

February 2026

To: All IBF Member Federations

IBF Statement on Urethane Bowling Balls

Effective immediately, the International Bowling Federation (IBF) will permit only urethane bowling balls that are manufactured with a minimum hardness of 78D and are approved by USBC for use in IBF events, including World Championships and World Cups.

Random hardness checks may be carried out during events. Any ball that measures below 72D will be declared non-compliant and removed from the competition.

A full list of bowling balls that are **not eligible** for use in IBF events is available at the following link:

<https://bowl.com/equipment-specifications/athletes>

Then select - **National Tournament Ineligible Ball List - 78D Slow Oil Allowed**

This will provide the current list of ineligible balls.

Urethane bowling balls that were previously approved and measure below 78D, but remain on the USBC approved ball list, may still be used in tournaments that choose to allow them. However, they are not permitted in IBF events under this new regulation.

Russian and Belarussian Youth Athletes

The International Bowling Federation (IBF) wishes to inform all Member Federations of an important update regarding eligibility for IBF Youth events.

On 11 December 2025, at the 14th Olympic Summit representatives, supported by the IOC Executive Board, recommended that youth athletes holding Russian or Belarussian passports should no longer be subject to restrictions on their participation in international youth competitions, in both individual and team sports.

The IOC further advised that standard protocols of the International Federation regarding flags, anthems, uniforms, and related elements should apply, provided that the national sports organisation concerned is in good standing. Existing sanctions relating to government officials remain in place.

The IBF Executive Committee has previously agreed that the IBF should follow IOC recommendations on this matter. Accordingly, and in alignment with the IOC guidance, youth athletes holding Russian or Belarussian passports will be permitted to participate in IBF Youth events.

Participation will be subject to the following conditions:

- The relevant national federation must be in good standing with the IBF and their Zone.
- All outstanding membership fees, entry fees, or other financial obligations must be fully paid prior to participation.
- All standard IBF protocols and regulations, including those relating to flags, anthems, uniforms, and team representation, will apply.

This decision applies to IBF youth events only. Any existing measures concerning adult/senior competitions or restrictions relating to government officials remain unchanged.

We thank all Member Federations for their cooperation and continued commitment to the development of youth bowling worldwide.

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](#)

2026 IBF WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS – SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

The 2026 IBF World Youth Championships will be held at the Megalanes Sarawak Bowling Centre Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, from the 27th June – 7th July 2026. The first Bulletin has been issued, and further information can be found here [2026 IBF World Youth Championships](#)

2026 IBF WORLD CUP – MUNICH, GERMANY

The 2026 IBF World Cup will be held at Max Munich Bowling, Brunnthal, Munich, Germany from the 12th October – 21st October 2026. The first Bulletin has been issued, and further information can be found here [2026 IBF World Cup](#)

IBF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS/EVENTS

The following events have been approved by the Executive Committee.

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	(Tentative Dates) Apr 1 - 15 2027	Bangkok, Thailand
IBF World Championships	Nov-2027	Korea
IBF World Youth Championships	Jun-Aug 2028	Hong Kong, China

