philippine Friendship Games**, organized by the Philippine Consulate General in Dubai, in collaboration with DFBC.

In 2000, **Teddy Yu** returned as president and led the creation of a powerful alliance between the club, Abu Dhabi Filipino Bowling Club, Sharjah Filipino Bowling Club, Ajman Filipino Bowling Club, and Ras Al Khaimah Filipino Bowling Club. Also under his leadership, DFBC hosted the **OFW Balikbayan Tournament** in Manila, Philippines, offering a scholarship at **AMA Computer College** for the children of the champions, alongside other prizes. The event also featured generous in-kind prizes, with **Bong Coo**, the bowling legend, among the sponsors.

DFBC continued to thrive in the years that followed under various presidents, with **Edgard Luarda** taking the helm in 2001, followed by **Ariel Serrano** in 2002 and 2003. During Ariel's tenure, the club launched its website, **dfbc-uae.com**, an initiative led by **Mel Calumberan**, which left a lasting digital legacy. In 2004, **Irene Serrano** assumed leadership of DFBC and also served as the 3rd President of the **United Filipino Bowlers-UAE (UFB-UAE)**.

In subsequent years, DFBC continued to grow under the leadership of various presidents. **Dante Herras** served as president in 2005, followed by **Virgilio Lacuata** in 2006, and **Cyrus Barrientos** in 2007. Each contributed to strengthening the foundation of the club and ensuring its success in both local and regional competitions.

During this period from 2004 to 2006, DFBC played a pivotal role in the founding of UFB-UAE, working alongside other member clubs. Markedly, DFBC remains the only club within UFB-UAE to have achieved the prestigious **championship grand slam**, winning all the **Inter-Emirates Invitational Tournaments in a single year**. This local success laid the foundation for DFBC's continued excellence, especially on the regional stage, as seen in its remarkable performances in the **GCC All-Filipino Bowling Tour (GCC-AFBT)**.

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DFBC takes immense pride in its achievements within the GCC-AFBT, having secured the **Women's Team Championship** an impressive **16 times** across the years, including back-to-back titles in 1998-2000. Additional titles came in 2002, 2004, 2006-2007, 2010-2011, 2013-2015, 2017, and 2019-2024. The **Men's Team** has earned **6 Championship titles** in 2004, 2009, 2011-2012, 2015, and 2017. Notably, the club first claimed overall titles in both the men's and women's divisions at the **7th GCC-AFBT** in Doha, Qatar, in 2004. This success spans GCC member countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. DFBC has since gone on to secure the **Overall Championship 16 times**, including a streak of **13 consecutive years** from 2009 to 2024 with a dominant victory at the **24th GCC-AFBT** in Doha, Qatar.

Building on its regional triumphs, the club has also earned numerous accolades at the **World Overseas Filipino Bowling Tour (WOFBT)**. As a natural progression, the **WOFBT** was formed to expand its reach to Filipino bowlers worldwide, with the first tournament held in 2014. The WOFBT is a brainchild of **Hashim Guinomla and Elsie Marcial**, both active members of DFBC, who conceptualized the staging of this event for overseas Filipino bowlers. **Uella Marcial**, also of DFBC, and **Randy Fermo** of FBAI (Italy) soon joined in 2014 and 2016, respectively, to form the WOFBT Executive Council.

As the founding member and key participant of the WOFBT, DFBC organized the inaugural WOFBT in Dubai and has consistently triumphed in both the men's and women's events. **DFBC captured the Overall Championship** at the following tournaments: the 1st WOFBT (2014 in Dubai), 2nd WOFBT (2015 in Abu Dhabi), 3rd WOFBT (2016 in Rome), 4th WOFBT (2017 in Athens), 5th WOFBT (2018 in London), and 6th WOFBT (2019 in Vienna). After the pandemic paused global events in 2020, the 7th WOFBT returned to Dubai in 2022, where DFBC claimed its **7th Overall Championship title**. In the 8th edition, held in Singapore, DFBC earned multiple medals, including **Masters championships** for both men's and women's divisions. At the 9th WOFBT in Nagano, Japan (2024), DFBC dominated once again, securing numerous gold medals and finishing just one gold medal shy of the Overall Championship title. With the **10th edition of the WOFBT** taking place this year, DFBC, as the host, aims to claim the Overall Championship once again and continue its legacy of excellence.

DFBC's leadership has been anchored by its longest-serving president, **Dante Herras** (2005, 2008-2016), who guided the club to numerous GCC-AFBT and WOFBT victories. Following him, **July Perez** took on the presidency from 2017 to 2018, after serving as the club's longest-serving Vice President. From 2019 to 2021, **Romeo Alcantara** assumed leadership, with Larry Dolor as Vice President followed by Olan Baldivino in the same role from 2020-2021. In 2022, **Larry Dolor** became president and was succeeded by **Mario Rivera Jr.** in 2023.

Club's new leadership in 2024 rose to the challenge, embracing new opportunities and guiding the club into an exciting new chapter. Since the start of the year, DFBC has been actively engaged in community building and outreach. During the DIBC Open on 18 February 2024, DFBC officers, members, advisers, family, and friends gathered for a **Meet & Greet and Photo Session** with esteemed leaders of **Philippine sports**, including **Philippine Sports Commission – Commissioner Bong Coo**, **Philippine Bowling Federation Secretary General – Gina AVECILLA**, **Head Coach Jojo Canare**, and **National Bowling Team members** with Marc Custodio who emerged as the Champion. DFBC has proudly supported the RP bowling team members throughout this championship, further strengthening our ties with Philippine sports. The club also had the pleasure of welcoming the Filipino Social Club's President **Ericson Reyes** and Auditor **Ruzell Aguilar**, making the event even more special.

On **24 March 2024**, DFBC achieved a significant milestone by becoming officially registered and accredited under **Accreditation No. FILSOC-CDA-008-2024** by the **Filipino Social Club (FILSOC)**, a community organization licensed by the UAE Government's **Community Development Authority (CDA)** under License No. 112. Accreditation by the CDA is crucial for non-profit clubs in the UAE, providing legal protection, credibility, access to funding, and resources that support long-term success.

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and sustainability. This achievement was spearheaded by **Vice President Uella Marcial**, along with the **Officers and Working Committees**. Following the club's CDA accreditation, DFBC relaunched its official **Facebook page** and launched a new **Instagram page** to enhance communication and engagement both within our community and beyond.

As an accredited group, DFBC successfully organized the inaugural **Kalayaan Bowling Tournament** on 25 May 2024, fostering camaraderie and showcasing talent within our community. The event featuring Filipino, half-Filipino, Emirati, and bowlers from other nationalities, was attended by Philippine Consulate General in Dubai, **Hon. Consul General Marford Angeles**, **Vice Consul Jim Jimeno**, **Department of Migrant Workers** staff, and **FILSOC's Board of Directors**, led by **President Erison Reyes**. It also received strong support from various Filipino-accredited groups, contributing to its success.

DFBC's accreditation also enabled us to supervise the "**Likha ng Siyensya (Robotics Innovation Challenge)**" during the **126th Philippine Independence Day** on 8 June 2024 at the Dubai World Trade Centre as organized by FILSOC. The event showcased the talents of **students from Philippine schools** in Dubai and the Northern Emirates, chaired by Vice President Uella Marcial, with Charlie Cheng as Vice Chair, supported by President Hashim Guinomla, other Officers, and Working Committees. Former **Philippine Ambassador** to Saudi Arabia, **H.E. Bahnarim Guinomla**, also served as one of the judges.

Following this event, DFBC continued strengthening its foundation, with a **referendum held on 22 September 2024** to ratify amendments to the **Club Constitution and By-Laws**, which had been in place since 1998.

As part of the FILSOC's festivity, the "**Paskong Pinoy sa Dubai 2024**", DFBC participated for the first time in the **Inter-Filipino Group Basketball Tournament**. The **Kids' Corner** was also managed by DFBC along with the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI).

The club, however, is not confined to just playing the sport. In addition to its bowling achievements, which fulfill its sports objectives, it has made supporting charitable organizations in the Philippines a core part of its mission. This includes backing organizations such as **ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata 163**, with **Tina Monzon-Palma** receiving the donation on behalf of the program, **Home for the Aged**, and **Hospicio de San Jose** from 2002 to 2004 (initiatives of Ariel and Irene Serrano as club leaders). The club also supported **Gawad Kalinga-777** and **World Vision** in 2006 (during Virgilio's term). These efforts were carried out under the auspices of the Philippine Embassy in the UAE, the Philippine Consulate General in Dubai, and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) in Dubai. In 2007, the club organized a **Medical Mission** for its members during Cyrus' tenure with the initiative of **Dr. Ronnie Fabian**.

Over the years, DFBC has supported one another through **bereavement donations**, providing comfort and assistance in difficult times. The club has also aided distressed OFWs by distributing groceries to those who lost jobs, were stranded, or affected by the **2020 COVID-19 lockdown** (with **Vice President Olan Baldivino** accompanying members). In 2022 (during Larry's tenure), the club responded to the impact of **Typhoon Paeng** by raising funds and distributing groceries and school supplies to **158 students** at **Tuladan L. Masandil Elementary School** in Kuya, South Upi, Maguindanao, Philippines, with club members and families crossing hills and rivers to deliver aid to the most remote areas. Moreover in 2024, the club resumed its **fundraising efforts**, including donating slippers to **Grades 1 to 6 students** at **Sobol Elementary School** in Asingan, Pangasinan. The club is now focused on identifying a beneficiary for these efforts in 2025, with plans to continue supporting charitable causes in the coming year.

This commitment to community support complements **DFBC's ongoing dedication to sports development**. Led by our **USBC Certified International Coaches** – Silver-level Uella Marcial, Raul

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Cariaga, and Elsie Marcial, along with Bronze-level coach Philip Cabutihan, the club has begun offering tailored coaching sessions for both beginner and intermediate bowlers, including youth and adults, to develop new talents and enhance members' skills.

DFBC and its members have been proudly affiliated with the **Magallanes Bowling Association (MBA)** and the **Philippine Bowling Federation** (since 2015), solidifying their global presence and reinforcing the club's mission of excellence.

As DFBC moves forward, it remains a beacon of inspiration, uniting members through their love for the sport and commitment to making a difference. This legacy of excellence, growth, and community service lays the foundation for future generations, passing the torch and inspiring bowlers to reach new heights in both sports and service, defining a bright future for Filipino bowling enthusiasts in the UAE and beyond.

Currently, DFBC is in its **67th League Conference for 2025**, with **27 participating teams**. The league, wherein the main club activities occur every Sunday, continues to foster a strong sense of community and healthy competition.

Building on this legacy with nearly 300 members & welcoming more, DFBC's leadership in 2024 played a crucial role in steering the club toward even greater achievements. Under **President Hashim Guinomla** and **Vice President Uella Marcial**, both esteemed members of the WOFBT Executive Council, the club made significant strides.

The **re-elected Officers of 2025**, along with committee chairpersons and members, took the oath of office on 5 January 2025 administered by the **Philippine Consulate General** in Dubai, **Hon. Consul General Marford Angeles**.

DFBC OFFICERS 2025



HASHIM GUINOMLA
President



UELLA MARCIAL
Vice President &
Sports Director



OLAN BALDIVINO
Secretary



MARIVIC ALFARO
Treasurer



REGINA DOLOR
Auditor



ELSIE MARCIAL
Chairman
Board of Advisers

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