

2026 MACAO CHINA INTERNATIONAL OPEN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rules and Formats

1. Rules and Regulations

This Championship, organized by Macao China Bowling Association (MCBA) and sanctioned by International Bowling Federation (IBF) and Asian Bowling Federation (ABF), will be conducted in accordance with the newest IBF Playing Rules.

2. Eligibility

This Tournament is open to all current (2026) members of the Macao China Bowling Association as well as all **Certified Members** of current paid-up members of International Bowling Federation and Asian Bowling Federation.

3. Venue

Bowling Centre (Avenida da Nave Desportiva, COTAI)

4. Date

19th June – 27th June, 2026.

5. Classification

Competition will be divided into Open, Macao Cup, Graded, Youth and Senior Divisions. I.e. Men, Women, Youth (Mixed) & Senior (Mixed)

a. Men's Open

All male bowlers including graded and youth are eligible to participate in this division.

b. Women's Open

All female bowlers including graded and youth are eligible to participate in this division.

c. Men's Graded (A)

All male bowlers with an average of 195 and below are eligible to play in this division.

d. Women's Graded

All female bowlers with an average of 185 and below are eligible to play in this division.

e. Men's Graded (B)

All male bowlers with an average of 180 and below are eligible to play in this division.

f. Youth Division

Only open to boys and girls born on **1st Jan 2006 or after.**

g. Senior Division

Only open to bowlers born on **19th June 1976 or before.**

Note:

Overseas bowlers are required to present certification from their respective Bowling Congresses/Associations as proof of their overseas status.

The Men and Women Champions of the Graded (A) Masters of any ABF/IBF sanctioned International Open and any Championships/Games for the current year and the last three years are not eligible to bowl in Graded Division.

6. Events

Open and Graded divisions will be divided into Men and Women respectively.

a. Open Division

Men

- i. Masters Qualify (6 Games – Best of 2 sets)
- ii. Masters (8 Games)
(Block 1 – 8 games; Block 2 – 8 games)

Women

- i. Masters Qualify (6 Games – Best of 2 sets)
- ii. Masters (8 Games)
(Block 1 – 8 games; Block 2 – 8 games)

b. Graded Division

Men(A)

- i. Masters Qualify (6 Games – Best of 2 sets)
- ii. Masters (6 Games)

Women

- i. Masters Qualify (6 Games – Best of 2 sets)
- ii. Masters (6 Games)

Men(B)

- i. Masters Qualify (6 Games – Best of 2 sets)
- ii. Masters (6 Games)

c. Youth Division (Mixed)

- i. Masters Qualify (6 Games – Best of 2 sets)
- ii. Youth Masters (6 Games) are open to all boys and girls.
- iii. Girl bowlers will be given a handicap of 8 pins per game for qualifying into the Youth Masters in the Singles Event and in the actual competition of the Masters Event.

d. Senior Division (Mixed)

- i. Masters Qualify (6 Games – Best of 2 sets)
- ii. Senior Masters (6 Games) are opened to all Men and Women.
- iii. Bowlers will be given a handicap per game for qualifying into the Senior Masters in the Masters Qualifying and in the actual competition of the Masters Event. Handicaps are allocated according to the following age categories:

MEN

50-55 years of age: 0 pins
56-60 years of age: 6 pins
61-65 years of age: 12 pins
66 years of age and above: 18 pins

WOMEN

50-55 years of age: 8 pins
56-60 years of age: 14 pins
61-65 years of age: 20 pins
66 years of age and above: 26 pins

e. Macao Cup

Only bowlers with Macao Identity Card are eligible to participate in this event.

Masters Qualify (6 Games – Best of 2 sets)

Female & Senior bowlers will be given a handicap of 8 pins per game for qualifying into the Macao Cup Masters and in the actual competition of the Masters Event.

7. Masters Qualifying

Scores obtained by the bowlers in the best two sets of MQ in respective division making up a total of 6 game series will be used for the Masters Qualifying.

8. Masters

8.1 Men's Open Masters.

The top 3 qualifiers in the Local Division and Overseas Division respectively (total 6 bowlers) will be automatically seeded for Block 2. The rest of the 24 Masters Finalists will bowl 8 games in Block 1, the top 12 Bowlers with the highest total pinfall after 8 games will qualify for Block 2. All pinfall then dropped.

The top 12 Bowlers in Block 1 together with the above-mentioned 6 seeded bowlers (total 18 bowlers) will bowl 8 games in Block 2, the top 6 Bowlers with the highest total pinfall will qualify for the Step Ladder Finals.

The Stepladder Finals will be played in 3 Steps. In Step 1, the 4th 5th & 6th position bowlers will bowl one game starting from scratch. The bowler with the highest score will continue in Step 2. The bowler with the second higher score will be declared as 5th position and the bowler with the lowest score will be declared as 6th position. In Step 2, the winner from Step 1 will meet the 2nd & 3rd position bowlers will bowl one game starting from scratch. The bowler with the highest score will continue in Step 3. The bowler with the second high score will be declared as 3rd position and the bowler with the lowest score will be declared as 4th position. In Step 3, the winner from Step 2 will meet the 1st position bowler in a one plus one game match starting from scratch. If the 1st position bowler wins the 1st game, he will be declared as Champion. If the 1st position bowler loses the first game, there will be one more roll-off game starting from scratch to decide the Champion.

i. Defending Champion	1
ii. National Team Representative s	4
iii. Top Local Bowlers in the Master Qualify	5
iv. Top Overseas Bowlers in the Master Qualify	9
v. Top Local/Overseas Bowlers in the Master Qualify	8
vi. Desperado	3
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Total	30

Remarks:

Bowlers who would like to participate for Desperado must reach six (6) attempts for Men’s Open Master Qualify. Should less than 6 players participate for Desperado, top 3 bowlers in Reserve Pool will be placed into Master Final (Block 1).

8.2 Women’s Open Masters

The top 3 qualifiers in the Local Division and Overseas Division respectively (total 6 bowlers) will be automatically seeded for Block 2. The rest of 18 Masters Finalists will bowl 8 games in Block 1, the top 9 Bowlers with the highest total pinfall after 8 games will qualify for Block 2. All pinfall then dropped.

The top 9 Bowlers in Block 1 together with the above-mentioned 6 seeded bowlers (total 15 bowlers) will bowl 8 games in Block 2, the top 6 Bowlers with the highest total pinfall will qualify for the Step Ladder Finals.

The Stepladder Finals will be played in 3 Steps. In Step 1, the 4th 5th & 6th position bowlers will bowl one game starting from scratch. The bowler with the highest score will continue in Step 2. The bowler with the second higher score will be declared as 5th position and the bowler with the lowest score will be declared as 6th position. In Step 2, the winner from Step 1 will meet the 2nd & 3rd position bowlers will bowl one game starting from scratch. The bowler with the highest score will continue in Step 3. The bowler with the second high score will be declared as 3rd position and the bowler with the lowest score will be declared as 4th position. In Step 3, the winner from Step 2 will meet the 1st position bowler in a one plus one game match starting

from scratch. If the 1st position bowler wins the 1st game, he will be declared as Champion. If the 1st position bowler loses the first game, there will be one more roll-off game starting from scratch to decide the Champion.

i. Defending Champion	1
ii. National Team Representatives	3
iii. Top Local Bowlers in the Master Qualify	4
iv. Top Overseas Bowlers in the Master Qualify	7
v. <u>Top Local/Overseas Bowlers in the Master Qualify</u>	<u>9</u>
Total	24

8.3 Graded Masters

Men's Graded (A)

Top 18 Men Qualifiers in the Graded Men A Master Qualify will enter the Masters Final.

A total of 6 games will be bowled.

i. Top Local Bowlers in the Master Qualify	6
ii. Top Overseas Bowlers in the Master Qualify	6
iii. <u>Top Local/Overseas Bowlers in the Master Qualify</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	18

Women's Graded

Top 15 Women Qualifiers in the Graded Women Master Qualify will enter the Masters Final.

A total of 6 games will be bowled.

i. Top Local Bowlers in the Master Qualify	5
ii. Top Overseas Bowlers in the Master Qualify	5
iii. <u>Top Local/Overseas Bowlers in the Master Qualify</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	15

Men's Graded (B)

Top 15 Men Qualifiers in the Graded Men B Master Qualify will enter the Masters Final. A total of 6 games will be bowled.

8.4 Youth Masters

Youth (Mixed)

Top 22 Youth Qualifiers in the Youth Master Qualify will enter the Masters Final. A total of 6 games will be bowled.

i. National Team Representatives	3
ii. Top Local Bowlers in the Master Qualify	4
iii. Top Overseas Bowlers in the Master Qualify	7
iv. <u>Top Local/Overseas Bowlers in the Master Qualify</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	22

8.5 Senior Masters

Senior (Mixed)

Top 15 Senior Qualifiers in the Senior Master Qualify will enter the Masters Final.

A total of 6 games will be bowled.

8.6 Macao Cup

The 1st and 2nd position of the 8 respective Divisions together with top 8 local bowlers (total 24 bowlers) that qualified from 19th to 20th of June 2026 will enter the Masters Final.

A total of 6 games will be bowled. Female and Senior bowlers will be given a handicap of 8 pins per game.

8.7 In the event that there are less than 6 participants, The Masters Event will be cancelled. Trophies will then be awarded to the top 3 positions in the Masters Qualifying.

9. Attempts

No limit of attempts is imposed. A bowler must attempt at least 2 sets of MQ (total of 6 games)

10. Fees

10.1.1 Registration Fee for Open Division is MOP\$300.00 per person and MOP\$250.00 per person for all other divisions. Registration fees which include the entrance of Victory Banquet must be paid before commencing the first attempt. For the supporters who would like to join the Victory Banquet, MOP\$250 will be charged.

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| I. Master Qualify (Open and Graded) | MOP\$250.00/Person/Squad |
| II. Master Qualify (Youth and Senior) | MOP\$200.00/Person/Squad |
| III. Desperado for Open Men | MOP\$500.00 (1 game) |

10.1.2 The Tournament Director reserves the right to re-allocate squad times and the schedule at his discretion when situation so requires. Prior notice will be given whenever possible.

10.1.3 Any changes will be accepted. This will require an amendment fee of MOP\$100.00 per bowler per time.

10.2 Masters Finals

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| i. Men's & Women's Open | MOP\$700.00/Person (Each Block) |
| ii. Men's A and Women's Graded | MOP\$600.00/Person |
| iii. Men's B | MOP\$600.00/Person |
| iii. Youth (Mixed) | MOP\$600.00/Person |
| vi. Senior (Mixed) | MOP\$600.00/Person |
| v. Macao Cup (Mixed) | MOP\$600.00/Person |

Note: Appropriate entry-forms are available for purchase at the reception counter, except all Masters Event of 10.2. Fees will be collected at the time of check-in.

11. Entries

Registration Fee must be paid before any entry will be accepted. ENTRY FORM(S) must be purchased and fully filled before making any entry. Such FORM(S) will be available for purchase at the Macao China Bowling Association office.

12. Awards

12.1 Open and Graded Division

Trophies will be awarded to the top three positions, and prizes will be awarded up to the positions as specified in the prize list of the various Masters Events. In addition, if

the winners of the Men/Women **Open Masters** are overseas bowlers, he/she will be awarded a return air-ticket (Economy Class) from the country which he/she represented to Macao with 4-nights hotel accommodation to defend his/her title in the Macao China International Open Tenpin Bowling Championships of the following year. The game fees for the Masters Event will be waived. In the case of the winner being a local bowler, he/she will receive a return air-ticket (Economy Class) to either Taipei or Bangkok valid until December 31, 2026. The game fees for the Masters Event will also be waived.

12.2 Youth and Senior Division

Trophies will be awarded to the top three positions and prizes will be awarded up to the positions specified in the prize list of the various Masters Events.

12.3 Macao Cup

Trophies will be awarded to the top three positions and prizes will be awarded up to the positions specified in the prize list of the various Masters Events.

13. Tie Score

13.1 Whenever a tie occurs in any of the first three positions in the Top Qualify, players with equal scores will share the prize between them.

13.2 In the case of a tie in qualifying for the last position for the Masters Events and if a tie occurs for position 3 in the local and overseas pools, a one game roll-off shall be held. If a tie still exists, one ball roll-off shall be held until the tie is broken. The time for the roll-off will be decided by the Tournament Committee.

13.3 If a tie occurs in the Men's and Women's Open Masters Final (Block 2) for the 1st & 6th position, a one game roll-off shall be held to break the tie. If a tie still exists, one ball roll-off shall be held until the tie is broken.

13.4 If a tie occurs in Desperado for the 3rd position, one ball roll-off shall be held until the tie is broken.

14. Check-In

Check-in will open one hour and close 30 minutes before the scheduled squad time in every event unless otherwise stated (bowlers must inform the check-in counter if they have consecutive squad booking in order to exempt the check-in procedure for the following squad bookings). For those who fail to check-in personally at the prescribed time, their placing as well as the fees will be forfeited. The vacancy will be allocated to the next pre-booked reserved bowler.

15. Protests

15.1 Protests – Foul or Legality of Pinfall

A provisional ball or frame shall be bowled by the competitor. The Tournament Committee and the official representatives of the Association shall then solve the problems.

15.2 Protests – Eligibility – General Playing Rules

Protests involving eligibility or general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to a responsible tournament official not later than 24 hours after the game in which the infraction occurred or before the Prize Presentation.

15.3 Protests – Errors

The time limit for filing protests on scoring shall be one hour from the end of the event.

16. Registration of Bowling Balls, Illegality and Disqualification

- 16.1** All bowling balls used in the Championships must be registered prior to competition. All participants are advised to check that their bowling balls used in the Tournament are certified as legal for weight and other specifications before they compete in their events. Bowling balls used by the participants may be subject to random check.
- 16.2** If at any time a bowler is found to have used an illegal ball, he/she shall be disqualified from the entire Tournament and stripped of all his/her winnings or positions standing and all fees paid will not be refunded. If the Tournament Committee is of the opinion that such usage was deliberate and was intended to cheat, the incident may be further reported to the MCBA Disciplinary Committee/or ABF Executive Committee for additional penalization. He/she may also be asked to return immediately to the Tournament Director any awards that may have already been given to him/her.
- 16.3** According to the World Bowling Playing Rules as of September 2019 on balance hole, Since August 2020, no balance holes are allowed. All holes drilled must be used for gripping purposes on every delivery. A maximum of five gripping holes is allowed in a bowling ball. Any gripping hole that does not have the thumb or fingers inserted into it throughout the approach would be classified as a balance hole, which is not allowed.
- 16.4** Only bowling balls manufactured on or after January 1, 1991, that are on the USBC approved ball list latest the day the tournament starts are allowed for use in sanctioned competition. The online list may be found at <https://bowl.com/approved-ball-list> and will be available during all world events. Acceptance of manufactured balls prior to the inception of the USBC ball list for use in competition shall not be allowed.
- 16.5 APPROVED BOWLING BALLS UPDATE**
Please take note that reference to the announcement from IBF (Newsletter #12) the bowling balls in the following link are not eligible for use in IBF events (including sanctioned events and therefore, would not be approved to be used in any tournaments organized by Macao China Bowling Association (MCBA).
https://images.bowl.com/bowl/media/assets/usbc/equipment%20specs/usbc_national-tournament-ineligible-ball-list-only-78d-slow-oil-allowed_final.pdf

17. Bowling ball, altering surface

Altering the surface of bowling ball is only allowed during the official practice session before a block of games or competition round. Altering surface of the bowling ball during or between games is not allowed. If the surface is adjusted during a game, the penalty is zero pinfall in that game. If the surface is adjusted between games, that ball will be taken away from the competition until that block or round of games/competition is finished.

18. Verification of Scores

It is the responsibility of each bowler and/or the team official to verify the correctness of scores of each game bowled by signing on the official score sheet. Once signed, the score shall stand. Official score sheet without signature will be treated as correct and no protest can be brought against it.

New Scoring System will be applied.

19. Bowlers' Attire

Men Bowlers in shorts, singlets, and jeans will not be allowed to bowl. Women Bowlers in singlet's, sleeveless T-shirt and jeans also will not be allowed to bowl. Shorts and skirts are allowed for women bowlers. Only proper bowling uniforms (Polo Shirt) and proper bowling shoes will be allowed during competition. Crew neck T-shirts are allowed during competition. In those instances where it is established that a bowler is in breach of this rule, he/she may be suspended by the Tournament Committee from the tournament for the block of games than being played and all fees paid will not be refunded.

20. Smoking and Drinking

20.1 Smoking and using tobacco products

20.1.1 During championships smoking is not permitted in the bowling center. However, it may be allowed in a closed area, provided it does not affect the environment in the players' or spectator's areas

20.1.2 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.

20.1.3 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

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

20.1.5 If a coach is caught smoking during a game

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

20.2 Drinking alcohol

20.2.1 Players must not consume alcohol or be under the influence of alcohol while in competition, i.e., during the entire period of a block of games.

20.2.2 In those instances where it is established that a player is in breach of this rule, he may be suspended by the Tournament Technical Committee from the tournament for the block of games then being played.

Remarks: All fees paid will not be refunded.

21. DISCLAIMER & PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

All participants (both local and overseas) aged below 18 must submit the said Disclaimer and Participant Agreement signed by his/her parent or guardian.

All participants must fully understand and agree that he/she is healthy, physically fit, and suitable to participate in this tournament. The Organizer and Co-organizer shall not be responsible for all actions, claims and demands by any person who suffers or sustains any loss, damages, injury, or death arising out of or as a result of the participant's acts due to his/her

negligence. The participant undertakes to indemnify the Organizer and Co-Organizer against all actions, claims and demands by any person who suffers or sustains any loss, damages, injury, or death arising out of or as a result of the participant's acts due to his/her negligence.

21. Special Note

The Tournament Director and the Tournament Committee reserve the right to accept or reject any entry as they see fit. Any matter arising during the Championship which is not covered in the aforesaid information, rules and formats will be dealt with by the Tournament Director and the Tournament Committee and their decision in all cases shall be final. Meanwhile, all fees paid will not be refunded. Notwithstanding the above, an appeal may still be lodged with MCBA within thirty days of the decision of the Tournament Committee. If dissatisfied, the last and final court of appeal shall be the Asian Bowling Federation, but such appeal should be made through MCBA in writing and within thirty days of its decision and in accordance with the procedure specified in the 2026 International Bowling Federation Playing Rules.

- ✧ In case there is different interpretation in the Chinese translation of the rules, the ENGLISH version of the Rules and Regulations and the latest IBF Playing Rules shall apply.