
Irish Tenpin Bowling Association



Senior Sub-Committee Bowlers Handbook 2023 – 2024 Season

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1. Introduction

This document is designed to assist you to understand the Format, Rules and Eligibility for the Senior Touring League.

We cannot stress enough the importance of adhering to Tournament Rules, Regulations, Anti-doping Policy, ITBA General Code of Conduct, arriving on time, adhering to Dress Code, etc.

- It is each bowlers' responsibility to familiarise themselves with the Format, Rules and Eligibility for the monthly tour event, Grand Prix and to check the ITBA WEB page www.tenpinbowling.ie under the Seniors tab for updates.
- Bowlers must comply with Sport Ireland Anti-doping rules in line with the World Anti-Doping Policy.
- To comply with ITBA/ETBF/IBF regulations, bowlers are **not** permitted to smoke during a tournament, i.e., a bowler is not permitted to smoke while waiting for others to complete games.
- Mobile phones must be switched to silent mode during play.

The Senior Sub-Committee reserves the right to amend, clarify, or provide its interpretation of the following content. Any such amendment, clarification or interpretation will be communicated to members. The Senior Sub-Committee decision on all matters will be final subject to the provisions of the Constitution.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible to bowl in the Senior Touring League all bowlers must be aged 49 or older and be current members of the ITBA.

A valid Irish passport is required to qualify for a place on the Senior Panel. Senior teams and individuals required to be selected for "top-flight" international competition shall be chosen from those bowlers currently named as Panel members.

The Senior Selection Process is available on the following ITBA website link and is updated prior to the beginning of each season: [Senior Selection and Eligibility.docx \(tenpinbowling.ie\)](#)

3. Senior Sub-Committee

The Senior Sub-Committee use a WhatsApp group and electronic mail to communicate with bowlers. Bowlers provide consent to this communication. The members of the Senior Sub-Committee are:

Officer	Role
Joe Ridgeway	Chairperson
Maeve O'Reilly	Secretary
Peter Murphy	Treasurer
Ken O'Reilly	Member
Pat Holmes*	Member / ESBC Contact*

*ESBC July 12-21, 2024 in Hamburg Germany. Website: <https://www.esbc-europe.eu/esbc/esbcinformation/>

4. Handicaps

Handicaps are calculated as follows:

- Men: Base 220, minus current average x 90% = handicap
- Ladies: Base 200, minus current average x 90% = handicap

Handicaps are adjusted after a bowler has completed their first 2 tours of the season, i.e., 10 games, and after each tour until the end of the season.

New bowlers must provide their current highest league average. If a current handicap is not available new bowlers will be allocated a 150 average and corresponding handicap until after 10 games (2 tours) when an actual average can be established.

5. Dress Code

The following dress code applies to the Senior Tour (ranking) events:

- All bowlers must have either their full name or surname clearly visible in either print or embroidery on the back of a collared shirt or sports top (new style of bowling shirt with large rounded collar).
- Ladies may wear skirts, shorts, skorts, sports leggings, plain-coloured slacks or tracksuit bottoms.
- Men may wear plain-coloured slacks or plain-coloured tracksuit bottoms.
- Sleeveless tops, tee shirts or V-neck tee shirts **are not permitted**.
- The wearing of jeans, combats, etc. **are not permitted**.
- Large studs, straps or buckles **are not permitted**.

Note: Ranking Points will **not** be assigned if a bowler does not have their name printed on the back of their bowling shirt or does not adhere to the Dress Code above.

International Teams Dress Code

The Dress Code for International tournaments is as follows:

- **Men:** team shirt and tailored black trousers during practice and tournament.
- **Ladies:** team shirt and a mix of skirts, skorts or tailored slacks so long as all team members wear the same colour.

6. Charges

The following charges apply to the monthly Senior Touring League:

- €10.00 Annual Season Affiliation Fee
- €45.00 Tour League Entry Fee (includes €5.00 contribution towards the raffle)
- €00.00* Championships Entry Fee (*will be advised in advance of the event)
- €5.00 Championships Lineage per game
- €35.00 Men and €30.00 Ladies Grand Prix Entry Fee

Note: €4.70 per game per bowler is the current Lineage Fee paid by the Senior Sub-Committee to the various Bowling centres. (Touring League 5 games: €23.50 per bowler per event.) For the four events where Finals will be played an extra lineage cost of €94 per event is incurred and this €376 will be met from Senior Sub-Committee retained funds.

7. Raffle

During each monthly Senior Touring League event a Raffle will be held for the following prizes:

- 1st €50
- 2nd €25
- 3rd €10
- 4th Leisureplex* or TGI vouchers (*All Leisureplex Centres)

8. Scoring

Bowlers will bowl 5 games in each tour. The exception to this is the Senior National Championships.

The Senior Sub-Committee scorekeeper sorts the results for both Scratch and Handicap bowlers.

Note: Amendments cannot be made to a score sheet once the bowler has signed and submitted their score sheet to the Senior Sub-Committee.

9. Monthly Tour Prizes per Senior Monthly Event

- €60 for 1st – Ladies and Men
- €45 for 2nd – Ladies and Men
- €30 for 3rd – Ladies and Men
- €20 for 4th – Men only

10. Finals

For the 2023/24 Season **NO FINALS will be played in the following events:**

Senior Touring League 2023/2024 – NO FINALS		
Date	Event / No.	Centre
10-Sep-23	Touring League (1)*	Leisureplex, Blanchardstown
08-Oct-23	Touring League (2)*	Leisureplex, Coolock
03-Dec-23	Touring League (4)*	ALSAA
07-Apr-24	Touring League (9)*	ALSAA
28-Apr-24	Touring League (10)*	LeisureMax, Wexford

*Prizes will be awarded based on standings after the 5 games.

For the 2023/24 Season **FINALS will be played in the following events - see below for the process:**

Senior Touring League 2023/2024 - FINALS		
Date	Event / No.	Centre
12-Nov-23	Touring League (3)	Leisureplex, Charlestown
07-Jan-24	Touring League (5)	Leisureplex, Tallaght
18-Feb-24	Touring League (7)	Leisureplex, Charlestown
03-Mar-24	Touring League (8)	Leisureplex, Coolock

11. Determining the qualifiers for the monthly Event Finals

Men: the top 4 men in both Scratch and Handicap divisions play off in **knock-out** format

- Position 1 plays 4 and position 2 plays 3 in both divisions
- Winners then play each other in both divisions.

Ladies: the top 3 ladies in both Scratch and Handicap divisions play off in **stepladder** format

- Position 2 plays 3 and the winner plays position 1.

Tie Breaker (all events)

- Scratch: in the event of a tie 1 ball roll off until decided
- Handicap: in the event of a tie - 9th and 10th Frame roll-off (using 1/10th Handicap per frame) rounded down until decided.

12. Rosters and Oil Patterns

Before the new season commences, the Senior Sub-Committee meets with ALSAA, LeisureMax and Leisureplex to agree lineage, dates, and venues for the 10 Senior Touring League events.

Once agreed, the full list of new season dates and venues are notified to members on the first Event Notice of the season.

The Senior Sub-Committee agrees the oil pattern for each tour event with the Centre Managers.

A week before a Tour event (except the Championships) a WHATSAPP message is sent to bowlers requesting their availability for the upcoming event. Commentpicker.com/random number generator is used for the lane draw.

Senior Touring League 2023/2024		
Date	Event / No.	Centre
10-Sep-23	Touring League (1)	Leisureplex, Blanchardstown
08-Oct-23	Touring League (2)	Leisureplex, Coolock
12-Nov-23	Touring League (3)	Leisureplex, Charlestown
03-Dec-23	Touring League (4)	ALSAA
07-Jan-24	Touring League (5)	Leisureplex, Tallaght
25-28 Jan-2024	Senior National Championships (6)	TBD
18-Feb-24	Touring League (7)	Leisureplex, Charlestown
03-Mar-24	Touring League (8)	Leisureplex, Coolock
07-Apr-24	Touring League (9)	ALSAA
28-Apr-24	Touring League (10)	LeisureMax, Wexford
TBD	2023/2024 Grand Prix	TBD

13. Ranking Points

Ranking points are used to select bowlers for International Tournaments and are calculated based on a bowler's best 7 tours, and are rolled over from season to season. Ranking points will be allocated based on a bowler's final position following Qualification (unless otherwise stated), provided the relevant Senior Rules, including Dress Code, have been adhered to. The Ranking Points multipliers are listed below, the Senior National Championship is the **only** tournament awarding Double points.

Event	National Championships	Senior Tour
Multiplier	X 2.00	X 1.00
Position	Points	Points
1	60	30
2	56	28
3	52	26
4	48	24
5	44	22
6	40	20
7	38	19
8	36	18
9	34	17
10	32	16
11	30	15
12	28	14
13	26	13
14	24	12
15	22	11
16	20	10
17	18	9
18	16	8
19	14	7
20	12	6
21	10	5
22	8	4
23	6	3
Minimum	4	2

Note: when the Ranking Points sequence reaches the Minimum Points for each event, all bowlers finishing below this position (and meeting the criteria for earning Ranking Points) will receive the allocated Minimum Points for that particular tour. Tied positions are awarded at the points level for the higher position.

14. Grand Prix - Points

Grand Prix points are accumulated during the seasons 10 tour events (which includes the championships).

- To qualify for the Grand Prix a bowler must have played in a minimum of 6 tour events.
- The best 8 tour events count towards Grand Prix qualification.
- 8 men and 4 ladies from both Scratch and Handicap divisions qualify to play in the round robin finals format.
- Finalists will be taken from the Grand Prix Standings after the last tour in LeisureMax and are fixed on completion of this final tour.
- Where a Finalist is unable to play in the Grand Prix Finals the next eligible bowler (Scratch or Handicap) outside of the qualifiers will be invited to participate. In some cases, this may mean a Handicap finalist moving into the Scratch section as next in line.

Format:

- **Check-in time** : will be advised in advance of the finals.
- Ladies finalists play in first session followed by Gents finalists in the second session.
- 20 Bonus points are awarded to the winner of each round robin game and 10 points for a draw.
- **Note:** *please do not be late, alternate bowlers may be allocated in your place or a bye given when check-in closes.*

Prizes:

- Cash prizes are awarded to all eligible Grand Prix bowlers. The values of the prizes are calculated at end of the season depending on size of the available Prize Fund.

Shields are presented to each of the following Category winners:

- Mens Scratch and Handicap.
- Ladies Scratch and Handicap.
- Brian Moriarty Memorial Shield is awarded to the Gents Handicap winner.
- Joan Mulcahy **Memorial Shield** is awarded to the Ladies Handicap winner.

15. Lane information for venues for Senior Touring League 2023 - 2024

Venue	No. of Lanes
ALSAA Bowl, Dublin Airport	10
LeisureMax, Wexford	12
Leisureplex, Blanchardstown	18
Leisureplex, Charlestown	16
Leisureplex, Coolock	18
Leisureplex, Tallaght	20

16. Senior National Championships

The Senior National Championships are played in January each year. The Senior Sub-Committee issue Entry and Ball Registration forms prior to this event. Each bowler must submit their own individual signed entry form and ball registration forms.

Format:

- ❖ **Mixed Doubles:** 3 games:
 - no lane change.
 - results not included in all events Scratch totals.
 - High Game in Mixed Doubles (Mens and Ladies) counts towards overall High Game award.
- ❖ **Singles:** 5 games - move after every game.
- ❖ **Doubles:** 4 games - move after every game.
- ❖ **Trios:** 3 games - move after every game.
- ❖ **Masters:** the top Scratch 8 men and top 6 ladies play in this round robin event.
- ❖ **Bonus points:** 20 Bonus points are awarded to the winner of each game and 10 points for a draw.

Medals are awarded as follows:

Event	Awards	106 Medals
Mixed Doubles	Gold Silver Bronze Handicap 2 of each	6
	Gold Silver Bronze Scratch 2 of each	6
Mens Doubles	Gold Silver Bronze 2 of each	6
	Gold Silver Bronze Scratch 2 of each	6
Ladies Doubles	Gold Silver Bronze Handicap 2 of each	6
	Gold Silver Bronze Scratch 2 of each	6
Mens Singles	Gold Silver Bronze Handicap 1 of each	3
	Gold Silver Bronze Scratch 1 of each	3
Ladies Singles	Gold Silver Bronze Handicap 1 of each	3
	Gold Silver Bronze Scratch 1 of each	3
Mens Trios	Gold Silver Bronze Handicap 3 of each	9
	Gold Silver Bronze Scratch 3 of each	9
Ladies Trios	Gold Silver Bronze Handicap 3 of each	9
	Gold Silver Bronze Scratch 3 of each	9
High Game Men	1 Gold Scratch	1
High Game Ladies	1 Gold Scratch	1
All Events Men	Gold, Silver, Bronze	3
All Events Ladies	Gold Silver Bronze	3
Masters Men (8)	Gold, Silver, Bronze (larger size)	3
	Bronze	5
Masters Ladies (6)	Gold Silver Bronze (larger size)	3
	Bronze	3

Trophies are awarded as follows:

Plaque	Masters 1 st Men Scratch	Masters 1 st Ladies Scratch
Bernard Groves	Mens highest all events score incl. handicap (excluding all events)	Ladies highest all events score incl. handicap (excluding all events)
Larry O’Leary Trophy	Singles Scratch Men	
Elsbeth Gailey Crystal	Singles Scratch Ladies	

17. Bowling Equipment

USBC eliminated the use of balance holes effective August 1, 2020. With the elimination of balance holes, bowlers may have up to five (5) holes for gripping purposes and all gripping holes must be used on delivery.

The surface of a bowling ball may not be altered once competition begins. Competition is defined as when scoring begins.

Please ensure that your bowling ball(s) is/are correctly prepared before you participate in any ITBA event by consulting with your professional pro shop operator.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in loss of Grand Prix and ranking points.

Note: If property is damaged at a bowling centre while competing in a Senior Touring Event the venue Management may agree to repair damage free of charge, otherwise, a bowler will be liable to pay the cost of repair or replacement themselves.

18. Senior Bowler Performance Enhancing Programme

The Senior Sub-Committee have secured Grant funding of €1,800 for Seniors Academy coaching sessions. This subsidised programme will be rolled out to all Senior bowlers from September 2023 onwards. It is not designed to replace separate Senior Panel training sessions for International Competitions / Triple Crown.

All Senior bowlers will be given the opportunity to participate in this Performance Enhancing Programme. Some Senior bowlers may choose only one module such as Spare System while other may select more from the sample modules listed below:

- Equipment arsenal, ball changes
- Lane Reading
- SPARE SYSTEM THAT WORKS > 90% OF THE TIME
- Introduction to topology
- Biomechanics
- Mental Game training

Final details of the Programme are currently being modified with the ITBA Tutors and once finalised the Senior Sub-Committee will let you know the full details, including the subsidised bowler cost per session.

19. Anti-doping

All Senior bowlers must comply with Irish Anti-Doping Rules and with the World Anti-Doping Code. (WADA 2021 code). Let’s continue to be fully aware of our responsibilities and let’s continue to keep Irish Tenpin Bowling drug free. See: <https://www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping>.