NEWSLETTER # 13

November 2026

To: All IBF Member Federations

Executive Committee Meeting – Munich, Germany

The IBF Executive Committee met in Munich, Germany, on 11 October 2026. The meeting reviewed the Federation's championships programme, approved a new framework of championship formats, considered future hosting arrangements and addressed a number of governance and membership matters.

The Executive Committee welcomed General Ahmed Nasr, the newly elected President of the Bowling Federation of Africa (BFA), as a member of the IBF Executive Committee.

New Championship Formats

As advised in Newsletter #10 dated October 2025, following a review of the IBF Portfolio of Events and a recommendation by the IBF Competition Committee, the IBF Executive Committee approved the following cycle of events.

Cycle	Event	Location	Dates*
Year 4	IBF Seniors World Championship	Bangkok, Thailand	Apr 1 - 15, 2027
	IBF World Youth Singles (formerly World Cup)	Lima, Peru	May 24 – June 1, 2027
	IBF World Championship (Combined)	Korea	Late 2027
Year 1	IBF Para Bowling World Championships	Seoul, Korea	Apr - May 2028
	IBF Youth World Championships (Under 21)	Hong Kong, China	Jun- Aug, 2028
	IBF 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)		Jun - Aug 2029
	IBF World Men's Championships		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 Championships		Apr - May 2031
	IBF World Youth Singles (formerly World Cup)		Jun - Aug 2031
	IBF World Championships (Combined)		Oct - Nov 2031

* **Dates are subject to negotiation**

The Executive Committee approved the Competition Committee's proposed championship formats. The objective is to provide a consistent structure across IBF championships, giving athletes and Member Federations a clear understanding of the competition programme

World Seniors Championships:

-Countries will field teams of up to four men and four women per age group.
-Qualifying in each event consists of 6 games per bowler.
-The top 4 in singles and doubles advance to the finals for head-to-head, single-game matches.
-The top 4 teams advance to the finals for baker, head-to-head, best-of-3 matches.
-All-events medals will be awarded for the top three bowlers after 18 qualifying games.
-The top 24 advance to the masters finals with the top 8 earning a one-round bye for head-to-head, best-of-3 matches.

World Singles Championships & World Youth Singles Championships:
-Countries will field teams of up to one man and one woman (one boy and one girl).
-Qualifying consists of 3 days of 6 games for every bowler.
-The top 12 advance to the finals with the top 4 earning a one-round bye for head-to-head, best-of-3 matches.

World Youth Championships:
-Countries will field teams of up to four boys and four girls.
-Qualifying in each event consists of 6 games per bowler.
-The top 16 in singles and doubles advance to the finals for head-to-head, best-of-3 matches.
-The top 8 teams advance to the finals for baker, head-to-head, best-of-5 matches.
-All-events medals will be awarded for the top three bowlers after 18 qualifying games.

World Men's Championships & World Women's Championships:
-Countries will field teams of up to six men or six women.
-Qualifying in singles, doubles and trios consists of 6 games per bowler.
-The top 16 in singles and doubles advance to the finals for head-to-head, best-of-3 matches.
-The top 16 in trios advance to the finals for baker, head-to-head, best-of-3 matches.
-All-events medals will be awarded for the top three bowlers after trios (18 qualifying games).
-Qualifying in the team event consists of the 108-game team all-events score for each country.
-The top 24 teams advance to the finals for baker, head-to-head, best-of-3 matches, where the top 8 teams get a one-round bye.

World Combined Championships:
-32 countries must field full teams of six men and/or six women.
-Qualifying in singles, doubles and trios consists of 6 games per bowler.
-The top 16 in singles and doubles advance to the finals for head-to-head, best-of-3 matches.
-The top 16 in trios advance to the finals for baker, head-to-head, best-of-3 matches.
-All-events medals will be awarded for the top three bowlers after trios (18 qualifying games).
-Qualifying in the team event consists of the 108-game team all-events score for each country.
-The top 24 teams advance to the finals for baker, head-to-head, best-of-3 matches, where the top 8 teams get a one-round bye.

Additional notes:
-Every Championship will award two bronze medals in every event except, one bronze medal will be awarded in All-Events, when applicable.
-There will be no more mixed events in any Championship.
-The baker system will only be used in trios and team event final rounds.
-The Para Committee oversees the World Para Championships.
-Only at the World Combined Championships are teams required to field full teams.
-Incomplete team members in Championships may still compete for an all-events score.

INTERNATIONAL BOWLING FEDERATION

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BIDS – 2028 - 2031

The IBF is inviting expressions of interest and bids from member federations/zones for the events listed below.

Year	Championship	Preferred Dates
2028	World Adult Singles Championships	Oct - Nov 2028
2029	World Seniors Championships	Apr - May 2029
	World Youth Championships;	Jun - Aug 2029
	World Men's Championships;	Oct - Nov 2029
2030	World Para Championships	Apr - May 2030
	World Youth Championships;	Jun - Aug 2030
	World Women's Championships;	Oct - Nov 2030
2031	World Seniors Championships	Apr - May 2031
	World Youth Championships;	Jun - Aug 2031
	World Combined Championships;	Oct - Nov 2031

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

Expressions of interest and or bids should be submitted by the 28th February 2027

Championships Update

- 2026 World Youth Championships – The 2026 IBF World Youth Championships were held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia from 27 June to 7 July 2026. The Championships welcomed 34 member federations and 218 athletes across seven medal events. The event was reported as successful, with positive feedback on the host delivery, television coverage and daily live streaming.
- 2026 World Cup – Munich, Germany: There were 47 men's federations and 26 women's federations who participated.
- 2027 World Para Bowling Championships – Bangkok, Thailand: Preparations are progressing, with an additional bulletin issued.
- 2027 World Seniors Championships – Bangkok, Thailand: The published schedule for 1–15 April 2027 will remain unchanged. Some federations have already confirmed travel and team arrangements in reliance on the published dates. The Executive Committee will consider the proposed division scheduling changes for the next edition in 2029.
- 2027 World Youth Singles Championships – Lima, Peru: Planned for 24 May–1 June 2027. Bulletin 1 will be issued shortly.
- 2027 World Championships – Korea: Proposed dates are being finalised. The Committee discussed qualification places by zone for a total of 32 qualifiers.

Qualification allocation by Zone: Total 32 Qualifiers

113 member federations as at January 2025.

# Federations (January 2025)	Zone	Qualification Allocation
33	ABF	9
9	BFA	2
42	EBF	12
4	OBF	1
25	Panam	7
	Host Federation	1
Total		32

- 2028 World Youth Championships – Hong Kong, China: The event will be held in Hong Kong, with further details to follow.
- 2028 World Para Championships – Korea: The bid from the Korea Bowling Association for the Disabled, supported by the Korea Bowling Association, was approved. Incheon was identified as the preferred location for further planning.

IBF Membership

The Executive Committee unanimously approved the application for membership of Monte Carlo Bowling Federation, based in the Principality of Monaco, as a new IBF Member Federation. The federation may apply to change its name to Monaco Bowling Federation after completing the Monaco required three-year probationary period and obtaining government approval.

Russian and Belarusian Athlete Eligibility

The Executive Committee approved the reinstatement of eligible athletes holding Russian and Belarusian passports to IBF World Championships on the same sporting basis as athletes from other IBF Member Federations.

In reaching this decision, the Committee took into consideration the evolving position of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), including its decisions in May and July 2026. The IOC has lifted its recommended restrictions on Belarusian athletes, including participation in team events, and subsequently confirmed that its recommended conditions of participation relating to Russian athletes and teams are no longer applicable to International Federations.

Consistent with the IOC's revised position, the IBF will determine participation arrangements for its competitions in accordance with its own Articles of Association, regulations and eligibility requirements. Participation will remain subject to applicable anti-doping rules, integrity and safeguarding requirements, host-country laws and regulations, and normal national representation protocols through recognised IBF Member Federations.

The Committee's decision reflects the principle that athletes should have the opportunity to participate in international sport without discrimination solely on the basis of their nationality or passport, while maintaining the integrity and proper governance of IBF competitions.

Rules, Technical Matters and Governance

The Rules Committee is continuing work on restructuring and renumbering IBF rules and regulations. The intention is to separate the universal playing rules from competition and technical regulations, while aligning terminology and numbering across the documents.

The new Chapter 1 – Universal Playing Rules was supported in principle, subject to final formatting and proofreading.

The proposed IBF Code of Conduct was approved by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee agreed that random bowling-ball hardness checks would be conducted at the World Cup in accordance with the proposed inspection procedures. The procedures will include checks of ball eligibility, serial numbers and hardness, as applicable.

The Committee also agreed that written procedures should be prepared to clarify committee appointments, zone recommendations, presidential approval, Executive Committee ratification, attendance expectations and the handling of internal committee disputes.

International Sport and the World Games

The CEO advised the Executive Committee that, despite repeated efforts by the International World Games Association (IWGA), the Karlsruhe 2029 Organising Committee had refused to include Tenpin Bowling in the programme for The World Games 2029. The IWGA confirmed that bowling remains a valued member of the organisation and that this decision does not indicate what may happen in future editions.

Bowling has been included in the programme for the 2027 World Abilitysport Games in Türkiye. Further information will be provided when available.

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



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