

**INTERNATIONAL BOWLING FEDERATION**  
**2023 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**October 4<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Kuwait Bowling Center**  
**Salmiya, Kuwait**

**Rules and Regulations**

The format for the 2023 World Championships is as approved at the 2019 World Bowling Congress.

**Eligibility Rule 4.9**

4.9.1 To be eligible to enter athletes in IBF championships, federations must be current with their IBF and Zone membership fees.

4.9.2 Any athlete in the IBF championships must be a national of the country of the IBF member federation, which is entering him (subject to the exceptions below).

4.9.3 All disputes relating to the determination of the country which an athlete may represent in the IBF championships shall be resolved by the IBF Executive Board.

4.9.4 Exceptions

a) An athlete who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as he may elect. However, after having represented one country in the Olympic Games, in world, continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognized by the IBF, he may not represent another country unless he meets the conditions set forth below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.

b) An athlete who has represented one country in the Olympic Games, in world, continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognized by the IBF, and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the IBF Championships to represent his new country provided that at least three years have passed since the athlete last represented his former country. This period may be reduced or even cancelled by the IBF Executive Board, with the agreement of the athlete's National Olympic Committee and national bowling federation, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.

c) If an associated state, province or overseas department, a country or colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, if a country merges with another country or if a new member federation is recognized by the IBF, an athlete may continue to represent the country to which he belongs or belonged. However, he may, if he prefers, choose to represent his country or be entered in the IBF Championships by his new IBF member federation if one exists. This particular exception may be made only once.

d) Furthermore, in all cases in which a competitor would be eligible to participate in World Championships, either by representing another country than his or by having the choice as to the country which such competitor intends to represent, the IBF Executive Board may take all decisions of a general or individual nature with regard to issues resulting from nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of any competitor, including the duration of any waiting period.

## 2. Eligibility/Qualification Rule 5.2

### 5.2.2

- a) In the World Championships (for men and women) 32 men's team and 32 women's team will qualify to participate
- b) The host federation is qualified with one men's and one women's team
- c) The remaining 31 teams will be distributed among the zones and the number of teams from each zone will be decided by how many member federations there are in each zone relative to the total number of member federations in good standing on 1st of January two years ahead of the year of the championship.

No. of Qualifiers per Zone:

The number of qualifiers per zone is based on the total number of IBF federations as January 2021 and the total number of IBF federations at this date was 109.

Number of Federations by Zone Jan 2021		Number of Qualifiers
ABF	33	9
BFA	5	2
EBF	42	12
OBF	4	1
PanAm	<u>25</u>	<u>7</u>
109		31 plus host federation (= 32)

- d) Each Zone decides the qualification process in its zone.
- e) Two deadlines will be defined by IBF.
  - i) for each Zone to present to IBF the standing of zone qualification of teams/federations
  - ii) a final date for invitation of teams/federations
- f) IBF invites the federations according to the qualification rules above following the standing in each zone qualification. If there are any vacant spots IBF may fill these vacancies of one zone by team(s) from any zone
- g) The minimum number of athletes from each participating team must be six (6) athletes**
- h) No wild card system will be used

## 3. Official Delegation

The official delegation shall/can include:

- a. 6 athletes (male and/or female) (this is the required number)
- b. Coaches for athletes
- c. Administrators for athletes
- d. Medical officers including sport psychologist and sport physiotherapist.

The official delegation is invited to all official functions including the Opening Ceremony as well as the Victory Banquet.

#### **4. Lane Assignments and Registration Rule 5.3**

5.3.1 In due time before the start of the championships, the Tournament Director will decide the number of squads for each event and the number of lanes in use for each squad.

5.3.2 Lane assignments shall be determined by a predetermined schedule for Singles, Doubles, Trios and Team.

5.3.3 For Singles and Doubles, once competition is under way, the number of athletes scheduled on a pair of lanes must be consistent throughout the tournament.

5.3.4 Lane assignments should be performed in due time prior to the Pre-Tournament meeting in order for it to be announced at the meeting.

#### **5. Practice Rule 5.4**

5.4.1 The athletes of each federation shall be nominated prior to the start of the official practice.

5.4.2 Minimum one day of official practice must be provided immediately prior to the start of the championship. One hour practice is required for each federation. However, if the competition lanes are not available for unofficial practice immediately prior to the official practice, two days of official practice will be required with two hours for each federation the first day and one hour for each federation the second day.

5.4.3 Each federation will have one session of official practice.

5.4.4 After the lanes have been prepared and the official practice concluded, no play whatsoever by the participants of the championships shall be allowed on the competition lanes during the entire duration, except the championships proper. This will not preclude efforts (e.g. exhibition) to promote bowling before, after or in between events. However, this does not allow any play by participants on the competition lanes after the last event of the day when the bowling centre is available to the public for open bowling. Violators are subject to disqualification.

5.4.6 Notwithstanding 5.4.4, IBF tournament management may, in their sole discretion, allow warm-up on championship lanes in circumstances in which athletes are required to compete on lanes not previously used in the championships, or lanes that have been retired in the championships.

5.4.5 Warm-up for events

a) Singles, 10 minutes

b) Doubles, 10 minutes

c) Trios, 10 minutes

d) Team, 15 minutes

e) Semi Finals and Finals, 10 minutes practice time for Team and Trios; 5 minutes practice time for Doubles and Singles.

5.4.6 Notwithstanding 5.4.4, IBF tournament management may, in their sole discretion, allow warm-up on championship lanes in circumstances in which athletes are required to compete on lanes not previously used in the championships, or lanes that have been retired in the championships.

**6. Singles Rule 5.13.1**

a) Round 1 - 144 athletes in the Men's Division divided into 6 groups of 24 athletes. Each group is subdivided into 4 subgroups with 6 athletes each and 72 athletes in the Women's Division divided into 6 groups of 12 athletes. Each group is subdivided into 2 subgroups with 6 athletes each

i) Groups are seeded according to previous Championships

ii) Athletes bowl 5 games round robin and will be awarded 3 points for a win and 1 point for draw

b) Round 2 - 24 athletes, composed of the winner from each subgroup in the Men's Division and the top 2 from each subgroup in the Women's Division.

i) They will be divided into 4 groups of 6 athletes with pre-determined schedule

ii) Athletes will bowl 5 games round robin and will be awarded 3 points for a win and 1 point for a draw

c) Semi-finals and finals

i) The winner from each group will proceed to the semi-finals; they will be seeded according to their points in Round 2. If there is a tie for seeding positions, the points from round 1 and 2 will be added. Further ties will be determined by a coin flip.

ii) Best of three games for position 1 vs 4, 2 vs 3 and the winners shall bowl best of three games.

**7. Doubles Rule 5.13.2 – all games shall be bowled in Baker format**

a) Round 1 - 72 doubles in the Men's Division divided into 3 groups of 24 doubles. Each group is subdivided into 4 subgroups with 6 doubles each and 36 doubles in the Women's Division divided into 3 groups of 12 doubles. Each group is subdivided into 2 subgroups with 6 each.

i) Groups are seeded according to previous Championships

ii) Athletes bowl 5 games round robin and will be awarded 3 points for a win and 1 point for draw

b) Round 2 - 24 doubles, composed of the winner and second place from each subgroup in the men and the top 4 from each subgroup in the women.

i) They will be divided into 4 groups of 6 doubles with pre-determined schedule

ii) Athletes will bowl 5 games round robin and will be awarded 3 points for a win and 1 point for a draw

c) Semi-finals and finals

i) The winner from each group will proceed to the semi-finals

ii) They will be seeded according to their points in round 2

iii) If there is a tie for seeding positions, the points from round 1 and 2 will be added. Further ties will be determined by a coin flip.

iv) Best of three games for position 1 vs 4, 2 vs 3 and the winners shall bowl best of 3 games

**8. Trios Rule 5.13.3 – all games shall be bowled in Baker format**

a) Round 1 – 48 trios in the Men’s Division divided into 2 groups of 24 trios. Each group is subdivided into 4 subgroups with 6 trios each and 24 trios in the Women’s Division divided into 2 groups of 12 trios. Each group is subdivided into 2 subgroups with 6 each.

i) Groups are seeded according to previous Championships

ii) Trios will bowl 5 games round robin and will be awarded 3 points for a win and 1 point for draw

b) Round 2 – 16 trios, composed of the winner and second place from each subgroup in the men and the top 4 from each subgroup in the women.

i.) They will be divided into 2 groups of 8 trios with pre-determined schedule

ii.) Trios will bowl 7 games round robin and will be awarded 3 points for a win and 1 point for a draw.

c) Semi-finals and finals

i.) The top 2 from each group will proceed to the semi-finals

ii.) They will be seeded according to their points in round 2

iii.) If there is a tie for seeding positions, the points from round 1 and 2 will be added. Further ties will be determined by a coin flip

iv.) Best of three games for position 1 vs 4, 2 vs 3 and the winners will bowl best of three games,

**9. Team Rule 5.13.4 – all games shall be bowled in Baker format**

a) Round 1 – One group of 24 teams in the Men’s Division. This group is subdivided into 4 subgroups with 6 teams each and 12 teams in the Women’s Division. This group is subdivided into 2 subgroups with 6 teams each.

i.) Groups are seeded according to previous Championships

ii.) Teams will bowl 5 games round robin and will be awarded 3 points for a win and 1 point for draw.

b) Round 2 – 8 teams composed of the top 2 teams in each subgroup in the Men’s Division and the top 4 from each subgroup in the Women’s Division.

ii.) They will be in 1 group of 8 teams with pre-determined schedule

iii.) Teams will bowl 7 games round robin and will be awarded 3 points for a win and 1 point for a draw

c) Semi-finals and finals

i.) The top 4 teams from Round 2 will proceed to the semi-finals

ii.) They will be seeded according to their points in round 2

iii) If there is a tie for seeding positions, the points from round 1 and 2 will be added. Further ties will be determined by a coin flip

iv.) Best of three games for position 1 vs 4, 2 vs 3 and the winners will bowl best of three games

v.) Line-up changes are allowed after each game, prior to the start of the next game

**10. Ties**

5.13.5 Ties in all disciplines that affect proceeding to a next round will be determined by a 9th and 10th frame roll off

## **11. All Events Medal**

5.13.6 An all-events medal will be awarded based on the sum of the finishing position in each discipline.

- a) The winner is the athlete with the least number of points, based on finishing position in each discipline
- b) Ties will be declared co-medallists.

## **12. Over-all Federation Champion Rule 5.13.7**

Over-all federation champion medals will be awarded based on the sum of finishing positions in each discipline.

- a) The federation ranking will be done by a formula:  
 $S*(P-Avg+1)*T$ , where S = number of athletes in team (1 for singles, 2 for doubles, etc); P = total number of athletes/teams in event; Avg = average position for the federation in event; T = tier, singles .25, doubles .50, trios .75, team 1.00
- b) The winner is the federation with the highest number of points
- c) Ties will be declared co-medallists.

## **13. Procedure for Semi Finals and Finals Rule 5.15**

5.15.1 In the Team event, all 6 athletes from the federation can participate in the first half of the practice session.

5.15.2 After half of the practice period, the highest seeded Singles, Doubles, Trios or Team will decide which lane to start.

5.15.3 After half of the practice period all Doubles, Trios or Teams must decide their line-up for the match.

5.15.4 In case of withdrawals from any Semi Final or Final, the athlete, Doubles, Trios or Team without opponent will be declared the winner of the match.

5.15.5 In the Doubles, Trios and Team events, the Semi Finals and Finals will be played in Baker format.

## **14. Foul Definitions – Rule 2.8**

No appeal shall be allowed when a foul is called unless:

1. It is proved that the automatic device is not operating properly.
2. There is preponderance of evidence the athlete did not foul.

## **15. Provisional Ball – Rule 2.9**

A provisional ball or frame shall be bowled by an athlete when a protest involving a foul, legal pin fall or a dead ball is made and cannot be resolved by the tournament officials.

When a dispute occurs on an athlete's first delivery in any frame, or on the second delivery in the tenth frame after a strike on the first delivery

- a) If the dispute is over whether the athlete fouled, the athlete shall complete the frame and then bowl one provisional ball at a full setup of pins
- b) If the dispute involves alleged illegal pin fall, the athlete shall complete the frame and then bowl one provisional ball at the setup that would have remained standing had the disputed pin(s) not fallen.
- c) If the dispute is over whether a dead ball should have been declared, the athlete shall complete the frame and then bowl a complete provisional frame.

When a dispute occurs on a spare attempt, or on the third delivery in the tenth frame, no provisional ball is necessary unless the dispute is over whether a dead ball should have been declared. In that case a provisional ball shall be bowled at the same setup, which was standing when the disputed ball was bowled.

#### **16. Bowling Ball, altering surface**

Altering the surface of the bowling ball within a block of games is not allowed once practice has finished.

Altering the surface of the bowling ball during a game is not allowed.

If the surface is adjusted during a block/game the penalty is zero pinfall in that game

#### **17. Bowling ball procedure (Rule 4.11)**

Only bowling balls manufactured on or after January 1, 1991 that are on the USBC approved ball list latest the day the tournament starts are allowed for use in sanctioned competition.

The online list may be found at <https://bowl.com/approved-ball-list> and will be available during all world events.

Acceptance of manufactured balls prior to the inception of the USBC ball list for use in competition shall not be allowed.

#### **18. Registration of bowling balls**

a) Every athlete is allowed to register a maximum of six (6) bowling balls for use in the championship. No substitution is allowed during the event.

b) Immediately following the official practice (latest one hour after the last practice session) registration shall be made of the bowling balls to be used during the championship events.

Each day during the event random inspection of the bowling balls may be performed. The Tournament Technical Committee shall decide on the number of balls and the athletes, which shall be randomly selected. The inspection shall be limited to a visual inspection of the serial number of the balls.

#### **Balance holes are not permitted after 1 Aug 2020.**

The penalties for violation of the rule above are for a serial number violation

a) Daily random inspection, zero score for the event in which the failed inspection was performed

b) Medallists', zero score for the event

c) Masters Finals, disqualification and all scores null and void.

A maximum of five gripping holes are allowed in a bowling ball. The athlete must use each hole.

It is not permissible to use resin/powder products anywhere outside of designated area in any IBF event. The tournament manager shall/will designate such an area.

#### **19. Approaches Must Not Be Defaced – Rule 2.11**

The application of any foreign substance on any part of the approach that detracts from the possibility of other athletes having normal conditions is prohibited.

This includes, but is not limited to, such substances as talcum powder, pumice and resin on shoes; also soft rubber soles or heels that rub off on the approach are prohibited.

## **20. Errors in Scoring – Rule 2.12**

Errors in scoring or errors in calculation must be corrected by a responsible tournament official immediately upon discovery of such error. Questionable errors shall be decided upon by the designated official.

The time limit for filing protests on scoring errors shall be one hour from the end of the event or block of games for each day of tournament, but must be before the prize presentation or the commencement of the next round (in an elimination event), whichever is the sooner.

Each protest under this rule must be specific in itself and this rule shall not be construed to cover a previous or similar violation.

## **21. Interrupted Game – Rule 4.22**

The tournament officials may authorize the completion of a game and block of games on another pair of lanes when equipment failure on the starting lanes would delay the normal progress of the block.

## **22. Drinking and Smoking – Rule 4.16, 4.17**

### **Drinking alcohol**

Athletes must not consume alcohol or be under the influence of alcohol while in competition; i.e. during the entire period of a block of games. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be expulsion from the tournament.

Athletes, coaches or administrators may not consume alcohol while wearing the standard uniform of their national federation in the bowling centre during the period commencing with the start of official practice through the completion of the competition. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be;

- a warning for the first violation
- 100 USD for a second violation (paid by the federation before the next event) and - for any subsequent violation, suspension for the duration of the Championships.

### **Smoking and using tobacco products**

4.17.1 During championships smoking is not permitted in the bowling centre. However, it may be allowed in a closed area, provided it does not affect the environment in the athlete's and spectator's areas.

Athletes and their coach(es) must not smoke, use tobacco products or use any kind of synthetic cigarettes or e-cigarettes while in competition; i.e. during the entire period of a block of games.

The athlete penalty for smoking during a game will be zero pinfall for the game currently being played. The penalty for smoking in between games will be zero pinfall for the succeeding game. The penalty for the second offence by the same athlete shall be exclusion from the rest of the championship by the Tournament Technical Committee.

The coach penalty for smoking during a game shall be suspension from the block of games in which he violated the rule. The penalty for a second violation is suspension from the rest of the Championship.

Athletes, coaches or administrators may not smoke, use tobacco products or any kind of synthetic or e-cigarettes while wearing the standard uniform of their national federation during the period commencing with the start of official practice through the completion of the Masters competition. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be

- a warning for the first violation,
- 100 USD for a second violation (paid by the federation before the next event) and

- for any subsequent violation, suspension for the duration of the Championships.

### **23. Slow Bowling / Lane Courtesy**

The Championships will be played using one lane courtesy. In addition to that a shot clock will be used in every game played. The shot clock will be strictly enforced during every aspect of the tournament.

The following time rules apply and will be strictly enforced during the entire event.

- a) First shot in a frame. When your opponent leaves the approach and you have a full set of pins, you have 30 (thirty) seconds complete your shot. The shot is deemed complete in shot clock terms when the ball is fully released and has passed the foul line.
- b) Second shot in a frame. After your first ball has returned to the ball return, you have 30 (thirty) seconds to complete your shot. The shot is deemed complete in shot clock terms when the ball is fully released and has passed the foul line.
- c) First offence: A warning for slow bowling is given to the player/team.
- d) Second offence: A warning for slow bowling is given to the player/team.
- e) Third, and continued offence: The pin count of the whole frame where the offence occurred in will be nulled.

### **24. Bowling on Wrong Lane – Rule 2.7 and 4.24**

A ball shall be declared dead, and the athlete or athletes required re-bowling on the correct lane if no more than a total of 4 individual frames have been bowled on a pair of lanes by the athletes for Singles, Doubles, Trios and Team.

If more than four individual frames have been bowled on the wrong lane, that game will be completed without adjustment. Any succeeding game must be started on the correctly scheduled lane.

### **25. Tardy Athletes – Rule 4.25**

Any athlete or team arriving late shall begin play with the score count beginning with the frame then being bowled on the lane or lanes to which they are assigned.

If they are scheduled alone, they will start in the earliest frame then being bowled on the squad.

### **26. Penalties for Rule Violations – Rule 4.26**

When not specified in any rule, the penalties for rule violations are governed as stated below.

An athlete/team failing to observe a rule(s) shall be warned by an authorized tournament official with a yellow card for first offence (no penalty).

For a second offence in the same tournament, the athlete/team will be disqualified from the tournament and will not be allowed to participate in IBF/Zone approved tournaments and conducted championships for 90 days.

### **27. Protests – Rule 4.27**

Protests involving eligibility or general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to a responsible tournament official not later than 24 hours after the game in which the infraction occurred or before prize presentation, whichever is the sooner.

When a protest involving a foul or the legality of pin fall is entered, an official representative of the federations involved may be present when evidence is taken relative to the protest.

If no written protest is entered prior to the expiration period as stated, the game or games shall stand as bowled.

Each rule under this rule shall not be construed to cover a similar or previous violation.

### **28. Appeal Procedures – Rule 4.28**

All matters, which cannot be settled by the Referees, shall be heard and reviewed by the Tournament Technical Committee. The decision of the Tournament Technical Committee is

final unless there is an appeal to the Jury of Appeal within 24 hours after the decision is announced, or before prize presentation, whichever is the sooner.

Protests on eligibility arising after the conclusion of the championships shall be filed directly with the Jury of Appeal within 30 days.

All appeals from the Tournament Technical Committee's decisions must be filed in writing with the Referee or with a member of the Jury of Appeal. Each appeal must be specific and include a fee of USD 100. If the Jury of Appeal does not uphold the appeal, the fee will be forfeited to IBF. The foregoing also applies to protests filed directly with the Jury of Appeal.

The Jury of Appeal shall be empowered to cite before it all papers and persons involved in the appeal at a regularly scheduled meeting or if deemed appropriate, the Jury of Appeal may decide an issue by a mail vote after all material involved in the matter has been studied by each of its members.

### **29. Playing Uniforms, Advertising – Rule 4.18.1, 4.18.3 & 4.18.5**

Athletes shall wear a standard uniform approved by their national federation. In a team event (Doubles, Trios and Team) athletes of the same Doubles, Trios or Team must wear uniforms of the same colour and type

The name of the country must appear on the back of the uniform. The name of the country may be printed

- In English or in the country's language
- As abbreviation recognized by IOC or ISO2000 if no IOC abbreviation (abbreviations published on website)

The following may appear on the uniform

- a) Name of athlete
- b) Logo of the country or member federation, which the athlete represents
- c) Advertisement: The number of advertisements is decided by each federation.
- d) The back lower 50% is reserved for an IBF or local host sponsor. No later than four months before the start of the championship IBF shall inform all member federations if this right will be used by IBF and provide all federations with an original design for printing.
- e) IBF may require all athletes to wear identification numbers during all competition. The identification shall not contain sponsorship not approved by IBF.

Coaches and officials in the athlete's area should be in the uniform specified by the national federation.

### **30. Awards – Rule 5.18**

IBF medals of gold, silver and bronze shall be presented to each of the individuals winning those positions in the following events:

- Singles
- Doubles
- Trios
- Team
- Overall Federation Champion

In addition to the medals for the individual athletes, a medal shall be given to the coach of the medallists and to the national federation the medallists represent.

### **31. Matters not provided for**

Any matters not provided for or covered in these rules and regulations shall be governed by the World Bowling (WB) Playing Rules (Effective as of September 2019).