



Senior Selection Process and Eligibility 2023-2024 (Including Appendix 1 – Senior Rules & Appendix 2 – Anti-Doping)

- In line with the ITBA Constitution, the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Senior Subcommittee, will appoint a Senior Selection Committee for the 2023-2024 season by 10th Oct 2023.
- The Executive Committee shall also, when and where necessary, appoint Team Managers, who shall assume complete control over any teams selected by the Senior Selection Committee.
- Where selection is necessary to determine which bowler(s) shall represent the country or the Association in any tournaments, such selection for Seniors, shall be the responsibility of the Senior Selection Committee. To comply with our Governance Policy, the criteria the Senior Selection Committee will agree to adopt, for selection for Senior Triple Crown and European Senior Championships in 2024, is shown in this document.
- The Senior Selection Committee shall submit to the Executive Committee for ratification a Panel of bowlers for both men and women, sufficient in number to be well in excess of those required for any team to be chosen and such Panel will be published, when duly ratified.
- To be eligible for a place on a Panel, a bowler must hold a valid Irish passport and be 50 in the calendar year of the relevant tournament.
- All Panels are forwarded to the Executive Committee for ratification.
- 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 Committee will adopt a selection process through the Senior Ranking System, which is operated on a rollover basis. Rankings are now rolling over from 2022/2023
- The system and points apply for both Men’s and Ladies Sections.
- Bowlers must be current members of the ITBA to qualify for ranking points.
- The Ranking Points multipliers are unchanged from those in the 2022/2023 season with the Senior National Championships the only tournament awarding Double points - see full list below.
- 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. **See Senior Rules attached in Appendix 1.**
- For the 2023/2024 season the Seniors are trialing monthly open Training Sessions for Top 12 Ranked bowlers from the start of the season. It will be the bowler’s responsibility to declare their interest to be considered for inclusion in the Senior Panel from which international events and Triple Crowns are chosen.



- Bowlers will be notified about this change through the following channels:
 - There will be a section in the application form for the 1st tournament of the season
 - Social Media Posts
 - ITBA Website Announcement

- Top 12 ranked bowlers male and female throughout the season will be invited to attend open training sessions.

- Panel bowlers are subject to review on the basis of performance by the Senior Selection Committee based off but not exclusively:
 - Practice sessions
 - National and International tournament participation
 - Leagues
 - Other competitive play

Ranking Tournaments – Season 2023/2024

Senior Touring League 2023/2024

Event	Month	Date	Venue	Start Time
1	September	10 th	Blanchardstown	TBA
2	October	8 th	Coolock	TBA
3	November	12 th	Charlestown	TBA
4	December	3 rd	Alsa	TBA
5	January	7 th	Tallaght	9.30am
6	January	25-28 th	To be decided	Ch/ships
7	February	18 th	Charlestown	TBA
8	March	3 rd	Coolock	TBA
9	April	7 th	Alsa	9am
10	April	28 th	Wexford	9.30am
GP finals	May	19 th or 26 th *	To be decided	

Depending on the date of the Senior Triple Crown Event

NOTES:

- The Rankings will be decided on points earned by a bowler in their best 7 out of the 10 Ranking Events.
- * Double Ranking points will be awarded for the Senior Championships.

Senior Triple Crown 2024

- The Senior Triple Crown (STC2024) is yet to be scheduled by the Presidium. Final dates and venue to follow. See eligibility criteria and cut-off dates for Exemption/Wildcard applications below.



Senior Panels for 2023-24

A bowler's best seven (7) results establish their position on the Ranking List, provided they have played at least 50% +1 (i.e. six (6)) Ranking Tournaments, which must include participation in the Senior Championships. Exceptions to this can be made in the case of bereavement, illness/injury or through the application for an Exemption/Wildcard (see below).

- A Senior Panel will consist of at least 10 bowlers plus any Wildcards or Exemption as outlined below:
 - The Top 10 bowlers taken from the Ranking list at the time of selection.
 - Two possible Wildcards or 1 Wildcard & 1 Exemption, available to bowlers outside the Top 10.
- Wildcards / Exemptions - Bowlers outside the Top 10, who feel they may be eligible for a Wildcard or Exemption may make a written application to the Senior Selection Committee stating their case and why they feel they are deserving of a place on the Panel / Team. The Senior Selection Committee will make a decision based on the merits of this application. There is no requirement for the two possible Wildcard or one Wildcard and one Exemption spots to be filled or any guarantee of an application being approved even if those spots are not filled. All applications will be reviewed fairly and objectively with the ultimate mission of achieving the best and strongest Senior Team possible.

Examples of reasons for which a Wildcard / Exemption can be applied for include:

- A bowler returning from injury and has displayed their quality in tournaments / leagues since their return.
- A bowler who competes in overseas tournaments, which limits their participation in domestic tournaments. A bowler would however have to show their support by playing in a minimum of three Ranking tournaments.
- A bowler living / working overseas, however a bowler would have to display their qualities in tournaments / leagues in the area where they currently reside.
- A bowler who joins the Senior Tour for the first time and demonstrates that their ability would be beneficial to a Senior Team.
- **Cut-off dates for Exemption & Wildcard applications**
 - **European Senior Championships 2024** - Friday 14th October 2023
 - **Senior Triple Crown 2024** – Friday 4th February 2024

Applications for wildcards/exemptions should be emailed to seniors@tenpinbowling.ie before the specified date and will be passed on to the senior selection committee. **Applications received after the cut-off date will not be considered.**



- The composition of the Senior Team for the **Triple Crown 2024** (6 Male & 6 Female bowlers) will be as follows:
- Following the Senior Championships (January 2024) the names of those who are eligible for selection for the Senior Triple Crown (i.e. those holding an Irish passport and who are in good standing with the Association) are passed to the Selectors.
 - Bowlers may apply for an Exemption/Wildcard for this event if they feel the criteria set out is applicable to them.
 - A bowler granted an Exemption by the Senior Selection Committee will automatically take a place on the Team.
 - A bowler granted a Wildcard by the Senior Selection Committee will be added to the Panel.
 - The closing date for Exemption/Wildcard applications is included above.
 - A Final Panel is then formed by the Selectors, sufficient in number to be well in excess of those required for any Team to be chosen. The Panel is then sent to the Executive for ratification.
 - It must be understood that being in the top six on the rankings entitles a bowler to a place on the panel (if they meet the necessary criteria or are accepted by being approved through a Wildcard) but does not automatically entitle them to a place on the Team.
 - The following will be taken into consideration for Team selection:
 - Position on ranking list
 - Average
 - Current form
 - Ability to be a "team player" both on and off the lanes
 - Willingness to accept coaching.

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

- The composition of Senior Team for the **European Senior Championships** of 4 Men & 4 Ladies, will be as follows:
- The seasons Senior Rankings as published on the ITBA Web at a cut-off date of minimum 3 months before the Tournament ETBF Registration confirmation submission date will determine those who are eligible for selection for the European Senior Championships 2024 Selection (i.e. those holding an Irish passport and who are in good standing with the Association) are passed to the Selectors.
 - A panel will be formed from positions 1 through 10 in the Senior Rankings.
 - Bowlers may apply for an Exemption/Wildcard for this event if they feel the criteria set out is applicable to them.



- A bowler granted an Exemption by the Senior Selection Committee will automatically take a place on the Team.
 - A bowler granted a Wildcard by the Senior Selection Committee will be added to the Panel.
 - The closing date for Exemption/Wildcard applications is included above.
 - A Final Panel is then formed by the Selectors, sufficient in number to be well in excess of those required for any Team to be chosen. The Panel is then sent to the Executive for ratification.
 - Until final details (format, registration, schedule, hotels, costs etc) of the European Senior Championships 2023 are published, the decision on participation, team selection, cut-off dates will have to be determined by the Selectors.
- Final selection and eligibility criteria for the **European Senior Championships 2025** will be published specifically on the ITBA Website and sent directly via Senior Newsletter to all registered Senior Members well in advance of any cut-off dates.



Ranking Points for Men and Ladies for 2023/2024 Season

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

- When this sequence reaches the Minimum Points outlined for each tournament, all players finishing below this position (and meeting the criteria for earning Ranking Points) will receive the allocated Minimum Points for that particular tournament.
- Tied positions are awarded at the points level for the higher position.

Senior Group Sub-committee
2nd September 2023



Appendix 1

Senior Rules

- All bowlers must be current General members of the ITBA prior to the start of their squad in order to receive ranking points.
- All bowlers must be current General members of the ITBA prior to leaving for participation in any international event e.g. European Championships, World Championships, ATC.
- In order to earn ranking points towards a Senior panel, bowlers must adhere to the following dress code requirements when in competition:
 - A bowler 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 shirts with large, rounded collar). Sleeveless tops, tee shirts and V-neck tee shirts are not permitted.
 - The wearing of jeans, combats, etc. Is not permitted.
 - Men may wear trousers or tracksuit bottoms.
 - Ladies may wear trousers, tracksuit bottoms, sports leggings, skirts, shorts or skorts.
 - No large studs, straps or buckles are permitted.
- The above dress code requirements also apply during official practice sessions, with the exception of the wearing of your name on your shirt.
- All Senior bowlers must have their equipment properly checked for compliance with World Bowling specifications for weight, balance & hardness prior to leaving for any international tournament.
- Expectations of Senior Panel Members and Team Members:
 - Priority is to be given to Senior Training Sessions, Coaching Sessions and meetings.
 - Determination & focus to become a World Class bowler, representing Ireland at the highest International Levels.
- When on Senior duty:
 - The Team Manager's decision on all matters is final.
 - Bowlers should behave in a manner befitting their position as Senior team members.
 - Bowlers are not only representing the team but also themselves, their association and country.
 - Respect should be shown to the Team Manager.
 - Respect should be shown to your teammates.
 - Respect should be shown to opposing bowlers and officials.
- It is the bowler's responsibility to ensure compliance with all the Rules and Regulations. If a bowler is in doubt, they should contact a Senior Sub-committee member for clarification.
- Any Rules listed in subsequent Appendices below are in addition to the General Rules of the ITBA.



Appendix 2

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 World Bowling 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 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 their 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 Sport Ireland if necessary;
- applying to 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 Sport Ireland 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 anti-doping 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 organizations 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 Wallet Cards** were circulated with the AGM 2022 documents. In the Anti-Doping Update for the AGM 2022, the ITBA Anti-Doping Officer again stressed:

“It is imperative that all bowlers familiarise themselves with its contents. The 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”

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 2019, the ITBA Anti-Doping Officer highlighted:

“I would particularly remind bowlers participating in European Tenpin Bowling Federation (ETBF) or World Bowling (WB) 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 World Bowling or one of its member organisations (including 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.