Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A This return/report is for:
- [ ] a multiemployer plan
- [ ] a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
- [X] a single-employer plan
- [ ] a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is:
- [ ] the first return/report
- [ ] the final return/report
- [ ] an amended return/report
- [ ] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

D Check box if filing under:
- [X] Form 5558
- [ ] automatic extension
- [ ] the DFVC program
- [ ] special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
ERNIE BALL, INC. 401K PROFIT SHARING PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2004

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)
ERNIE BALL, INC.

53-973 POLK ST.
COACHELLA, CA 92236-3816

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)
95-2378345

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number
760-775-4222

2d Business code (see instructions)
811210

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/07/2026	DAN STRITMATTER
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/07/2026	DAN STRITMATTER
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a	Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor	**3b**	Administrator's EIN
		3c	Administrator's telephone number
4	If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:	**4b**	EIN
a	Sponsor's name	**4d**	PN
c	Plan Name		

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	608
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	532
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	527
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	157
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	684
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	0
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	684
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	307
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	386
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.	**6h**	8
7	Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2T 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)		**9b** Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)	
(1)	[X] Insurance	**(1)**	[X] Insurance
(2)	[ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	**(2)**	[ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	[ ] Trust	**(3)**	[ ] Trust
(4)	[ ] General assets of the sponsor	**(4)**	[ ] General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- **(3)** [ ] **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- **(4)** [ ] **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- **(5)** [ ] **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** [X] **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 1
- **(4)** [X] **C** (Service Provider Information)
- **(5)** [X] **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- **(6)** [ ] **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2025 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2025 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code_____

SCHEDULE A (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Insurance Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).

OMB No. 1210-0110

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
ERNIE BALL, INC. 401K PROFIT SHARING PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ERNIE BALL, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
95-2378345

Part I **Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions** Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
01-0233346	65838	56587	399	01/01/2025	12/31/2025

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
0	15122

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

THE RETIREMENT COMPANY
2659 TOWNSGATE RD., #101
WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91361

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
0	15122	TPA FEES/TPA COMPENSATION	5

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	0
5	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end	5	14602598

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:

a State the basis of premium rates ▶ 0

b	Premiums paid to carrier	6b	
c	Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year	6c	
d	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount.	6d	

Specify nature of costs ▶

e Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity

(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶

f If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ ☐

7 Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

a Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee

(3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ GROUP ANNUITY CONTRACT

b	Balance at the end of the previous year			7b	0
c	Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	0		
	(2) Dividends and credits	7c(2)	0		
	(3) Interest credited during the year	7c(3)	0		
	(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4)	0		
	(5) Other (specify below)	7c(5)	0		
	▶				
	(6)Total additions			7c(6)	0
d	Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**).			7d	0
e	Deductions:				
	(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)	0		
	(2) Administration charge made by carrier	7e(2)	0		
	(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)	0		
	(4) Other (specify below)	7e(4)	0		
	▶				
	(5) Total deductions			7e(5)	0
f	Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)			7f	0

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- **a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
- **b** ☐ Dental
- **c** ☐ Vision
- **d** ☐ Life insurance
- **e** ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
- **f** ☐ Long-term disability
- **g** ☐ Supplemental unemployment
- **h** ☐ Prescription drug
- **i** ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
- **j** ☐ HMO contract
- **k** ☐ PPO contract
- **l** ☐ Indemnity contract
- **m** ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:				
a Premiums: (1) Amount received	**9a(1)**			
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid	**9a(2)**			
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	**9a(3)**			
(4) Earned (**(1)** + **(2)** - **(3)**)			**9a(4)**	0
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid	**9b(1)**			
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	**9b(2)**			
(3) Incurred claims (add **(1)** and **(2)**)			**9b(3)**	0
(4) Claims charged			**9b(4)**	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --				
(A) Commissions	**9c(1)(A)**			
(B) Administrative service or other fees	**9c(1)(B)**			
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	**9c(1)(C)**			
(D) Other expenses	**9c(1)(D)**			
(E) Taxes	**9c(1)(E)**			
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies	**9c(1)(F)**			
(G) Other retention charges	**9c(1)(G)**			
(H) Total retention			**9c(1)(H)**	0
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.)			**9c(2)**	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement			**9d(1)**	
(2) Claim reserves			**9d(2)**	
(3) Other reserves			**9d(3)**	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line **9c(2)**.)			**9e**	
10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:				
a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier			**10a**	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount.			**10b**	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**	**2025** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
ERNIE BALL, INC. 401K PROFIT SHARING PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ERNIE BALL, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
95-2378345

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. . . . . ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

FORTEM FINANCIAL

44801 VILLAGE COURT
WESTLAKE VILLATE, CA 91361

81-3326710

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
26	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	40385	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

WILSHIRE ASSOCIATES

1299 OCEAN AVENUE
WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91361

95-2755361

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
26	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	6731	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

JOHN HANCOCK

01-0233346

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15	RECORDKEEPER	3276	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)

(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

DFE/Participating Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
ERNIE BALL, INC. 401K PROFIT SHARING PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ERNIE BALL, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
95-2378345

Part I **Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)**
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2070

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	1082

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2065

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	75110

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2060

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	189921

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2055

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	428746

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2050

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	541832

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2045

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	5004408

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2040

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	184581

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2035

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 3182673

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2030

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 322504

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2025

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 73917

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2020

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 27706

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2015

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 355

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETJOURNEY AMERICAN FUNDS 2010

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1310772

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AMERICAN FUNDS NEW WORLD FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 49145

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AVANTIS US SMALL CAP VALUE

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 38045

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLUE CHIP GROWTH FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 326670

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NUVEEN SMALL-CAP BLEND INDEX

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 79187

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD EXPLORER FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 9340

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: 500 INDEX FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE C0

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1683552

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AMERICAN FUNDS EUPAC FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 38457

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: DODGE & COX INTERNATIONAL ST

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 61548

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL INDEX

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 12489

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JOHN HANCOCK DISCIPLINED VALUE

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 169787

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB GLOBAL BOND FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 46209

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLACKROCK HIGH YIELD FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 208

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: DFA INFLATION-PROTECTED SEC

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1435

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PGIM TOTAL RETURN BOND FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 70859

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JOHN HANCOCK STABLE FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 672060

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II **Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs, other than DCGs)**
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans. DCGs must report each participating plan using Schedule DCG.)

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

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b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

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b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Financial Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
ERNIE BALL, INC. 401K PROFIT SHARING PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ERNIE BALL, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
95-2378345

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	13256	28
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	799071	756304
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	12308462	14602598
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d Employer-related investments:			
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
1e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
1f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	13120789	15358930
Liabilities			
1g Benefit claims payable	1g		
1h Operating payables	1h		
1i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
1j Other liabilities	1j		
1k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
1l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	13120789	15358930

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: **(A)** Employers	2a(1)(A)	137180	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	795114	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		932294
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	61561	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		61561
(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		0
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		2136139
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		3129994
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	762230	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	2e(4)		762230
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	82508	
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	47115	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(11)**	2i(12)		129623
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		891853
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		2238141
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) [X] Unmodified **(2)** [ ] Qualified **(3)** [ ] Disclaimer **(4)** [ ] Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) [X] DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 **(2)** [ ] DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) **(3)** [ ] neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: HSRDS, AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION **(2)** EIN: 81-3709413

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) [ ] This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. **(2)** [ ] It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

		Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	**4a**		X	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	**4b**		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	**4c**		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	**4d**		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	**4e**	X		500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	**4f**		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4g**		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4h**		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4i**	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4j**		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	**4k**		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	**4l**		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	**4m**		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	**4n**			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? [ ] Yes [X] No

If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	**5b(2)** EIN(s)	**5b(3)** PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Retirement Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
ERNIE BALL, INC. 401K PROFIT SHARING PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ERNIE BALL, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
95-2378345

Part I Distributions

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions ..... | 1 | 0

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):

EIN(s): 01-0233346

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year ..... | 3 |

Part II Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6	a	Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a	
	b	Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b	
	c	Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c	

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Part III Amendments

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ..... ☐ Increase ☐ Decrease ☐ Both ☐ No

Part IV ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	**14a**	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14b**	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14c**	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**15a**	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	**15b**	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	**16a**	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	**16b**	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more

20 **PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation._____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).

☐ Design-based safe harbor method

☐ "Prior year" ADP test

☒ "Current year" ADP test

☐ N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q703317A .

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2025 and 2024



HOFFMAN • SHORT
AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

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HOFFMAN · SHORT
AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

JOANNE HOFFMAN, CPA, CFE, MBA
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Ernie Ball, Inc., as Plan Administrator of
Ernie Ball, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of **Ernie Ball, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan**, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) [ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit]. The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of **December 31, 2025 and 2024**, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended **December 31, 2025**, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of Ernie Ball, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2025 and 2024 and for the year ended December 31, 2025, stating that the certified investment information, as described in **Note 3** to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section -

- the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements referred to above, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- the information in the financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Ernie Ball, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Ernie Ball, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments; administering the plan; and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Ernie Ball, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Ernie Ball, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule, Schedule of Assets Held for Investment (End of Year), as of December 31, 2025 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion—

- the form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

- the information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).



HOFFMAN SHORT
AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

Covina, California
September 23, 2026

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value	$ 14,602,598	$ 12,308,462
Cash account	28	13,256
Employer contributions receivable	-	7,612
Notes receivable from participants	756,304	799,071
Total Assets	**15,358,930**	**13,128,401**
LIABILITIES		
Excess contributions payable	**10,465**	**8,557**
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	**$ 15,348,465**	**$ 13,119,844**

See notes to financial statements.

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVALIABLE FOR BENEFITS

Year Ended December 31, 2025

ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:	
INVESTMENT INCOME	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	$ 2,136,141
Interest on notes receivable from participants	61,561
Total Investment	**2,197,702**
CONTRIBUTIONS:	
Employee contributions	795,114
Employer contributions	129,568
Employee roll-over contributions	-
Total Contributions	**924,682**
Total Additions	**3,122,384**
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:	
Benefits paid to participants	764,139
Investment and administrative expenses	129,624
Total Deductions	**893,763**
NET INCREASE	**2,228,621**
NET ASSETS AVALIABLE FOR BENEFITS:	
Beginning of Year	13,119,844
END OF YEAR	**$ 15,348,465**

See notes to financial statements.

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following brief description of the **Ernie Ball Inc.** (the Company) **401(k) Profit Sharing Plan** (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan Agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan to provide a retirement savings program for the eligible employees of the Company. The Plan was established on January 1, 2004, and has been restated or amended several times, the latest being in January 2015, to make certain changes and enhancements to the Plan.

The Plan is intended to be qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code), as amended, and is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended.

Trustees and Administrator of the Plan

The Plan's investments are held by John Hancock Life Insurance Company, the trustee/custodian, and John Hancock Retirement Services provides recordkeeping services for the Plan.

The Plan is administered by the Company, Ernie Ball, Inc., with compliance and other administrative services are performed by a third-party administration firm.

Eligibility

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all employees of the Company who are aged 21 or older. Eligibility to participate in the plan is as follows (as amended January 1, 2015):

- *Employee Salary Deferral Contributions* - Each employee shall be eligible to participate in the Plan on the 1st of January, April, July, or October following or coinciding with the completion of three months of service.
- *Employer Matching Contributions* - each employee shall be eligible to receive matching contributions from the employer on the 1st of January or July following or coinciding with the completion of six months of service.
- *All Other Employer Contributions* - each employee shall be eligible to receive other employer contributions from the employer on the 1st of January or July following or coinciding with the completion of twelve months of service, provided the employee has completed one-thousand hours of service during the eligibility computation period.

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (continued)

Contributions

Contributions to the Plan are made through employee contributions, including catch-up contributions, Company contributions, and participant roll over contributions. Contributions to the plan can be made as follows:

- *Employee Salary Deferral Contributions* - Each pay period the participants may contribute either a dollar amount or percentage of their eligible annual compensation to the Plan subject to the limits allowable under the Internal Revenue Code.
- *Employee Rollover Contributions* - Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans.
- *Employer Matching Contributions* - At the discretion of the Board of Directors, the Company may make matching contributions, which are also participant directed. The Company matches 25% of employee contributions, up to 6% of eligible compensation deferred to the Plan. The matching contributions made to the Plan for the year ended December 31, 2025 totaled $129,568.
- *Employer Profit Sharing Contributions* - At the discretion of the Board of Directors, the Company may make profit sharing contributions, which are also participant directed. There were no profit-sharing contributions for the year ended December 31, 2025.

Investments

Participants can direct the investment of their accounts (including employee and Company contributions) among various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan offers a group of pooled separate accounts as administered by John Hancock Life Insurance Company, as investments options for the participants.

Participant's Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and allocations of the Company's contributions and plan earnings and is charged with an allocation of plan fund administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions and roll over accounts plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company contributions portion of their accounts plus earnings thereon is based on years of continuous service. A participant is 100% vested after six years of credited service. A participant is also 100% vested upon normal retirement age, death, or disability.

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (continued)

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants can borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of $500 up to a maximum of $50,000, reduced by the highest outstanding loan balance during the prior twelve months or 50% of their vested account balance. Loan terms range from 1 - 5 years at a reasonable interest rate determined by the administrator and are secured by their account balance. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Payment of Benefits

Upon termination, death, disability, or retirement, a participant's account will be distributed in accordance with the provisions in the Plan Document. A participant's account is distributed in a single lump-sum payment if the balance is less than $1,000. If the account balance is greater than $1,000, the participant must consent to the distribution and may choose from several different payment of benefit options (some of which may require spousal consent), such as distribution in cash or Direct Rollover. In the case of death, the distribution shall be made to the participant's beneficiary.

Forfeited Accounts / Cash Account

Forfeitures of non-vested employer contributions, if any, shall be used to reduce employer contributions for the plan year in which they occurred or thereafter. As of December 31, 2025 and 2024, there was $28 and $13,256, respectively, in forfeited non-vested accounts available to reduce future Company contributions and administrative expenses.

SECURE 2.0 ACT

The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement 2.0 Act (SECURE 2.0 Act) of 2022 was signed into law on December 29, 2022. This legislation included a broad range of mandatory and optional provisions affecting retirement plans, with effective dates staggered from 2023 and beyond. The Plan has operated in compliance with applicable provisions of the SECURE 2.0 Act as they became effective. Amendments to the Plan, if applicable, to reflect provisions of the SECURE 2.0 Act will be adopted in accordance with applicable law and IRS guidance.

2. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following are the significant accounting policies followed by the Plan:

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual method of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) and the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

2. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The Plan's investments are stated at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value of the Plan's pooled separate accounts is at Net Asset Value (NAV), which is calculated by the fund balance based on net assets. The NAV is used as the practical expedient to estimate fair value. See Note (4) for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest is recorded on an accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation/depreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are valued at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on an accrual basis. Related fees are charged directly to the borrowing participant's account and are included in administrative expenses when incurred. If a participant does not make loan repayments and the plan administrator considers the participant loan to be in default, the loan balance is reduced, and the delinquent participant loan receivable is recorded as a benefit payment based on the terms of the Plan document.

Excess Contributions Payable

Amounts payable to participants in excess of the amount allowed by the IRS are recorded as a liability with a corresponding reduction to contributions. The Plan distributed the 2024 excess contributions to the applicable participants prior to March 15, 2025. As of December 31, 2024, there were refunds of excess contributions totaling $8,557. The Plan distributed the 2025 excess contributions to the applicable participants prior to March 15, 2026. As of December 31, 2025, there were refunds of excess contributions totaling $10,465.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Expenses

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Company and are therefore excluded from these financial statements. Investment-related expenses are included in net appreciation of the fair value of investments. Fees for the administration of notes receivable from participants are included in administrative expenses and are charged directly to the participant's account.

3. INFORMATION PREPARED AND CERTIFIED BY JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

The Plan Administrator has elected the method of compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA for 2025 and 2024. Accordingly John Hancock Life Insurance Company, the Trustee of the Plan, has certified to the completeness and accuracy of all investments reported in the accompanying Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the supplemental schedule, Schedule of Assets Held for Investment (End of Year) as of December 31, 2025, and the related investment activity reported in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the year ended December 31, 2025.

	2025	2024
Investments at fair value:		
Pooled separate accounts	$ 14,602,598	$ 12,308,462
Cash account	28	13,256
Loan security accounts	756,304	799,071
Investment income	2,197,702	1,563,575

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The Plan's valuation methodologies were applied to the Plan's investments carried at fair value. Fair value is based upon quoted market prices, where available. If listed prices or quotes are not available, fair value is based upon models that primarily use, as inputs, market-based or independently sourced market parameters. See Note (2) for details and procedures used to value investments in pooled separate account funds measured at NAV, which is used as the practical expedient to estimate fair value.

Fair value calculations may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

Valuation Hierarchy

FASB Accounting Standards Codification, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides the framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

- Level One - Inputs are unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date.
- Level Two - Inputs are observable inputs other than quoted (Level 1) prices for similar assets or liabilities, quoted prices in markets that are not active, or other inputs that are observable to can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets of liabilities.

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (continued)

- Level Three - Unobservable inputs that are supported by little, or no, market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

A financial instrument's categorization within the valuation hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for the investments measured at fair value; there have been no significant changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2025 and 2024.

- **Pooled separate accounts:** These funds are valued at the net asset value (NAV) or equivalent based on units of the pooled separate accounts. The NAV, as provided by the trustee, is used as the practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is generally based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the pooled separate account less liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the pooled separate accounts will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV.

The following tables set forth, by level with the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2025 and 2024 as follows:

	December 31, 2025			
		Fair Value Esimated Using		
	Carrying Amount	Level One	Level Two	Level Three
Asests at fair value:	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Assets at NAV:				
Pooled separate accounts	14,602,598			
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	**$ 14,602,598**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**

	December 31, 2024			
		Fair Value Esimated Using		
	Carrying Amount	Level One	Level Two	Level Three
Asests at fair value:	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Assets at NAV:				
Pooled separate accounts	12,308,462			
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	**$ 12,308,462**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**

5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Company, the participants, and the Trustee/Custodian have all been identified as parties-in-interest. The Plan has investments in participation units held in pooled separate accounts through sub-accounts of John Hancock Life Insurance Company. John Hancock provides services to the Plan as the custodian and record keeper; therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions, which are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules. Participant loans also qualify as party-in-interest transactions, which are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules. Certain administrative expenses of the Plan are paid by the Company and qualify as party-in-interest.

6. PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

7. TAX STATUS

The Plan was established effective January 1, 2004. The Plan has been amended from time to time, including an amendment adopted and effective January 1, 2015.

The Plan has received an opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated September 30, 2014, stating that the written form of the underlying prototype plan document is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code), and that any employer adopting this form of the Plan will be considered to have a plan qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code. Therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualifications. The plan administrator is not aware of any course of action or series of events that it believes would adversely affect the Plan's qualified status.

GAAP requires Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that is more likely than not would be sustained upon examination. Management evaluated the Plan's tax positions and concluded that the Plan had maintained its tax-exempt status and had taken no uncertain tax positions that required recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. Therefore, no provisions or liability for income taxes have been included in the financial statements.

The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

8. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances, and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefit.

9. RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO FORM 5500

The following is a reconciliation of contributions per the financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024 to Form 5500:

	2025	2024
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	$ 15,348,465	$ 13,119,844
Less: employer contributions receivable	-	(7,612)
Add: accounts payable for excess contributions	10,465	8,557
NET ASSETS AVALIABLE FOR BENEFITS PER SCHEDULE H FORM 5500	**$ 15,358,930**	**$ 13,120,789**

The following is a reconciliation of the net change in assets for benefits per the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2025, to Schedule H of Form 5500:

Net change in assets available for benefits per the financial statements	$ 2,228,621
Add: 2024 employer contributions receivable	7,612
Add: 2025 excess contributions	10,465
Less: 2024 excess contributions	(8,557)
NET CHANGE IN ASSETS AVALIABLE FOR BENEFITS PER SCHEDULE H FORM 5500	**$ 2,238,141**

9. DELIQUENT PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTIONS – SELF-CORRECTION PROGRAM (SCP)

Certain 2024 employers matching contributions were not remitted timely to John Hancock in accordance with the Department of Labor's regulations. The Plan Sponsor discovered this oversight in July 2025 and deposited the delinquent contributions, as well as the lost earnings resulting from the delay in remittance of the contributions. This correction was made under the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System (EPCRS) - Self Correction Program and the corresponding excise tax owed was paid.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Plan's management has evaluated subsequent events through September 23, 2026, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, and there were no subsequent events requiring adjustments to, or disclosure in, the Plan's financial statements.

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
EIN 95-2378345, Plan 001
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE - INVESTMENTS AND PARTICIPANT LOANS

December 31, 2025

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENT (END OF YEAR)
Form 5500 Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue	(c) Description of Investment	(e) Current Value
*	American Funds 2070	105 shares	$ 1,082
*	American Funds 2065	18,117 shares	75,110
*	American Funds 2060	18,117 shares	189,921
*	American Funds 2055	40,727 shares	428,746
*	American Funds 2050	51,735 shares	541,832
*	American Funds 2045	476,075 shares	5,004,408
*	American Funds 2040	17,667 shares	184,581
*	American Funds 2035	307,151 shares	3,182,673
*	American Funds 2030	31,151 shares	322,504
*	American Funds 2025	7,248 shares	73,917
*	American Funds 2020	2,718 shares	27,706
*	American Funds 2015	35 shares	355
*	American Funds 2010	127,700 shares	1,310,772
*	American Funds EUPAC Fund	359 shares	38,457
*	Avantis US Small Cap Value	1,939 shares	38,045
*	Dodge and Cox International St	665 shares	61,548
*	Fidelity International Index	160 shares	12,489
*	New World Fund	355 shares	49,145
*	Nuveen Small-Cap Blend Index	1,862 shares	79,187
*	Vanguard Explorer Fund	33 shares	9,340
*	500 Index Fund	16,312 shares	1,683,552
*	Blue Chip Growth Fund	1,800 shares	326,670
*	JH Disciplined Value	2,894 shares	169,787
*	AB Global Bond Fund	4,528 shares	46,209
*	BlackRock High Yield Bond Fund	17 shares	208
*	DFA Inflation Protected Sec	92 shares	1,435
*	PGIM Total Return Bond Fund	3,810 shares	70,859
*	JH Stable Value Fund	532,879 shares	672,060
	Total Investments		**14,602,598**
	Participant Loans	Interest rates 4.25% to 9.50%, various maturities	756,304
	Cash Account		28
	Total		**$ 15,358,930**

* Investment with party-in-interest to the Plan

MEMO: Cost omitted for above investments since not applicable

See notes to financial statements.

Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A This return/report is for:
- ☐ a multiemployer plan
- ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
- ☒ a single-employer plan
- ☐ a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is:
- ☐ the first return/report
- ☐ the final return/report
- ☐ an amended return/report
- ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐

D Check box if filing under:
- ☒ Form 5558
- ☐ automatic extension
- ☐ the DFVC program
- ☐ special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
ERNIE BALL, INC. 401K PROFIT SHARING PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2004

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)

ERNIE BALL, INC.

53-973 POLK ST.

COACHELLA CA 92236-3816

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 95-2378345

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 760-775-4222

2d Business code (see instructions) 811210

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	[signature]	10-7-2026	DAN STRITMATTER
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	[signature]	10-7-2026	DAN STRITMATTER
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
EIN 95-2378345, Plan 001
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE - INVESTMENTS AND PARTICIPANT LOANS

December 31, 2025

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