



Supplementary Information about Athletes with Intellectual Impairment (TPB4)

TPB4 – Intellectual Impairment

TPB4 is the IBF Para Bowling competition category for athletes with an intellectual impairment.

For IBF Para Bowling World Championships, TPB4 comprises two competition divisions:

TPB4 VIRTUS Division

The TPB4 VIRTUS Division is open to athletes with an intellectual disability who hold current VIRTUS III International Eligibility.

VIRTUS III International Eligibility is determined by VIRTUS and is based on the recognised criteria for intellectual disability.

Athletes must hold current VIRTUS III International Eligibility in order to enter the TPB4 VIRTUS Division.

TPB4 Special Olympics Division

The TPB4 Special Olympics Division is open to athletes with an intellectual disability who are eligible to participate in Special Olympics under the Special Olympics Official General Rules.

Special Olympics eligibility is determined under the Special Olympics eligibility framework and does not require VIRTUS III International Eligibility.

Relationship between the two divisions

The TPB4 VIRTUS Division and TPB4 Special Olympics Division are competition divisions and do not represent different types, degrees or levels of intellectual impairment.

The two divisions provide separate international competition pathways for athletes recognised through the respective eligibility systems.

An athlete's placement in either division does not indicate a higher or lower level of intellectual impairment or sporting ability.

Federations are required to confirm the recognised eligibility of each athlete before the start of the Championships, in accordance with the requirements of the relevant TPB4 division.

Eligibility Confirmation

Federations are responsible for verifying the recognised eligibility of each athlete and entering the athlete in the appropriate TPB4 division. Federations must submit the IBF TPB4 Division Eligibility Confirmation Form as required by IBF. IBF may request confirmation from VIRTUS or the relevant Special Olympics Accredited Program where required.

There will be separate Men and Women Division for both Virtus and Special Olympics Divisions. Events for both Men and Women Division are Singles, Doubles and Team of 4.

Athletes can participate in Singles, Doubles and Team of 4 in Men and Women Division and there will not be mixed events for Doubles and Team of 4. There will be a medal for All Events in Men and Women Division (based on total pinfall from Singles, Doubles and Team of 4), even an incomplete team can still bowl in the Team of 4 event for medal in All Events.

In order to prepare the Schedule of Events/Play, the Organising Committee requires an initial estimate of the number of athletes expected to participate in each TPB4 division.

Federations are therefore requested to submit their Form A – Intention to Participate and the IBF TPB4 Division Eligibility Confirmation Form by **30 September 2026**.