

18th ASIAN SENIORS TENPIN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1) DATE AND VENUE:

DATE: 24 October –3 November 2026 (*Latest arrival date is 24 October 2026*)

VENUE: Omura J Bowl

780 Kyowa-machi, Omura City, Nagasaki, 856-0820, JAPAN

Divisions:

Men's & Women's Senior Division

50 – 64 years old Men's

& Women's Grand Senior Division

65 years old and above

(See Rule 2.2 for details)

2) RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 2.1 The Asian Seniors Tenpin Bowling Championship will be conducted in accordance with the World Bowling Playing Rules as of September 2019. Any unforeseen incident not addressed by the rules shall be resolved as follows:

General Issues: In accordance with Asian Senior Bowling Council Rules and Regulations.

Technical Issues: in accordance with the spirit of World Bowling Playing Rules as of September 2019.

2.2 Eligibility:

This Championship is open to all current and paid-up member federation of the Asian Seniors Bowling Council. Athletes **MUST be fifty (50) years old or above** (Born in or before 1976) for **Senior Division** and **sixty-five (65) years old or above** (Born in or before 1961) **for the Grand Senior Division**.

2.3 Composition of Team:

Each member federation of the Asian Seniors Bowling Council may enter a four (4) Men's Team and four (4) Women's Team for the Seniors Division and a maximum of four (4) Men's Team and four (4) Women's Team for the Grand Senior Division, as determined by the host federation. Each Team shall be represented by a team of four (4) athletes. More teams from a country may be allowed if registration is NOT full capacity.

Please submit Form B for Entries by Name. The Closing date for registration is 24 August 2026.

In the event that a four-person team or a doubles pair from the same division consists of athletes from both the Senior and Grand Senior Division, the team has to be registered and compete in the Senior Division, e.g.:

- a. Doubles Pair (one Grand Seniors bowler and one Seniors Bowler participating in the Double event in the Seniors Division.

- b. Four-person team comprising a mix of Grand Seniors bowler and Seniors Bowler for the Team event in the Seniors Division

The scores of the Grand Senior bowler/s in the four-person team or doubles team in the Seniors Division will be based on scratch score.

- 2.4 **Style of Play:** Each game shall be bowled on a pair of lanes. Teams and or individuals shall successively and in regular order bowl one frame on one lane, and for the next frame alternate and use the adjoining lane, so alternating each frame until five frames are bowled on each lane, completing the game. When any question arises as to whom of any two bowlers shall bowl first, it is incumbent upon the bowler on the right to do so.

- 2.5 **Competition Event:** The Men, Women shall compete in separate divisions but the schedule of events shall be the same for all as follows:

- 2.5.1 **SINGLES** - SIX (6) games
- 2.5.2 **DOUBLES** - SIX (6) games
- 2.5.3 **TEAM OF 4** - SIX (6) games in two blocks.
- 2.5.4 **ALL-EVENTS** - Total score of Singles, Doubles & Team.
- 2.5.5 **MASTERS**

- 2.6 **Entries:**

Entry Forms shall be submitted by the allocated deadline and will include a passport size photo to be sent electronically.

Entry Fee

US\$ 230 per athlete and officials.

- 2.7 **CONDUCT OF EVENT:**

- 2.7.1 **SINGLES:** Open to all members of each Squad. Six (6) games to be played in one block with two persons from the same team (federation), when feasible, scheduled per lane. After completing two (2) games, Lane Change will take place (to a different pair of lanes). Maximum of Six (6) bowlers per pair of lanes.

- 2.7.2 **DOUBLES:** Six (6) games to be played in one block. The teams of the same federation shall be scheduled on different squads if feasible. Change of bowlers or order of bowling is not permitted at any time during the Doubles event. After completing two (2) games, Lane Change will take place (each team will move to a different pair of lanes). Maximum of three (3) teams per pair of lanes.

- 2.7.3 **TEAM of FOUR:** Six (6) games to be played in two (2) blocks of three games conducted over two days (one block per day). Lane change after each game (each team will move to a different pair of lanes). Line-up change is not permitted during a block.

- 2.7.4 **MASTERS:** Master Finals shall be round robin competition between the top 16 players based on their 18 qualifying games. A maximum of

four (4) players from each country will be eligible to qualify for the finals. All qualifying pinfalls will be dropped. One game match will be played. The final match will be played as a position round, making a total of 16 games. The determination of champion is based on the total pinfall (including bonus points) of 16 games.

These 16 games shall be bowled over two days, eight (8) games on the first day and eight (8) games on the second day according to a pre-arranged schedule.

Position number for the pre-arranged schedule shall be decided by draw. However, the Technical Committee will select position numbers for players from the same federation to ensure such players will compete against each other within the first 8 games, where possible.

Standings shall be based on total pinfall from each of the matches together with a bonus of ten for each match won, including the position round. Each player shall receive a bonus of five for a tie.

Any vacancies that may exist at the start of Master Finals shall be filled by the non-qualifiers available at the time and in order of finish in the qualifying competition. Ties between two or more players shall be decided by draw.

2.8 REGISTRATION OF BOWLING BALLS, ILLEGALITY AND DISQUALIFICATION

Every athlete is allowed to register a maximum of six (6) bowling balls for use in the championship. Change of one registered ball is allowed during the championships.

Change of a registered ball must be done between blocks of games. First ball registration must be filed no later than one hour after the end of official practice.

The onus is on the athletes and coaches to ensure that all bowling balls used fall within the specification as required by the IBF. The Tournament Director reserves the right to check at random, bowling balls used by any bowler in the Championships.

If at any time a bowler is found to have used an unregistered or illegal ball, he/she shall be disqualified from the event.

All Sports Equipment used by athletes in competition must comply with the World Bowling Playing Rules as of September 2019. Only bowling balls manufactured on or after January 1, 1991 that are on the USBC approved ball list, latest the day of the start of the tournament are allowed for use in sanctioned IBF Competitions. <https://www.bowl.com/approvedballlist/>

Acceptance of balls manufactured prior to the inception of the USBC Approved Ball List for use at the competition is at the discretion of the Technical Delegate.

2.9 **SUBSTITUTION**

A bowler who has already started in an event shall not be replaced.
In case of an injured bowler having to leave the game, the remaining bowlers on the team shall continue their games for all events purposes.

2.10 **INTERRUPTED GAMES**

The Tournament Director may authorize the competition of a game and/or series on another pair of lanes when equipment failure on the starting lanes would delay the normal progress of the series. An interrupted game and/or series which cannot be completed on the same date must resume from the point of interruption on the next day.

2.11 **BOWLING ON WRONG LANE**

2.11.1 When only one (1) player on the lead-off men on both teams bowl on a wrong lane and the error is discovered before another player has bowled, a dead ball shall be declared and the player(s) required to re-bowl on the correct lane(s).

2.11.2 When more than one (1) player on the same team has bowled on the wrong lane, the game shall be completed without adjustment and the next game shall be started on a correctly scheduled lane.

2.12 **TIE-BREAK PROCEDURES**

The player or team with the highest score in each event shall be the winner. When equal scores (ties) are registered for any of the first three places in the Four Player Teams, Doubles and Singles events, co-champions or co-winners shall be declared. That is: in case of a tie for the 1st position, for example, the individuals or teams involved shall be declared as gold medalists, and 2nd and 3rd positions shall be filled from the next highest scores.

When a tie occurs for sixteenth place in the All-Events total, a one-ball roll-off shall be held. If a tie still exists a one-ball roll-off shall be repeated until the tie is broken.

In case of a tie in the Master Final before the position round (after 15 games) between places 2-3, 4-5, 6-7 and so on, the player with the higher position is the one who in the round robin has:

- a. The higher total scratch pinfall.
- b. Won their match.
- c. Won more matches.
- d. The least difference between the highest and the lowest Game.
- e. The higher game.

When a tie occurs after the position round for first, second or third place, a one-ball roll off shall be held. If a tie still exists a one-ball roll-off shall be

repeated until the tie is broken.

2.13 AWARDS

2.13.1 Medals

Championship awards of Gold, Silver and Bronze shall be presented to first, second and third place to the following events: -

- * SINGLES
- * DOUBLES
- * TEAM OF FOUR
- * ALL-EVENTS
- * MASTERS

Note: If a country wins all three (3) medals in any event, then an additional bronze medal will be awarded to the individual or team from the next highest placed country.

Medal Presentation Ceremony shall normally be held following the completion of each event. Players participating in the medal presentation ceremonies shall wear their uniforms.

2.13.2 Country Championship Trophy

An overall championship trophy will be awarded to the country that has the most number of gold medals, followed by silver medals and bronze medals from the events participated.

In the event that a federation sends more than one (1) team for a division, medal tally for the teams will be calculated separately towards the Overall Championship Trophy.

2.14 SLOW BOWLING / LANE COURTESY

2.14.1 All athletes must be ready to bowl when it is his/her turn and must not delay the start of his/her approach or delivery when the pairs immediately adjacent to them on both the right and left are clear (one (1) pair lane courtesy).

2.14.2 All athletes must observe one (1) pair lane courtesy at all times. Athletes on the same pair may not bowl consecutive deliveries without allowing one (1) athlete from the pair to the right and one (1) athlete from the pair to the left have made a delivery, unless those athletes are not ready to bowl or they give way.

2.14.3 If an athlete does not observe the procedures outlined in paragraphs 2.14.1 and 2.14.2, it shall be construed as slow bowling. An athlete failing to observe these procedures shall be warned by an authorized tournament official as follows;

- a) A white card for the first offence (no penalty)
- b) A yellow card for the second offence (no penalty)
- c) A red card for the third and each succeeding offence in any block of games (six games for singles and doubles, three games for team and all games of match play in a day). The penalty shall be a zero pin fall for the frame

2.14.4 For interpretation of the enforcement of this rule, the Referees/Tournament Officials shall specifically monitor any athlete or team that gets more than four frames behind the leader in a singles, doubles or master event; or more than two frames behind in team, not counting the end pairs of lanes. Whenever there is any question concerning the enforcement of this rule, or lack thereof, in the Masters Grand Finals, the ASBC President or his designee, notwithstanding the reference to the Referees/Tournament Officials, shall make the final decision.

2.15 **HANDICAP SYSTEM**

Handicap will be allotted during the championship on the basis of age and only after the age of 66 is obtained during the year of the championship. Bowlers who have not attained the age of 66 years during the year of the championship will compete on a scratch basis.

Bowlers of 66 years old will get one (1) pin of handicap, those of 67 years old two (2) pins, 68 three (3) pins, that is, one pin of handicap is awarded to 66 years old and additional one pin will be awarded to it as handicap as one year of age increments. (For example, five (5) pins to 70 years old and fifteen (15) pins for 80 years old.)

Grand Senior Bowlers competing in the Senior Division will not be given handicap when bowling with the Senior Division for doubles or team event. However, handicap, based on age as described in above, will be added for their All-Events standings.

If there is a total of four representatives and two are bowlers eligible for the Grand Senior while the other two members are eligible for the Senior Division, they shall be separated into two divisions during the doubles event by age category in order for the handicap to apply for the older aged bracket.

2.16 **PLAYING UNIFORM**

All participants shall wear a standard uniform with the name of their respective Countries printed at the back of the shirt. Individual variations to that are not permitted. The uniform and advertising shall be in accordance with stipulations of the IBF Rules.

2.17 **CODE NUMBERS**

Code Numbers shall be allocated by the Tournament Director and used to schedule lane assignments for each federation.

2.18 EQUIPMENT

All equipment used shall meet IBF approved standard. Oiling machine used will be the Kegel Flex.

Lane Patterns will be announced at least 30 days before the Official Practice. A single pattern will be used.

2.19 ALTERING OF BOWLING BALL SURFACE

Altering the surface of the bowling ball is allowed in a designated area during the official practice session, during the practice session immediately preceding a competition round, and between games of each round.

A player may not alter the surface of the bowling ball during a game.

2.20 SUBMISSION OF LINE-UP

All final line-ups must be submitted to the Tournament Director on the day before the event is held.

2.21 PROHIBITION – CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The players and coaches must not consume alcohol or be under the influence of alcohol while in competition, i.e. during the entire period of his block of games. In those instances where it is established that a player is in breach of the rule, the Tournament Director may refer him to the Technical Committee for suspension from the tournament for the series of games then being played. Nonalcoholic beverages are allowed provided they are not consumed in the player's area.

2.22 PROHIBITION – SMOKING AND USING TOBACCO PRODUCTS

During championships smoking is not permitted in the bowling centre. However, it may be allowed in a closed area, provided it does not affect the environment in the player's and spectator's areas

Players and their coach(es) must not smoke, use tobacco products or use any kind of synthetic cigarettes or e-cigarettes while in competition; i.e. during the entire period of a block of games.

If a bowler is caught smoking during a game he will have zero pinfall for the game currently being played. If a bowler is caught smoking in between games, he will have zero pinfall for the succeeding game

For the second offence by the same player, the player will be excluded from the rest of the championship by the Tournament Technical Committee.

If a coach is caught smoking during a game

- a) the first penalty is suspension from the block of games when he violated the rule
- b) in case of a second violation the penalty is suspension from the rest of the Championship

2.23 Competition Management

2.23.1 Responsibility for management of the competition will be assumed, under the guidance of the IBF, ABF and ASBC, by an organization of competition officials belonging to and appointed by the host federation.

2.23.2 Tournament Director

The host federation shall select a Director for the tournament. He and his designated representatives shall supervise and direct the tournament. This shall include responsibility to the Technical Committee, compliance with the IBF Rules and Regulations and other IBF directives.

2.23.3 Technical Committee

The Technical Committee shall consist of the Tournament Director, the Technical Delegate and Technical Committee Member. The President of the A.S.B.C. shall appoint all members of the Technical Committee except the Tournament Director who is appointed by the host federation.

The Technical Committee shall advise and counsel the host Tournament Committee and the Tournament Director regarding lane conditioning procedures and techniques on a daily basis during competition as well as prior to its start, from a date as agreed in advance between the Technical Delegate and the Organizing Committee. Should there be disagreement between the host Organizing Committee and the Technical Delegate, the decision of the Technical Committee shall final.

2.23.4 Jury of Appeal

The President of the ASBC shall appoint a three-member Jury of Appeal for the Championships and three different federations must be represented on this body. It shall be empowered to cite before it all papers and persons involved in any appeal at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Alternatively, if deemed appropriate, the Jury of Appeal may decide an issue by mail vote after all material involved in the matter has been studied by each of its members.

2.24 **PROTEST - ELIGIBILITY**

Protests involving the eligibility or general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to the Tournament Director not later than 4 hours after the game in which the infraction occurred, or before prize presentation, whichever is the sooner. If no written protest is entered prior to the expiration of the 4-hour period, the game shall stand as bowled. Each protest under this rule must be specific in itself and this rule shall not be construed to cover a similar or previous violation.

2.25 **PROTEST - ERRORS**

Errors in scoring or errors in calculation in tournament play must be corrected by a responsible tournament official immediately upon the discovery of such error. Questionable errors shall be decided upon by the Tournament Committee. The time limit for filing protests on scoring errors shall be one (1) hour from the end of the event or block of games for each day in the tournament but must be before the prize presentation or the commencement of the next round (in an elimination event) whichever is sooner. Each protest under this rule must be specific in itself and this rule shall not be construed to cover a previous or similar violation.

2.26 **APPEALS PROCEDURE**

All appeals concerning the Technical Committee's decisions must be filed in writing with the Delegate of the Day or with any member of the Jury of Appeal. Such appeals may also be filed with the General Secretary of the Asian Senior Bowling Council. Each appeal must be specific and be accompanied by a fee of US \$100. If the Jury of Appeal does not uphold the appeal, the fee shall be forfeited to the Asian Senior Bowling Council.

2.27 **MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR:**

Any matters not provided for in these rules and regulations shall be governed by International Bowling Federation general playing rules and regulations.

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