

Junior Panel Eligibility and Ranking Points 2023/2024

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO BOWL IN THE JUNIOR RANKING TOURNAMENTS, ALL BOWLERS MUST HAVE A CURRENT I.T.B.A. MEMBERSHIP CARD.

The schedule of events and eligibility criteria may be subject to change, if any external events impact the schedule of events.

Eligibility

Please note that you must bowl in the required number of Junior Ranking events to be eligible for the Junior Triple Crown (JTC) and European Youth Championships (EYC) panel(s).

Additional events may be added to the Ranking calendar within 3 months of the scheduled date and / or existing calendar events may be ranked if they are deemed by the ITBA Junior Group Sub-committee (and approved by the Executive) to provide additional focus and preparation in line with the specific Panel needs. Schedule of Events below.

Schedule of Events

These dates may be subject to change if any external events impact the running of the event.

Tournament	Bowling Centre	Day/Dates	JTC / EYC
Junior Scratch Singles	Leisureplex Blanchardstown	3 rd September 2023	JTC 2024 *
Junior Scratch Singles	ALSAA	8 th October 2023	JTC 2024 & EYC 2024
Junior Irish Open	Leisureplex Blanchardstown	3 rd to 5 th November 2023	JTC 2024 & EYC 2024
Junior Scratch Singles	Leisureplex Tallaght	12 th November 2023	JTC 2024 & EYC 2024
Junior Scratch Singles	Leisureplex Blanchardstown	3 rd December 2023	JTC 2024 & EYC 2024
Junior Scratch Singles	ALSAA	21 st January 2024	JTC 2024 & EYC 2025
Junior Scratch Singles	Leisureplex Tallaght	11 th February 2024	JTC 2024 & EYC 2025
Junior Scratch Singles	ALSAA	10 th March 2024	JTC 2024 & EYC 2025
Junior Scratch Singles	Leisureplex Blanchardstown	28 th April 2024	JTC 2024 & EYC 2025

* September 2023 Junior event not ranked for EYC 2024 due to issues regarding wrong lane pattern being used

Junior Triple Crown 2024 and European Youth Championships 2024:

The Junior Selection Committee will select a Junior Panel(s) of bowlers for the 2024 season to cover Junior Triple Crown and the European Youth Championships. The Panel will be reviewed during the season and may be amended prior to Junior Triple Crown and/or the European Youth Championships. The Junior Selection Committee will also use, as guidance, the details contained in this document and performance in the EYC 2024 and JTC 2024 designated events in the Schedule of Events above. This guidance also includes the necessity for bowlers to meet the minimum averages required and the minimum number of tournaments as outlined in this document.

Junior Triple Crown 2024 (JTC 2024):

Qualifying Age Criteria / Groups:

- Age 18 and Under
- Age 15 and Under

The Panel established by the Junior Selection Committee, and the performance of bowlers in JTC 2024 qualifying junior tournaments, listed above, will be used to review whether any amendments are recommended to the Panel prior to JTC 2024 team selection. Rankings points will be awarded for participation in scheduled Junior tournaments. Bowlers must play **in a minimum of 6 of the currently scheduled 9 events**. The total accumulated ranking points, based on the 'Best 6' tournaments after the 9 tournaments, will be used to review whether any amendments are required to the Panel prior to JTC 2024 team selection. If any tournaments cannot proceed, the total accumulated ranking points based on the number of tournaments played will be used, as guidance, to review the Panel.

European Youth Championships 2024 (EYC 2024):

Qualifying Age Criteria/Group:

- Under 18 as at 1st September 2023

The Panel will be established by the Junior Selection Committee and will be based on the performance of bowlers in the four EYC 2024 qualifying Junior tournaments listed above. The guidance averages for EYC 2024 eligibility and selection are set at: Girls: **170** and Boys: **180**. Bowlers must play in at least three of the four EYC 2024 qualifying tournaments and the average will be calculated based upon the best three of the four EYC 2024 Ranked events. Bowlers must also bowl the set averages in at least 2 of the 4 events. Bowlers must also commit to training and prove they are committed to the Panel.

Bowlers, wishing to represent Ireland on National Teams, including EYC 2024 (and all other European, Triple Crown and World Team events) will be required to formally sign-up to the ITBA National Development Programme (NDP); will be required to participate in the development and training sessions run jointly by the Junior Sub-committee and assigned ITBA certified coaches; and will be required to meet the criteria laid down for the event, unless a 'Wildcard' selection is approved by the Junior Selection Committee.

Wildcards:

Wildcard - Bowlers outside the Panel selection for JTC 2024 or who have not met the required average for EYC 2024, who feel they may be eligible for a 'Wildcard' may make a written application to the Junior Selection Committee stating their case and why they feel they are deserving of a place on the Panel. The Junior Selection Committee will make a decision based on the merits of this application. All applications will be reviewed fairly and objectively with the ultimate mission of achieving the best and strongest Junior Team possible. Applications for a Wildcard must be submitted to juniors@tenpinbowling.ie and will be forwarded to the Junior Selection Committee.

There is no requirement for any Wildcard spot(s) to be filled or any guarantee of an application being approved even if those spot(s) are not filled. The inclusion of any Wildcards to the Panel requires the Executive's ratification.

Reasons for a Wildcard can include, but are not limited to:

- A bowler has competed in an overseas tournament and was unable to meet some of the requirements in the criteria.
- A bowler returning from injury and has displayed their quality in tournaments / leagues since their return.
- Any issues or circumstances outside of a bowlers control that specifically limits the bowlers participation in the required number of tournaments or meeting the required average.

Closing dates for 'Wildcard' entries are as follows:

- EYC 2024 is 22nd December 2023; and
- JTC 2024 is 12th May 2024.

Tournament Dress Code & Rules:

As these events are I.T.B.A. Junior Ranking Tournaments, the following dress code applies:

- Girls must wear plain-coloured skorts or skirts or black slacks or trousers. For international tournaments all team members must wear plain-coloured skorts unless otherwise agreed with the appointed Team Manager.
- Boys must wear plain-black slacks.
- Shorts, leggings, sleeveless tops, tee shirts and V-neck tee shirts are amongst the clothing items not permitted.
- All bowlers must have their name fully permanently printed or embroidered on the back of a polo-shirt, collared shirt or sports top (new style bowling shirts with large rounded collar) throughout the tournament including finals.

Dress Code for International Tournaments (JTC and EYC):

All bowlers travelling to International Junior Tournaments must adhere to the following Dress Code:

- Ireland Jackets must be worn travelling to and from the tournaments
- Bowlers must wear a plain white Polo shirt travelling to and from these tournaments.
- All bowlers must wear black slacks/trousers travelling to and from these tournaments.
- All bowlers must wear black shoes travelling to and from these tournaments.

All bowlers participating in International Junior Tournaments must adhere to the tournament Dress Code & Rules.

Training Sessions for International Tournaments:

All bowlers taking part in the scheduled training sessions must adhere to the Dress Code for Junior Ranked Tournaments.

Rules:

The following Rules apply to all bowlers:

- Bowlers must be on time and register 10 minutes before training is scheduled. LATE check-in could lead to a bowler not being allowed to take part in that session.
- All bowlers must check-in before going on the lanes.
- Mobile phones are not permitted once you register for tournaments or training and must be switched off during play.
- The use of earphones, unless medically prescribed, is not permitted during training sessions or Junior tournaments.
- All bowlers are expected to comply with the members Code of Ethics, Social Media Policy and Anti-doping rules – all of which are available online – www.tenpinbowling.ie

Failure to comply with these Rules may result in loss of ranking points and loss of eligibility for selection. Serious breaches of the Code of Ethics or Social Media Policy may result in loss of eligibility for selection and withdrawal of ITBA membership.

Junior Tournament Ranking Points:

Ranking points will be allocated after the final standings. Exceptions to this are:

- Junior Irish Open ranking points will be allocated after the first 6 games.

Team Ireland Tournaments:

Junior bowlers may participate in scheduled Team Ireland tournaments, and providing they meet the 'Team Ireland' criteria will be entitled to ranking points during the season. However, junior bowlers eligible for international representation **must prioritise** participating in junior tournaments/ competitions/ training/ practice sessions if a scheduling conflict arises in line with the spirit of the ITBA's 'Child Safeguarding Statement'.

Important: With effect from the 2024/2025 season onwards any bowler under the age of 18 will not be permitted to travel as part of Team Ireland, irrespective of the fact that they may have accumulated the required number of ranking points to be eligible for automatic qualification or selection. In addition, with effect from the 2024/2025 season onwards any bowler aged 16 and under will not be permitted to take part in Team Ireland events/competitions so as to safeguard their welfare and wellbeing by ensuring they only participate in age-appropriate events/competitions. These changes have been implemented to give effect to the guidance issued by Sports Ireland.

Deduction of Junior Ranking Points:

Number of Ranking points deducted for the following will be determined by the Junior Committee.

- Late registration for Junior tournaments and Training Sessions.
- Failing to notify your Team Manager if you are not turning-up for Training Sessions.
- Use of foul language or inappropriate gestures on or off the lanes.
- Use of mobile phones or earphones, after registration until finish, at Training Sessions and Junior Tournament.
- Disrespect to fellow bowlers, Coaches and Junior Sub-committee members on or off the lanes.

Note: Bowlers retain their right to appeal any decision, as set-out in the ITBA Constitution.

Selection Procedure (JTC/EYC):

- The Executive Committee, in consultation with the Junior Sub-committee, appointed a Junior Selection Committee for the 2023-2024 season on 12th December 2023.
- The Junior Selection Committee have reviewed this Junior Selection Process and Eligibility 2023/2024 document and have confirmed it will adopt it when reviewing such matters as Panels to be forwarded to the Executive for ratification and when choosing bowlers / teams to represent the country.
- Where selection is necessary to determine which bowler(s) shall represent the country or the Association in any tournaments, such selection for Juniors, shall be the responsibility of the Junior Selection Committee.
- The Junior Selection Committee shall submit to the Executive Committee for ratification a Panel of bowlers for both boys and girls. Such Panel will be published, when duly ratified.
- The Junior Selection Committee will send the following Panel(s) for ratification to the Executive to ensure the Panel(s) can be published prior to 15th Dec 2023 and the Executive have confirmed it will accommodate this timeframe:
 - EYC 2024 Panel(s)
 - JTC 2024 Panel(s) – (Note: Panel(s) will be reviewed prior to JTC 2024 team selection.)
- To be eligible for Panel selection bowlers must:
 - hold an Irish passport and are in good standing with the Association
 - have achieved the required Ranking points and/or minimum average (EYC) or be approved via the Wildcard system
 - when the Panel is ratified and published, bowlers must attend 80% of the Training Sessions set-out by the Team Manager.

It must be understood that:

- being in the top four (JTC 2024 and EYC 2024) of the Rankings does not entitle a bowler to a place on the Panel and does not automatically entitle them to a place on the Team.
- any bowler that is part of the Panel having met the necessary average is only entitled to a place on the Panel and does not automatically entitle them to a place on the Team.
- the Junior Committee (in consultation with the Executive Committee) reserves the right not to send a team to an event where it believes the Panel of bowlers eligible for selection has not reached the required standard or financial constraints within the ITBA does not allow participation.

Selection Criteria

The following will be taken into consideration for Team selection:

- Position on ranking list
- Average
- Current form
- Willingness to accept coaching
- Dress code
- Behaviour & Attitude
- Attendance & Time Keeping
- Attendance of Panel Training Sessions
- Ability to be a "team player" both on and off the lanes

It must also be understood that when the Team(s) is selected the decision of the Selectors is final.

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Appendix 1

ANTI-DOPING

In Article 11 of the ITBA Constitution, we have adopted the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping rules. The ITBA – www.tenpinbowling.ie, International Bowling Federation (IBF) – www.bowling.sport and Sport Ireland www.sportireland.ie are all committed to providing a clean sport and a stage upon where athletes can compete in fairness. The use of doping substances or doping methods to enhance performance is fundamentally wrong and is detrimental to the overall impact of bowling. Drug misuse can be harmful to an athlete's health and also indirectly impact other athletes competing in bowling. To ensure integrity of the sport of bowling, the ITBA is fully signed-up to IBF and Sport Ireland's National Programme and will enforce the World Anti-Doping Code developed by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) - www.wada-ama.org/en.

WHAT IS DOPING:

Doping is defined as the occurrence of one or more of the following anti-doping rule violations:

- Presence of a prohibited substance (such as steroids, stimulants, hormones, diuretics or narcotics) in an athlete's sample.
- Possession, trafficking, use or attempted use of a prohibited substance or method (such as blood transfusions or gene doping).
- Refusing to submit to sample collection.
- Failure to file whereabouts information and missed tests.
- Tampering with any part of the doping control process.
- Administering or attempting to administer a prohibited substance or method to an athlete.

AS AN ATHLETE, WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DOPING?

Any athlete may be tested in- and out-of-competition at anytime, anywhere and with no advance notice. The principle of strict liability applies in anti-doping – if it is in the athlete's body, the athlete is responsible for it.

Athletes' responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- complying with the Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Rules in line with the World Anti-Doping Code;
- being available for sample collection (urine or blood), whether in-competition or out-of-competition;
- ensuring that no prohibited substance enters his body and that no prohibited method is used;
- making sure that any treatment is not prohibited according to the Prohibited List in force and checking this with the prescribing physicians, or directly with the Sport Ireland if necessary;
- applying to the Sport Ireland if no alternative permitted treatment is possible and a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) is required (see the Sport Ireland TUE application process)

Every athlete needs to take into account the list of prohibited substances and know what are his/her rights and responsibilities under the World Anti-Doping Code and the IF anti-doping rules. Athletes should know that, under the Code, they are strictly liable whenever a prohibited substance is found in their body. This means that a violation occurs whether or not the athlete intentionally, knowingly or unknowingly, used a prohibited substance or was negligent or otherwise at fault.

The World Anti-Doping Code (Code) is the core document that provides the framework for harmonized antidoping policies, rules and regulations within sport organizations and among public

authorities. It works in conjunction with five International Standards aimed at bringing harmonization among anti-doping organisations in various areas: testing, laboratories, Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs), protection of privacy and personal information, and the List of Prohibited Substances and Methods. The Code and the Standards are mandatory documents for WADA's stakeholders. These documents are supported by non-mandatory guidelines.

The **Sport Ireland 2022 newly introduced Anti-Doping Digital Wallet Card** can be found on our website. In the Anti-Doping Update for the AGM 2023, the ITBA Anti-Doping Officer again stressed:

“It is imperative that all bowlers familiarise themselves with its contents. The Digital Wallet Card is designed as a brief overview and a lot more information on all aspects of Anti-Doping can be found on the Sport Ireland website – www.sportireland.ie/antidoping.” This includes links to “Report Doping” (link also on ITBA website), “Supplement Policy” and “Check your Medication” link to www.eirpharm.com if in any doubt about any medication you are taking. If your medication is prohibited and no alternative permitted treatment can be used, the Digital Wallet Card also spells out how to apply for a TUE (Therapeutic-Use-Exemption).”

The Sport Ireland “REPORT DOPING” intelligence programme is a vital part of the Anti-Doping programme and seeks to collect any information that will assist in the detection, deterrence, enforcement or prevention of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV). ADRVs include use and attempted use of prohibited substances in sport, but also extend to administration of a prohibited substance, possession, and trafficking in prohibited substances. Those who are most at risk of an ADRV are competitive athletes and support personnel (including Coaches) involved with competitive athletes. In the Anti-Doping Update for the AGM 2023, the ITBA Anti-Doping Officer highlighted:

I would particularly remind bowlers participating in European Bowling Federation (EBF) or International Bowling Federation (IBF) events that before the travel they should check that any medication being taken is not on the Prohibited List as published by WADA – see www.wada-ama.org/en .”

An **“Athlete Support Person”** who participates as **coach, trainer, manager, team staff, official, medical or paramedical personnel** in a *Competition* or activity authorised or organised by the IBF or EBF or one of its member organisations (including the ITBA) agrees to be bound by:

- (i) anti-doping rules including complying with drug testing requests and
- (ii) *anti-doping organisation* results management authority in conformity with the *Code* as a condition of such participation.

In summary, bowlers (and “Athlete Support Persons”) should remember, that under the Code, they are strictly liable whenever a prohibited substance is found in their body. This means that a violation occurs, whether or not a bowler intentionally, knowingly or unknowingly, used a prohibited substance or was negligent or otherwise at fault.

So, let's continue to be fully aware of our responsibilities and let's continue to keep Irish Tenpin Bowling drug free.