



International Bowling Federation Para Bowling Tournament Rules

Jurisdiction:

The International Bowling Federation is the International Sport Governing Body recognized by the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee. IBF is the only recognized international sports federation with purview over the sport of Ten-pin and Nine-pin bowling. Their purview incorporates all regional, zonal and world championships including able-bodied and disabled international competition. IBF Para Bowling subordinately will oversee all aspects of bowling in all disability classifications.

Tournament Operation:

These sport rules will govern all aspects of the Para-divisions of the International Bowling Federation. Para Bowling modified rules will apply to all Para Bowling components of International Bowling Federation sanctioned events. All international entrants must be current members of their associated federation member of the International Bowling Federation. Where no explicit rules exist distinctly outlined for Para-divisions, IBF Tournament Rules shall apply. Additional rules covering: the approved ball list; acceptable list of cleaners and polishes; and certified lane oil patterns are also provided by the International Bowling Federation and must be adhered to. See: [International Bowling Federation](http://www.ibf.org) website, Resources.

Tournament Committee:

The management and operation of any regional, zone or World Championships shall be vested in the Tournament Director, the local organizing committee, in association with direction from the International Bowling Federation.

The Tournament Director and his/her committee shall be responsible for all records keeping, official scoring and certification of the final position standings. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for the auditing of the tournament monies received and paid during the tournament and report final results and individual winnings to the IBF within 30 days following the conclusion of the event.

Eligibility:

Only bona-fide national member federations of IBF, and/or IOSD federations in good standing, shall be eligible to compete in a Para Bowling world sanctioned event. All competitors must first qualify through their respective federations (national qualification), then through their respective zones (zonal qualification), to be finally eligible for the ParaBowling World Championships. Each federation establishes their own national qualifying standards for athlete eligibility. Athlete selection cannot be made by political appointment. Federations must provide a fair and equitable, nonpolitical, selection procedure and develop a national rankings system.

No more than four (4) athletes in each classification, from each qualifying federation, shall be eligible for international competition. If numbers exist, this shall include both male and female. *For example, in the W1 division, there would be four males selected and four females selected to represent their country in each classification division (if the numbers exist). If the federation does not have four female athletes, they cannot supplant entry with additional male bowlers.*

Functional Classification and Division Placement:

The following classifications and divisions are eligible under ParaBowling guidelines. Each division has male and female.

1. Wheelchair Divisions - There are three (3) wheelchair divisions 1. Para 2. Quad 3. Ramp (subsumed under quad)
2. Visually Impaired Divisions - There are two (2) blind divisions 1. Totally Blind 2. Partially sighted.
3. Intellectually Disabled – There is (1) ID Division - *currently undeveloped by Virtus Sport.*
4. *Short Stature Division – none at present - based upon inquiry from IDSF.*
5. *Hearing Impaired Division – Not eligible for ParaBowling competition.*

A bowler may not compete in more than one classificational division. A bowler must qualify nationally in a specific classification to move on to regional or zonal competition in that classification. Once classified, a bowler must remain in that classification until either reclassified nationally and requalifying in the new classification; or, internationally disqualified and reclassified. One may not change classification in middle of a tournament or during a qualifying event.

There is no handicapping for international competition. All divisions bowl scratch.

International Competition Format:

Para Bowling international competitions, at minimum, shall consist of Singles, Doubles and Team event in both genders. The number of games in qualification and roll-offs shall be determined by the IBF in association with the regional host federation. In the IBF Para Bowling World Cup and World Championships, the format shall be Match Play. The number of games bowled in a given set shall be determined by the IBF based upon the number of competitors that have qualified and enter the competition. A minimum of 8 teams are needed to host the doubles competition in each gender.

Note: Doubles must be contested within the same classification. Bowlers from different classifications may not comeingle with other classifications or other divisions. A mixed doubles event may be considered by the IBF and LOC dependent upon the number of male and female entries from the five zones.

Registration:

Bowlers shall show identification to verify their identity prior to competition. All bowlers shall register at the official tournament table at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the time his/her first squad of the day is scheduled, where he/she will receive lane assignments and scheduling information. Each delegation will be provided a practice time. This will be determined by random draw.

Prior to competition each athlete must go through classification review by international classifiers. Once confirmed they become cleared for competition. A classification designation shall be assigned to each athlete prior to competition. *See IBF Classification Guidelines.*

Closing Date:

All entries must be postmarked no later than the deadline listed upon the tournament registration packet. Entries postmarked after that date may be deemed ineligible and returned. All entries must be filled out completely, and all applicable fees included with the entry, as well as any documentation required. Incomplete entries may be deemed ineligible and returned.

Delegations shall submit all tournament entries at one time. If an entrant is unable to compete, regardless of reason, and withdraws within 2 weeks prior to the start of an event the delegation will receive no refund. Individuals withdrawing prior to two weeks before an event will receive a refund minus any set expenses that have already be paid by event organizer. The Tournament Director may use his/her discretion in making a refund due to special circumstances, or as a result of classification disqualification.

Regional/Zonal Qualifications:

Bowlers must qualify to attend IBF Para Regional and World events. It is the responsibility of each federation to develop their national athlete qualifying procedures. Only four bowlers shall be selected per classification division, per gender, to represent their federation. The top four qualifiers of each zonal competition shall qualify to move on to the World Championships/Paralympic Games. Each federation may select alternates as they feel may be required to fill their team.

All standard IBF rules apply except special needs requirements for competition as listed below.

Disciplines:

Wheelchair Division (3 Sport Classifications) - Standard Rules and Modified Competition Rules apply

W/C Classifications include those with impaired muscle power (e.g. paraplegia and quadriplegia, muscular [dystrophy](#) - a group of inherited conditions affecting the muscles, gradually leading to disability., post-polio syndrome, [spina bifida](#) (malformation of the vertebrae in the spine that exposes the spinal column.), impaired passive range of movement, limb deficiency (e.g. amputation or dysmelia), leg length difference, hypertonia, [ataxia](#). Loss of coordination of voluntary muscle movements, athetosis.

(W1) Para/Amputee Classification – incorporates all wheelchair and power wheelchair users, with lower limb disability or dysfunction, paraplegia, cerebral palsy (with functional hands), partial or full leg amputees and *Les Autres* athletes with mobility disfunction. All must compete from a wheelchair and follow the rules of play and modified rules established for this discipline. All must manually self-propel the ball.

(W2) Quad Classification – All wheelchair users with quadriplegia, meaning disability and dysfunction in all four limbs, including both hands with manifest functional limitation. All must manually self-propel the ball.

(W3) Ramp Classification – (Dynamic-IKAN) A wheelchair user with severe limitations of all four limbs, unable to manually propel the ball. This discipline will require an assistant (Caddy) to place the ball on a ramp (design specifications required to meet established rule guidelines). The ball placement is directed by the bowler and it is released by a mouth stick or electronically. *The Ramp classification (W3) will be commingled with the quad division (W2) until such time as there are enough countries to warrant a separate division.*

Visually Impaired Division (2 Sport Classifications) - Standard Rules and Modified Competition Rules apply

To ensure a fair competition between individuals and teams, (V1) players must wear eyeshades during competition. A guide person (Caddy) may aid the bowler approach the lane. A Caddy may communicate to the V1 for aiming but may not physically assist the bowler in their release of the ball. No assistance from a coach beyond that can be provided. Portable Guide Rails may be used for (V1) and partially sighted (V2) bowlers.

VI Classifications - *Legal blindness is defined as vision no better than 20/200, even with glasses, or a limited field of 20 degrees or less. However, to ensure a fair competition between individuals and teams, (V1) players must wear eyeshades during competition. A guide person (Caddy) may aid the bowler approach the lane. A Caddy may communicate to the athlete for aiming but may not physically assist the bowler in their release of the ball. No assistance from a coach beyond that can be provided. Portable Guide Rails may be used for (V1) and partially sighted (V2) bowlers. Our goal is to ensure that those athletes that qualify are indeed impaired beyond the ability to bowl with able-bodied competitors.*

(B1) Sports Classification: Visual acuity of LogMAR 2.1 to NLP. This is roughly equivalent to the inability to recognize the shape of a hand in any position at 0.25 meters away up to no light perception in either eye. These athletes all will wear an occlusion mask and can use a guide rail.

(B2) Sports Classification: visual acuity of LogMAR 1.0 up to and including 2.0 and/or a visual field of less than 10 degrees diameter (5 degrees radius). No occlusion mask will be worn, and no guide rail is used by the athlete.

Intellectually Disabled Division (1 Sport Classification) (Standard Rules and Modified Competition Rules apply)

(ID) Classification - All competitors in this sport classes must minimally fulfill the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of intellectual disability as governed and deemed eligible internationally by Virtus Sport. Virtus Sport is approved by the IPC to oversee ID related sports international competition.

Athlete eligibility requires -

- An IQ below 75.
- Limited intellectual functions and adaptive behavior which must be diagnosed before the age of 18.

- Impairment in adaptive functioning - for example, social, domestic and communication skills. The impairment must negatively affect the athlete's ability to compete in the specific sport.

Short Stature Division:

Short stature athletes have a reduced length in the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs and/or trunk. Examples of an underlying health condition that may lead to short stature include achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta (*per IPC Eligible Impairments, Section 2.5*). **Note:** Several contacts have been attempted with the International Dwarf Sports Federation (IDSA) and DAAA in the USA to determine their interest in the sport. To date, no interest in the sport has been shown. No contact has been returned.

Hearing Impaired – Ineligible for ParaBowling:

Deafness is not considered an eligible disability for ParaBowling. Deafness does not preclude one from participating and competing in the sport with able-bodied athletes. Many deaf athletes can easily assimilate into non-disabled competitions. However, ParaBowling may assist this affiliated organization, where practical, with bowling development and with their Deaf World Games (*Deaflympics*).

Notes:

1. All IBF and Para Bowling modified rules of competition apply to all divisions.
2. Once an athlete Sport's Classification has been determined and verified prior to competition, an athlete may not seek to change classification or seek re-evaluation at that event.

Special Equipment and Rule Modifications

Technical Specifications:

Wheelchair Para Division (W1, W2): One may use a manual or power wheelchair to bowl from. **W-3** can only use a power wheelchair.

With exception of the **W-3** Quad classification - dynamic ramp division, **W2** classification bowlers must impart his/her own force or impetus to deliver the ball. **W-3** Ramp bowlers may use a Caddy to assist in placing the ball on the ramp prior to approach.

Standard Wheelchair and Power Wheelchair specifications:

- Bowlers must remain fully seated on the wheelchair cushion during delivery of the ball.
- Wheelchair seat cannot be higher than 21" (53.34 centimeters) from the wheelchair seat rail frame to the floor.
- An elevating power chairs must be at its lowest normal seat height during competition. It cannot be elevated or allow the bowler to stand during competition.
- The cushion on the wheelchair cannot exceed 5 inches (12.7 centimeters).

Steadying a Wheelchair:

Only those devices that are designed for and mechanically attached to the wheelchair shall be used to steady or lock down the wheelchair. Standard brakes, either electronic or static may be used. Castor pin locks to steady the smaller front wheels are allowed if they are attached to the wheelchair.

- No other aid, device, mechanism, or person shall be allowed to steady the wheelchair.
- Bowlers are required to maintain the mechanical functionality of the wheelchair during competition.
- No part of the wheelchair (except the wheels) may touch the approach.
- No feet, hands, brace supports can contact the floor.
- Any additional device or weights attached to a manual wheelchair, or to the wheels of a manual wheelchair. (i.e. power assist wheels) for the expressed purpose of stabilizing the wheelchair or assisting the mobility of the user, are allowed.

- Any strapping systems used for the express purpose of securing or stabilizing the bowler with their chair shall be allowed.
- Except for the IKAN Ramp Division, every bowler must impart his/her own force or impetus to deliver the ball.

Seat Repositioning:

No bowler's buttocks may leave the cushion of his wheelchair while delivering the ball. For example, a bowler may not reposition himself to sit on the wheel of a wheelchair to allow a better swing trajectory away from the wheel. Such is considered a personal advantage over bowlers who may not have that physical capability or dexterity. A bowler may sit next to the wheel, but both cheeks of the buttocks must remain in the wheelchair when delivering the ball. The buttocks must always remain in contact with the cushion of the chair.

Neither may an amputee extend his leg while seated to the floor to achieve additional height or additional leverage when delivering the ball. Both feet must remain on the footrest of the wheelchair at the time of delivery. Further, a double amputee, may not stand on their stumps to deliver the ball from the chair. Again, the buttocks must remain in the chair during the delivery of the ball.

Wheelchair Breakdown:

It is not the responsibility of the event organizer to assist with or help maintain personal wheelchairs. That is the responsibility of the bowler and /or their delegation. Event organizers will neither provide complementary wheelchairs for use; nor fix those that break.

In cases of wheelchair breakdowns, the Tournament Director shall be advised of the delay. If, in his/her judgment the repairs shall be lengthy, he/she shall instruct the remaining bowlers to bowl 'out of turn'. After completion of the repairs, the bowler shall start bowling at the beginning of the next full game. He/she will be allowed to make up the missed frames or games after the completion of the scheduled shift.

Special Equipment:

A dynamic bowling ramp, that is attached to the power wheelchair may be used in the delivery of the ball (i.e. IKAN ramp/chute).

Dynamic Ramp:

The intent of the dynamic bowling ramp is to allow a **W-3** classification, with limited if any hand function, to compete without creating an unfair personal advantage.

- Ramp may only be used with/on a power wheelchair. Ramp must be affixed securely and safely to the power wheelchair. No part of the ramp may touch the approach or the lane, but a soft roller or bumper at the very end of the affixed ramp. At no time can the ramp or the roller/bumper pass the foul line.
- The height of the bowling ramp may not be higher than the bowler's chest and may not exceed the height of the bowler's shoulders.
- The release of the ball is initiated by the user, by driving the power wheelchair forward and then stopping, allowing only the natural inertia and gravity to release and roll the bowling ball forward.
- No user may use their hands or any other physical means to position or push the ball off the ramp. **Note:** As the ball can be released from the result of the wheelchair stopping, a mouth stick or other devices used to push the ball from the ramp are not allowed.
- All users must utilize a "Caddy" (assistant) to place and position the ball on the ramp at the user's instructions. Once ball is positioned the Caddy must leave the approach area. Caddies are permitted to call out instructions for backing up on the lane approach.

- Bowler may call “time out” to have the Caddy re-position the ramp or ball position. The IKAN user is responsible for instructing the Caddy on how and where to place the ball, informing them of the tournament rules, and instructing them regarding bowling etiquette. A Caddy may not shadow or walk parallel to the bowler during the approach. The Caddy may not hold or touch the bowler after the ball has been put in place. Once the ball has been positioned in play, the Caddy must move him/herself away from the bowler and the approach. ***Note: A VI Caddy assisting a VI bowler may parallel the VI bowler and assist with handing the ball and physical guide return from the lane.***
- Power Wheelchair speed must not exceed 4 miles per hour (6.4 kilometers per hour) on the approach.
- Power Wheelchair must be operated and directed by the bowler only.
- During a standard delivery, any part of the ramp passing the foul line is considered as a fault/foul and no pins are awarded.
- A ball accidentally dropped on the approach or lane (even if it crosses the foul line) is not considered a legal delivery. No penalty or foul is incurred. The ball shall be replaced for the bowler.
- The IKAN ramp may be of any length as long as it does not extend more than 3 feet past the front of the chair’s leg rest and does not exceed the height of the bowler’s chin when the chair is at its lowest normal height. For safety reasons, elevator chairs may not be elevated during competition.
- The physical ramp may be made of any material if the construction and attachment are safe for all. It is up to the IKAN bowler to ensure/prove that the IKAN is not touching the approach or lane or should a challenge be called.
- The IKAN ramp is legal during all WB sanctioned competitions.

Caddy/Personal Care Attendant:

The use of a Caddy or Personal Care Attendant must be reported on the entry form. A Caddy or Personal Care Attendant (PCA) are a part of a federation’s delegation. As such, Caddy’s or Personal Care Attendants that provide bowling assistance in any way to a competitor must be identified, credentialed, and properly uniformed when assisting in competition.

Rolling Approach:

A quad division bowler using a powerchair **W-3**, with an IKAN bowling device, may utilize a rolling approach to the foul line for delivery of the ball. IKAN ramps must meet the prescribed technical standard of height, length, and width. Ramps may not proceed past the foul line at the time of ball release.

A bowler using a manual wheelchair may make a dynamic rolling approach to deliver the ball. However, the bowler must adhere to all other specialized rules of play (i.e., a bowler’s wheelchair cannot pass the foul line during or after delivery of the ball. A bowler may not use their feet to stop the wheelchair).

Bowling Balls:

Any bowling ball used must meet the standards and drilling requirements as set forth in the most current IBF competition rules. Any bowling ball used must be within the specifications set for in IBF rules, and meet the weight, marking and any other specifications included in the rules. A bowler must register his bowling balls prior to competition. A bowler may have no more than 6 balls registered for play. If one becomes damaged at no fault of the bowler. That ball may be replaced, and the new ball added to the ball registry. **No participant may bring more than 6 balls to be used during competition.** The serial number of those balls must be registered and checked prior to competition. Any ball that is checked and disqualified may be replaced with another qualified ball.

Note: Effective August 2020 no weight holes are allowed in a bowling ball. Weight holes are defined as any hole not used by the bowlers primary gripping hand. As no hands are used with the dynamic ramp, no holes are allowed.

See: [International Bowling Federation](http://www.ibf.org) website, Resources.

A bowler may not use a push stick to propel his ball in international competition.

A bowler may not use a snap ring ball to bowl in international competition.

Rails for Stability - Blind Classification:

Rails to assist **B1** bowlers must meet the technical standards for eligibility from IBSA. Rails must not be mounted or permanently affixed to the floor. Rails must be non-scarring to the approach surface.

A **B1** Caddy assisting a **B1** bowler may parallel the bowler and assist with handing the ball and physical guide support to return from the lane.

All other aids must have been previously submitted and approved by the IBF ParaBowling Technical Committee.

Order of Bowling:

Lane assignments shall change with each scheduled shift. Each bowler shall successively, and in regular order, bowl on the lanes as assigned. Depending on the size of the division, bowlers may be scheduled to bowl with only members in their own division.

Tardy Bowlers:

Tardy bowlers arriving after the beginning of the scheduled shift in progress shall receive ‘zero’ for each frame missed. They shall be allowed to commence bowling in the next frame after the one in progress. If they arrive after the completion of the third frame, they will be given a “blind” score for the game in progress. They may resume the following game.

Delay of Game:

If a bowler must leave the lanes due to an inadvertent issue (i.e., physical issue arising, wheelchair mechanical breakdown, etc.) a minimum delay of 20 minutes may be authorized by the TD. This does not include foreseeable issues such as needing tape, a blister, or other minor bowling issue.

Physical Issues Arising:

If a bowler experiences a physical issue beyond their control, (i.e., bowel/bladder disruption), they may be provided up to 20 minutes to resolve the issue. The TD must be advised, and their approval granted. If the bowler in a singles competition cannot return to the match for any reason after the start of play, the match is forfeited. If an issue happens during a doubles or team event, it will be up to the Tournament Director to decide whether the involved player is “blinded-out” and the remaining team member(s) are allowed to continue through the conclusion of the match. The TD’s decision is final and is not subject to appeal.

Fouls:

Foul lights will be used for the entire competition. A slow rolling ball shall not constitute a foul. No part of the body shall contact the floor beyond the foul line during the delivery of the ball. No objects shall be placed on the approach, or near the foul line, except the wheels of the wheelchair. The wheelchair may not contact or rest upon any foreign object... i.e., the foul light housings, during the delivery of the ball.

Scoring:

World Bowling will approve all scoring systems prior to competition. Scoring will be directed by World Bowling in coordination with the Tournament host. It shall be the responsibility of each bowler to verify the accuracy of his/her score before signing his/her score sheet. Then, it shall be turned into the official scorer.

Tie Scores:

In the event of a tie score a one game roll-off shall be bowled to break the tie. See WB rules for further clarification.

Misconduct/Unsportsmanlike Behavior:

Any bowler who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, conducts themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner, uses profanity, profane gestures, throws, bangs, hits fixtures, or who engages in improper tactics or misconduct, may be removed from the competition and disqualified. This includes, but is not limited to physical, verbal, or taunting abuse toward other individuals, or becoming intoxicated and disorderly or arrested away from the venue. Such individual will be removed from the competition and asked to leave the tournament.

There will be no drinking of alcoholic beverages during any portion of the tournament, unless otherwise stipulated by the Tournament Director.

Resetting Pins:

Bowlers shall be allowed one re-rack per game during the tournament play. All other re-racks must be approved by a member of the tournament committee. Re-racks during roll off competitions may be requested from the tournament director or his/her designee if it appears that the rack set is off or missing a pin(s).

Dress Code:

Para Bowlers shall follow the dress code imposed by World Bowling for competitions. In addition:

1. No headgear, hats, caps, headbands, bandannas, scarves, visors, sunglasses, or earphones.
2. No shorts, tee shirts or tank tops.
3. All shirts must have a butterfly or ribbed collar and be of plain design or may display bowling company logos or sponsorship logos pre-approved by World Bowling.
4. Jerseys with sash collars are also permitted.
5. Women's blouses must be, at minimum, short-sleeved. Halter tops, and blouses exposing the back are prohibited, as are spaghetti straps.
6. Women are not required to wear skirts.
7. Shirts shall not display inappropriate pictures, profanity, or phrasing.
8. Bowlers shall not have medical apparatus exposed during competition (i.e., legs bags).

Blind Scores:

"Blind scores" shall not be permitted in IBF Sanctioned Competition unless approved in the case of a '*Physical Issue Arising*' or '*Wheelchair Breakdown*' as determined on site by the Tournament Director.

Doping Guidelines:

All competitors may be subject to doping standards by through ITA in accordance with the rules set forth by the IPC and WADA. The doping rules and banned substances list is available online at:

https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/180405125828917_2018_04+IPC+Anti-Doping+Code_FINAL.pdf

If an athlete is medically required to take a banned substance via prescription, an alternate medication must be sought, or a waiver obtained from WADA through IBF. The alternate medications list is available for review via a link on the IBF's website or through the IOC/IPC website.

Appeals or Protests:

All appeals, or any protest must be made in writing and signed by the leader of the delegation making such protest or appeal. After review of the appeal or protest, the event Tournament Director shall decide and rule accordingly. If the TD cannot resolve the dispute, the tournament committee shall meet and render their decision, which shall be final.

Distribution of Prizes:

IBF, in association with the host federation, shall determine the awards and/or prize money to be distributed for IBF sanctioned - Zonal, World Cup, and World Championship events.

Sponsored Athletes:

Sponsored athletes may wear the insignia of their sponsors on competition wear, insofar as it meets the official dress code guidelines set forth by IBF and/or the IOC/IPC. Sponsored athletes may not solicit or promote their sponsor in and around the competition venue during the competition without expressed and written pre-approval from IBF.