



Bowling



COMPETITION MANUAL

Updated: August 2025



GUIDING BODIES

World Police and Fire Games Federation (WPFGF)
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International Bowling Federation
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www.bowling.sport e-mail: ceo@ibf-bowling.org

CLICK HERE FOR GOVERNING BODY FULL RULES

International rules will be followed unless specified in WPFG Guidelines

EVENTS:

Singles

Men	Singles 18+ Open Division	Average of 190 & Over
Men	Singles 50+ Open Division	Average of 190 & Over
Men	Singles 18+ "A" Division	Average of 170-189
Men	Singles 50+ "A" Division	Average of 170-189
Men	Singles 18+ "B" Division	Average of 169 & Under
Men	Singles 50+ "B" Division	Average of 169 & Under
Men	Singles 65+ Open Division	Average of 190 & Over
Men	Singles 65+ "A" Division	Average of 170-189
Men	Singles 65+ "B" Division	Average of 169 & Under

Women	Singles 18+ Open Division	Average of 190 & Over
Women	Singles 50+ Open Division	Average of 190 & Over
Women	Singles 18+ "A" Division	Average of 170-189
Women	Singles 50+ "A" Division	Average of 170-189
Women	Singles 18+ "B" Division	Average of 169 & Under
Women	Singles 50+ "B" Division	Average of 169 & Under
Women	Singles 65+ Open Division	Average of 190 & Over
Women	Singles 65+ "A" Division	Average of 170-189
Women	Singles 65+ "B" Division	Average of 169 & Under



All Events

Men Singles 18+ Open Division
Men Singles 50+ Open Division
Men Singles 18+ "A" Division
Men Singles 50+ "A" Division
Men Singles 18+ "B" Division
Men Singles 50+ "B" Division
Men Singles 65+ Open Division
Men Singles 65+ "A" Division
Men Singles 65+ "B" Division

Women Singles 18+ Open Division
Women Singles 50+ Open Division
Women Singles 18+ "A" Division
Women Singles 50+ "A" Division
Women Singles 18+ "B" Division
Women Singles 50+ "B" Division
Women Singles 65+ Open Division
Women Singles 65+ "A" Division
Women Singles 65+ "B" Division

Doubles

Unisex 18+ Open	Combined Average 380 & Over
Men 18+ "A"	Combined team average of 340-379
Men 18+ "B"	Combined team average of 339 & under
Women 18+ "A"	Combined team average of 340-379
Women 18+ "B"	Combined team average of 339 & under
Mixed 18+ "A"	Combined team average of 340-379
Mixed 18+ "B"	Combined team average of 339 & under

NOTE: A Unisex doubles can be comprised of any gender combination. A Mixed doubles must have one (1) man and one (1) woman. A competitor may enter only one (1) Doubles event.



TEAM (4 Person Unisex)

Open Division: Combined team average of 760 & over

“A” Division: Combined team average of 680-759

“B” Division: Combined team average of 679 & under

Age as of Date: First day of Competition

Entry Deadline: 2/28/2027

Teams

Active-duty competitors from police and fire agencies may combine to form a team regardless of agency size **WITHIN THEIR COUNTRY OF EMPLOYMENT**. Each team can be a combination of police agencies and fire agencies or just police/or just fire.

Retired competitors may combine to form a team in any manner they wish including across country lines with other eligible competitors regardless of police or fire agency.

There are no 50+ age categories in the Team or Doubles events. 50+ competitors must enter Doubles and Team events in the specific Men’s/Women’s Divisions their average dictates, or Doubles/Teams combining rules specify. A competitor may enter either the 18+ or 50+ (if qualified) in Singles and “All Events”, but not both.

ROLL OFF is a separate event. It is held after all squads are completed and is comprised of the top five (5) bowlers in “All Events” regardless of division or gender. There is NO entry fee for this event but to qualify a Bowler must enter the “All Events” Division.

SCHEDULING

Bowlers will be scheduled to bowl only one event each day. **EXCEPTION:** a bowler may request to bowl Doubles and Singles in one day to avoid scheduling conflicts with other events. The Bowling Coordinator may grant that request if it does not pose any scheduling problems in Bowling.

Teams are comprised of four (4) bowlers regardless of gender. 4 bowlers **MUST** enter the Team event.



If a Team or Doubles bowler is late or unable to show, the bowlers present may bowl. A score of zero (0) will be taken for each frame the absent bowler misses. No other blind scores will be used. (This allows bowlers to have a chance in “All Events” when their team member doesn’t show.) There may also be the opportunity to have a substitute bowler selected from the pool; *see WPFG General Rules*.

As much as possible, bracketing should result in Team, Doubles and Singles bowlers on the same pair of lanes, being from different departments and from different areas. Do not schedule more than eight (8) bowlers on each pair of lanes.

After scheduling is completed, each competitor must be notified of the starting time using a confirmation letter or a schedule posted in the registration area with instructions for bowlers to check there for their schedule.

Unless there are major problems with facilities, Bowling is a 3-day event. Singles should not be scheduled in the morning and afternoon. This applies to Doubles also. Everyone will bowl Singles and Doubles under similar lane conditions.

The schedule should be:

DAY 1		DAY 2		DAY 3	
AM SESSION	Singles (Open, A & B)	AM SESSION	Singles (Open, A & B)	AM SESSION	Team (Open, A & B)
PM SESSION	Doubles (Open, A & B)	PM SESSION	Doubles (Open, A & B)	PM SESSION	Team (Open, A & B)

Recommended Squad Times:

AM Session Check in: 0700

Competition starts at 0800

PM Session Check in: 1200

Competition starts at 1300

No practice is allowed after lanes have been conditioned for tournament play or between squads. **EXCEPTION:** a minimum of five (5) minutes of practice should be allowed immediately prior to the start of each squad.



When possible, “B” Division **SHOULD NOT** be scheduled to bowl on the same pair of lanes with “A” or Open Division. When possible, “A” Division **SHOULD NOT** be scheduled to bowl on the same pair of lanes with Open Division.

Remember to schedule time for the Roll-off after the last squad. This can usually be done while results are being computed.

Team events usually last four (4) hours. (2 teams/pair of lanes)

Doubles events usually last four (4) hours. (8 bowlers/pair of lanes)

Singles events usually last 3 ½ hours. (6-8 bowlers/pair of lanes)

A roster listing each Team, Doubles and Singles bowlers (showing times and dates) shall be posted at the Main Accreditation Center during all registration hours. A similar roster should be posted at the venue.

SCORING

Scoring will be done by a scorekeeper. Only scorekeepers will turn in score sheets to the Bowling Coordinator. If the lanes have automatic scoring, scoring will be monitored by tournament personnel.

Posting of scores is very important.

“All Events” is the cumulative score of a bowler’s Team, Doubles and Singles scores.

RESULTS

Each day results will be posted at both the Bowling venue and at the Main Accreditation Center after the day’s competition. The Bowling Coordinator is responsible for turning results into the Results Room immediately after the conclusion of the competition. A results form will be provided for you by the Host Committee, or one may be obtained at the Results Room. Coordinator **MUST** keep track of any medal winner who does not get their medal.

GENERAL SPORTS RULES

Definition of each Division

OPEN-All bowlers having a league average of 190 or higher as of May 31st of the year of competition will bowl Open Division. Bowlers without a league average will



bowl Open Division. Entrants bowling in only Open Division events do not need to verify their averages.

“A”-All bowlers with league averages of 170 to (and including) 189 as of May 31st of the year of competition will bowl “A” Division.

“B”-All bowlers with league averages of 169 and below as of May 31st of the year of competition will bowl “B” Division.

Bowlers without an Average

Men with no verifiable average will compete in the Open Division for Singles and “All Events”. A 200 average will be used for placement in Team and Doubles events. Women with no verifiable average will compete in “A” Division for Singles and “All Events”. A 189 average will be used for placement in Team and Doubles events.

Bowling Average Verification

“A” and “B” Division competitors must obtain verification listing the competitor’s highest 21 game league average as of December 31, 2026. This verification must be from a Bowling Association Official and include the contact person name, email address and website for the Bowling Association. This information must be submitted with the on-line entry. Falsification of averages will result in disqualification. Computer printouts from official bowling association websites may be substituted so long as verification of their authenticity is available. **LEAGUE STANDING SHEETS WILL NOT ACCEPTED.**

The WPFGB Director along with the Coordinator must be able to verify the bowler’s average at the website provided. If, after timely and reasonable efforts, verification cannot be made with the e-mail address provided, the bowler will be moved to the highest division; Open for men and “A” for women.

A computer printout from a “sanctioned” Bowling Association may be used to verify the Average. This must be sent via email to the WPFGB Director overseeing Bowling.

It shall be each bowler’s responsibility to verify the accuracy of his/her average, whether originally submitted by the bowler, the team captain, or others. Failure to



use the correct average, thereby resulting in a lower classification, shall disqualify the score if submitted average is lower than bowler's correct average. The score shall be allowed based on the submitted average if it is higher than the bowler's correct average.

With this submitted information the following will be the procedure to calculate the Average used in the World Police Fire Games Bowling Tournament.

Re-rated Onsite

At the conclusion of the first Five (5) Games of competition, should a Tournament bowler exceed their submitted league (book) Average by more than 15 pins the following formula will be implemented:

The first Five (5) Game Average will be multiplied times Ninety Percent (90%) and will be added to the submitted Book Average; divide this by two (2) and this "new" Re-rated Average will be used for the Tournament.

Gaining a purposeful advantage over WPFGB attendees by using a league average much lower than ability will not be tolerated.

The WPFGB reserves the right to place a competitor in any category deemed appropriate. This includes individual, doubles and team events. This decision may be recommended by the Coordinator and affirmed by the WPFGB Director in Charge of Bowling or may be made independently by the WPFGB. This adjustment may be made before, during or after the competition. These decisions do not require justification and are final.

Any combination of men or women may be on a team. There are not exclusively Men's or Women's Team events.

Regardless of the division in which a competitor bowls Teams and/or Doubles, each will continue to bowl Singles in his/her appropriate division. (It is conceivable that a bowler could bowl in "B" Singles, "A" Doubles and Open Team.)

SANCTIONING:

A "moral" sanction, is optionable and can be obtained through IBF. The local bowling association can assist with this process; however, the sanction is obtained through **International Bowling Federation** headquarters. A moral sanction



allows those affiliated with the sanctioning body to bowl in a sanctioned tournament but does not require non-members to obtain membership.

Five (5) games will be bowled for each event.

Two (2) games will be bowled on the first pair of lanes. Bowlers will then rotate lanes and bowl the final three (3) games on a second pair of lanes.

BOWLERS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED IF THEY CONSUME ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WHILE COMPETING.

When completing Confirmation Letters referred to in the Bracketing section, you have an excellent opportunity to provide necessary information to all competitors. It is a good idea to include general information of the venue, its available facilities and a map or instructions on how to get there.

ROLL OFF RULES:

This event does not require the normal entry procedure or separate Entry Fee. Entry is accomplished by virtue of being one of the top five (5) finishers in “All Events”.

At the conclusion of all regular Bowling events, the five (5) bowlers with the highest “All Events” scores, regardless of division or gender will be chosen to bowl in a TV-style Roll-Off. The Roll-Off should start immediately following the final Team event and prior to medal presentations.

If there is a tie, for any of the five high scores, a one line Roll-Off will determine the order of any place in question. If the tie still exists after the one line roll-off, each bowler will bowl a 9th and 10th frame. This will be repeated until the tie is broken.

One line will be bowled by two bowlers in an elimination Roll-Off. The sequence is as follows:

LINE	MATCH UP	FINAL AWARD
1st Line	5th Place vs. 4th Place	5th
2nd Line	Winner 1st Line vs. 3rd Place	4th



3rd Line	Winner 2nd Line vs. 2nd Place	Bronze
4th Line	Winner of 3rd Line vs. 1st Place	Silver
	Winner of 4th Line	Gold

Bowlers must be appraised in writing (in Confirmation Letter or handout in registration packet) of how they can qualify for this event in order that they may be present if they are in contention.

Should any of the 1st through 5th place bowlers be unavailable at the time of the Roll-Off, then finishers in order will be chosen. (i.e., 6th, 7th, etc.)

In each game, the bowler with the highest position in the standings will choose the lane on which he/she wishes to start. The opponent will have the choice of bowling first or second. The lead off bowler will start by bowling one frame on the predetermined lane. His/her opponent will start on the opposing lane and bowl one frame on each lane. The competitors will then alternate bowling two frames (one on each lane) until the game is completed. The lead off bowler will again bowl a single frame in the 10th frame. In case of a tie, each bowler will bowl a 9th and 10th frame. This will be repeated until the tie is broken.

AWARDING OF MEDALS TO ATHLETES AND COACHES

During the medal presentation, only athletes and eligible coaches are allowed to participate in this ceremony. Each athlete and one eligible coach **SHALL** wear their Athlete's Credential. If the athlete or coach does not present their Athlete's Credential, they **SHALL NOT** receive a medal. This is a mandatory requirement to receive a medal.

Technical Support Personnel and children are not allowed on the podium with the teams during the medal presentation.

The sport coordinator **SHALL** have in their possession a copy of the CSE Report for verification of participation. This will determine and verify which event the athlete was entered into.