

NEWSLETTER # 10

October 2025

To: All IBF Member Federations

IBF STATEMENT ON SLOW OIL-ABSORBING (URETHANE) BOWLING BALLS

In light of the recent announcement by the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) concerning slow oil-absorbing high-performance (urethane) bowling balls, the International Bowling Federation (IBF) Technical Committee has undertaken a review of the issue.

Following a preliminary evaluation, the Committee recommends that the IBF adopt the following interim position, **which shall take effect immediately and remain in force until further notice. This position will serve as a temporary measure while the Technical Committee continues its assessment of the matter.**

- Only bowling balls manufactured on or after January 1, 1991, and appearing on the USBC Approved Ball List as of the tournament start date, are permitted for use in IBF competitions (with no exceptions).
- The official USBC Approved Ball List is available at <https://bowl.com/approved-ball-list> and will be accessible during all IBF events.
- Bowling balls manufactured prior to the inception of the USBC Approved Ball List shall not be allowed in sanctioned competition.

This interim policy reflects our shared commitment to fairness, clarity, and consistency in IBF regulations, while ensuring continued alignment with USBC standards. It will remain in place until the Technical Committee completes its ongoing review and issues any updated guidance.

The International Bowling Federation (IBF) wishes to remind all federations, athletes, and officials of the importance of adhering to IBF Ball Specification Rule 11.6.2, which states:

“The use of chemicals, solvents or other methods to change the hardness of the surface of the ball after it is manufactured is prohibited.”

This rule applies to all IBF-sanctioned competitions and activities. Any alteration of a bowling ball’s hardness after manufacture is considered a violation of the IBF Equipment Specifications and may result in disqualification of the ball and/or disciplinary action against the athlete or federation involved.

All federations are requested to ensure that bowlers, coaches, and equipment technicians are fully aware of this regulation and that compliance checks are carried out during all levels of play. Maintaining consistent and fair equipment standards is essential to preserving the integrity of our sport.

2025 IBF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – HONG KONG, CHINA

The 2025 IBF World Championships will be held at the Top Bowl, Kai Tak Sports Park, Hong Kong China, from the 24th November – 5th December 2025. Bulletins and further information can be found here [2025 IBF World Championships](#)

2026 IBF PARA BOWLING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – BANGKOK, THAILAND

The 2026 IBF Para Bowling World Championships will be held at the Blu-O Rhythm and Bowl, Siam Paragon, Bangkok, Thailand, from the 29th April – 10th May 2026. Bulletins and further information can be found here [2026 IBF Para Bowling World Championships](#)

IBF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS/EVENTS

The following events have been approved by the Executive Committee.

IBF World Seniors Championships	Oct 13-24 2025	Reno, USA
IBF World Championships	Nov 26 – Dec 5 2025	Hong Kong, China
IBF Para Bowling World Championships	Apr 29 – May 10 2026	Bangkok, Thailand
IBF World Youth Championships (Under 21)	Jun 27 – 7 Jul-2026	Sarawak, Malaysia
IBF World Cup	Oct 12-21 2026	Munich, Germany
IBF World Seniors Championships	Mar/Apr 2027	Bangkok, Thailand
IBF World Championships	Nov-2027	Korea
IBF World Youth Championships	Jun-Aug 2028	Hong Kong, China

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BIDS

A reminder to all federations that the IBF is seeking bids from member federations/zones to host the following event.

Event	Date	Deadline for Submission
2027 World Youth Singles Championships (formerly Youth World Cup)	Jun-Aug 2027	November 15 th , 2025

If your federation would like to host the above event, please contact ceo@ibf-bowling.org with your expression of interest. Information relating to the hosting of an event can be found here [World Championships Hosting Information](#)

2025 IBF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2025 IBF General Assembly will be held on November 23rd 2025, in Hong Kong China, prior to the commencement of the 2025 IBF World Championships. Further information including the Proxy Form can be found here [2025 IBF General Assembly](#). A reminder to all federations who intend on providing a proxy that these must be received by 10th November 2025.

INTERNATIONAL BOWLING FEDERATION PORTFOLIO OF EVENTS (4 YEAR CYCLE)

Following a review of the IBF Portfolio of Events and a recommendation by the IBF Competition Committee, the IBF Executive Committee has approved the following cycle of events.

Cycle	Event	Location	Preferred Dates
Year 3	IBF Para Bowling World Championships	Bangkok, Thailand	Apr 29 - May , 2026
	IBF Youth World Championships (Under 21)	Sarawak, Malaysia	Jun 27 - Jul 7, 2026
	IBF World Cup	Munich, Germany	13 - 21 Oct, 2026
Year 4	IBF Seniors World Championship	Bangkok, Thailand	Apr, 2027
	IBF Youth World Cup (Under 21)		2027
	IBF World Championship (Combined)	Korea	Late 2027
Year 1	IBF Para Bowling World Championships		Apr - May 2028
	IBF Youth World Championships (Under 21)	Hong Kong, China	Jun- Aug, 2028
	World Singles Championships (formerly World Cup)		Oct - Nov 2028
Year 2	IBF Seniors World Championship		Apr - May 2029
	IBF World Youth Singles (formerly World Cup) (U21)		Jun - Aug 2029
	IBF World Men's Championship		Oct - Nov 2029
Year 3	IBF Para Bowling World Championships		Apr - May 2030
	IBF Youth World Championships (Under 21)		Jun - Aug 2030
	IBF World Women's Championships		Oct - Nov 2030
Year 4	IBF Seniors World Championship		Apr - May 2031
	IBF World Youth Singles (formerly World Cup) (U21)		Jun - Aug 2031
	IBF World Championship (Combined)		Oct - Nov 2031

