
Irish Tenpin Bowling Association /
Northern Ireland Tenpin Bowling Federation



Senior Sub-committee
Bowlers Handbook
2024–2025 Season

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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 ITBA Constitution and the published “National Tour Rules & Regulations and Selection Criteria 2024-2025 season”.

Senior bowlers looking for more information or to follow up on issues can talk to a Senior Sub-committee member or email seniors@tenpinbowling.ie.

1. Introduction

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

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

- It is each bowlers’ responsibility to familiarise themselves with the Format, Rules and Eligibility for the Monthly Tour events, Grand Prix and to check the ITBA WEB page www.tenpinbowling.ie under the Seniors tab for updates.
- Balance holes in bowling balls are no longer permitted.
- Mobile phones must be switched to silent mode during play.
- All bowlers must comply with Irish Anti-Doping Rules and with the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA 2021 code). Let us continue to be fully aware of our responsibilities and let us continue to keep Irish Tenpin Bowling drug free. Reference: <https://www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping>
- To comply with ITBA/EBF/IBF regulations, bowlers are **not** permitted to smoke (or use vaping products) during a tournament, i.e., a bowler is not permitted to smoke while waiting for others to complete their games.
- Venue Management may agree to repair, free of charge, bowling equipment that is damaged while competing in a Senior Tour, if not, you will be liable to pay your own cost of repair or replacement.

All Bowlers have signed an ITBA Membership form agreeing to be bound by the following:

1. Rules of the Association and accept that this could include Anti-Doping tests carried out by Sport Ireland.
2. Members’ Code of Ethics and Social Media Policy - both of which will be updated from time to time in line with the requirements and development of the Association. Reference: https://tenpinbowling.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/PP_2019-ITBA-Social-Media-Policy-September-2019.pdf
3. Acknowledge that they have read, understand, and accept the General Code of Conduct and agree to be bound by the areas set out in the General Code of Conduct while participating or attending the sport in any capacity. Reference: <https://tenpinbowling.ie/executive/policies-procedures/general-code-of-conduct/>

2. Post 2024-2025 Senior Meeting

A post-season meeting with Senior bowlers will be held to review the 2024-2025 season and to discuss any proposals for the 2025-2026 season.

3. Senior Sub-committee

The members of the Senior Sub-committee are:

Members	Role
Áine Lebioda	Chairperson / Senior Rep on ITBA Executive
Kevin Horton	Secretary
Ray Bergin	Treasurer
Paul McCauley	Member
Pat Holmes	Member / ESBC Contact and Fundraiser
Mark Higson	Member / Scorekeeper
Stephen Ekermans	Member / Scorekeeper

4. Schedules 2024-2025

Senior Touring League 2024-2025				
Date	Event No.	Event	Ranking Category	Centre
06-Oct-24	1	Touring League – Finals	Bronze	LeisurePlex, Tallaght
10-Nov-24	2	Touring League – No Finals *	Silver	LeisurePlex, Coolock
24-Nov- 24	3	Touring League – No Finals *	Silver	ALSAA Bowl (2 squads)
12-Jan-25	4	Touring League – Finals	Gold	Dundonald International Ice Bowl
16-Feb-25	5	Touring League – No Finals *	Bronze	LeisurePlex, Charlestown
09-Mar-25	6	Touring League – Finals (to be decided)	Gold	LeisurePlex, Coolock
13-Apr-25	7	Touring League – Finals	Silver	Dundonald International Ice Bowl
08-11- May-25	8	29 th Senior National Championships	Gold	ALSAA Bowl (may be amended to two weekend due to numbers)
25-May-25	9	Touring League Grand Prix		To be assigned

* Prizes will be awarded based on standings after 5 games

2025 Senior Triple Crown (STC)			
Date From	Date To	Centre	Selection
27-Mar-25	31-Mar-25	Stroud Bowl, England	ITBA Executive

England published STC Bulletin 1 and due to deadlines the Senior Sub-committee have reserved 7 twin rooms in the Holiday Inn, Barnwood for 12 bowlers, 1 Manager and 1 Coach. Room Rate: £120 per night.

2025 ESBC			
Website: https://www.esbc-europe.eu/esbc/esbcinformation/			
Date From	Date To	Centre	
20-June-25	29-June-25	Tali Bowl, Helsinki, Finland	Pat Holmes, Senior Sub-committee

2025 IBF World Seniors Championships			
Website: https://bowling.sport/2025-ibf-world-seniors-championships https://bowling.sport/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-WSrC-Bulletin-1.pdf			
Date From	Date To	Centre	
13-October-25	24-October-25	Reno, Nevada, USA	Senior Sub-committee

5. Eligibility

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

A valid Irish passport **or** compliance with the recently amended ITBA Constitution (2024 AGM) for non-Irish passport holders is required to qualify for a place on the Senior Panel. Reference below the recent change to the ITBA Constitution:

From: Sub-Section 5.6.4 (b) Selection Committee Regulations

Panellists must be current members of the ITBA and hold a current Irish Passport.

To: Sub-Section 5.6.4 (b) Selection Committee Regulations

- (i) Panellists must be current members of the ITBA and hold a current Irish Passport or
- (ii) Be non-Irish passport holder, resident in Ireland at time of application for selection for a minimum of 2 years and must not have represented any other country at international level within the last 2 years.

Senior teams and individuals required to be selected for “top-flight” international competition shall be chosen from those bowlers named as Panel members to be published in February 2025.

Note: all current ITBA memberships have been extended from 30th September 2024 to 31st December 2024. Cross Border membership now qualifies for Ranking points.

6. Senior Selection

The National Tour Rules & Regulations and Selection Criteria 2024-2025 season is available on the ITBA website at the following link: <https://tenpinbowling.ie/executive/>. (Please note that this document contains 14 pages, and you may not be able to view the entire document on your mobile device.)

7. WHATSAPP ITBA Senior Group

The ITBA Senior WhatsApp group was originally set-up to enable the Senior Sub-committee to communicate with bowlers with regard to bowling availability, scheduling, changes in scheduling, results, etc., totally related to bowling. The Seniors WhatsApp group should **only** be used for what it was intended for.

Your attention is drawn to the ITBA Social Media Policy document reference:

https://tenpinbowling.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/PP_2019-ITBA-Social-Media-Policy-September-2019.pdf

8. Handicaps

The Senior Sub-committee has approved the following calculation for Handicaps:

- Men: Base 220, minus current average x 80% = handicap (Note: Event 1 and 2: Base 200)
- Ladies: Base 200, minus current average x 80% = 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.

9. Dress Code

Failure to comply with the following dress code will result in zero ranking points for the attended Tour event. These rules apply throughout the 2024-2025 season, in all ITBA affiliated events, including official training sessions.

- Athlete must wear a bowling shirt whether it be a collared polo, new style of bowling shirt with large, rounded collar, or dye sublimated, the definition of this is a shirt directly affiliated within the Tenpin Bowling Industry. The bowling shirt must not contain any logos which compromise the integrity of the ITBA.

Note: it is no longer a requirement for bowlers to have their full name or surname clearly visible in either print or embroidery on the back of a collared shirt or sports shirt. However, if you wish, you can continue to wear your bowling shirts with your name embroidered on the back.

- Participants may wear plain-coloured - dress slacks, plain coloured tracksuit bottoms, sports leggings, tailored golf shorts, skirts or skorts. Length of skirt, skorts or shorts must be below the participant's fingertips when they are standing, and their arms are hanging down at their side. Length of skirt, skorts, and shorts MUST be long enough to not see your bottom area (even if covered by under shorts) at any time, standing or bent over.
- Prohibited items include the wearing of denim jeans, combats, sleeveless shirts, t-shirts or V-neck t-shirts, large, studded belts, straps or buckles and street shoes.

International Teams Dress Code: The Dress Code for International tournaments are 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 during practice and tournament.

10. Financial Reporting

Summarised below are the Senior Financial Accounts to 31st Dec 2023, audited as part of overall ITBA Audit.

Income €35,727 – Main items include Senior Championships and Seniors Monthly Tours (€20,925), Senior Triple Crown (€5,957), Grants Triple Crown and International Competition (€5,700) and Fundraising & Sponsorship (€3,145)

Expenditure €34,606 – Main items include costs Domestic events (€22,000) and Senior Triple Crown (€11,102) and European Seniors Bowling Championship (€1,200).

The Senior Sub-committee provide the ITBA Executive with a copy of the monthly Bank Statement and monthly Finance Report detailing all receipts and payments together with a summary of Monthly Touring events / Senior Triple Crown, etc.

As at the end November 2024 the balance of the Senior Sub-committee bank account is **€4,362.26**. This includes €650 support for the 2025 Gold/Silver Senior Ranking events, €2,834.50 Grand Prix Prize Fund 2025 and €877.76 surplus funds available.

An interim report on the status of the Senior Sub-committee's finances will be circulated in early February 2025 when a Draft Unaudited Financial Statement for the year to 31st Dec 2024 will be available. In addition, the Grant for the Senior Triple Crown in March 2025 will also be known. (Estimate €4,000)

A Financial Report will also be furnished to Senior bowlers attending the proposed post 2024-2025 season meeting to discuss the 2025-2026 season.

11. Charges

The following charges will apply for the 2024-2025 season:

- €10.00 Annual Season Affiliation Fee which is allocated to the 2025 Senior Grand Prix prize fund

Touring Events

- €45.00 Tour Entry Fee (includes €5.00 contribution towards the monthly raffle)

Note: €4.80 lineage per game, 5 games = €24, an increase of €0.10, in the current Lineage Fee paid by the Senior Sub-committee to the various Bowling Centres.

- **Dundonald International Ice Bowl Tour:** entry fee is €40.00 (includes €5.00 contribution towards the monthly raffle) payment **must** be in sterling (cash or credit card) to permit payment of lineage to the Bowling Centre.

Note: €3.00 lineage per game, 5 games = €15 per bowler per event – surplus funds will be allocated to Senior Grand Prix prize fund

Senior National Championships

- €5.00 lineage per game
- €00.00* Championships Entry Fee (*will be advised in advance of the event)

Grand Prix Entry Fee

- €35.00 Men and €30.00 Ladies

12. Registering for a Monthly Tour

On the Saturday-week prior to a tour event (except the Championships) a WHATSAPP link to an on-line app will be made available requesting bowlers to use the link to register their availability/non-availability for the upcoming tour. Deadline times/dates for submission will be provided when issuing the notice for the upcoming event.

Note: to ensure the efficient collection of Tour entries general posting of messages on the Seniors WHATSAPP group will be restricted during the registration period.

Should you have queries relating to Senior bowling please contact seniors@tenpinbowling.ie and a member of the Seniors Sub-committee will address your query.

13. Lane Assignments

Commentpicker.com/random number generator is used for the lane draw assignments. The lane assignments will be issued no later than the Friday prior to the upcoming tournament.

14. Oil Pattern

The Oil Pattern for the upcoming tournament will be issued one week prior to the Tour event.

The Coaching Sub-committee agrees the Oil Pattern for each tour event based on the category rankings: Bronze, Silver or Gold.

The Coaching Sub-committee directly advises the relevant Bowling Centre of the lane pattern one week in advance of the Tour event.

15. Tour Scoring

Bowlers will bowl **5** games in each tour. The exception to this is the Senior National Championships. The Senior Sub-committee scorekeeper(s) sorts the results for both Scratch and Handicap bowlers. Following this, the score and result are announced.

16. Finals Format

In the event of a tied score for Finals qualification placings the highest last game decides placing.

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

- Position 4 plays 3 and winner plays position 2 and winner plays position 1.

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

- Position 3 plays 2 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.

17. Prizes

The monthly Prize Fund amounts to €6,060 over the 7 scheduled Ranked events (excluding Senior National Championships). Prize Funds for the first event (Oct 2024) was increased from €580 to €800. The new Senior Sub-committee has also increased the Prize Fund for Gold and Silver events (without an increase in Entry Fee) from support of €950, received from the Executive.

Place	Scr Men's	Hcap Men's	Scr Ladies	Hcap Ladies	Total (€)
1st	£70	£70	£70	£70	£280
2nd	£55	£55	£55	£55	£220
3rd	£35	£35	£35	£35	£140
4th	£20	£20			£40
Event 4 - Dundonald Senior Tour GOLD Prize Fund					£680

Note: Prizes for the Dundonald International Ice Bowl Tours will be paid in sterling and the value of same will be published in the Tour notice prior to the event. Gold Event 4 is summarised above:

SENIOR MONTHLY 2024-2025 - BRONZE PRIZE FUND					
Place	Scr Men's	Hcap Men's	Scr Ladies	Hcap Ladies	Total (€)
1st	60	60	60	60	240
2nd	45	45	45	45	180
3rd	30	30	30	30	120
4th	20	20			40
Monthly Senior Tour BRONZE Prize Fund					580

SENIOR MONTHLY 2024-2025 - SILVER PRIZE FUND					
Place	Scr Men's	Hcap Men's	Scr Ladies	Hcap Ladies	Total (€)
1st	75	75	75	75	300
2nd	55	55	55	55	220
3rd	40	40	40	40	160
4th	25	25			50
Monthly Senior Tour SILVER Prize Fund					730

SENIOR MONTHLY 2024/2025 - GOLD PRIZE FUND					
Place	Scr Men's	Hcap Men's	Scr Ladies	Hcap Ladies	Total (€)
1st	85	85	85	85	340
2nd	65	65	65	65	260
3rd	45	45	45	45	180
4th	25	25			50
Monthly Senior Tour GOLD Prize Fund					830

18. Ranking Points

Ranking points are used to select bowlers for International Tournaments. The National Ranking Tour Rules & Regulations and Selection Criteria 2024-2025 are available on the following link: <https://tenpinbowling.ie/executive/>. 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 based upon Gold, Silver and Bronze category lane patterns.

- In each event, points will be awarded to both ladies and men. Points will be awarded to an athlete's scratch finishing position after qualification games.
- Where re-entry tournaments are utilised for ranking events, an athlete's first entry will be used for ranking position and points. Senior re-entry tournaments are not scheduled in the 2024-2025 season.
- If there is a combined division, women and men will be awarded points in relation to their final qualifying position relative to the other athletes of the same gender. Senior combined divisions are not scheduled in the 2024-2025 season.
 1. Points in Bronze Tournaments will be awarded to the top 50 of each gender according to the following list.
 2. Points in Silver Tournaments will be awarded to the top 50 of each gender according to the following list times two.
 3. Points in Gold Tournaments will be awarded to the top 50 of each gender according to the following list times three.

19. Ranking Points Table

Points to be awarded per Tour Event Type						
SENIOR TOURING LEAGUE 2024-2025						
Position		Bronze		Silver		Gold
1		80		160		240
2		75		150		225
3		70		140		210
4		66		132		198
5		63		126		189
6		60		120		180
7		57		114		171
8		55		110		165
9		53		106		159
10		51		102		153
11		50		100		150
12		49		98		147
13		38		76		114
14		37		74		111
15		36		72		108
16		35		70		105
17		34		68		102
18		33		66		99
19		32		64		96
20		31		62		93
21		30		60		90
22		29		58		87
23		28		56		84
24		27		54		81
25		26		52		78
26		25		50		75
27		24		48		72

28	23	46	69
29	22	44	66
30	21	42	63
31	20	40	60
32	19	38	57
33	18	36	54
34	17	34	51
35	16	32	48
36	15	30	45
37	14	28	42
38	13	26	39
39	12	24	36
40	11	22	33
41	10	20	30
42	9	18	27
43	8	16	24
44	7	14	21
45	6	12	18
46	5	10	15
47	4	8	12
48	3	6	9
49	2	4	6
50	1	2	3

Note: Tied positions are awarded by adding the points for the tied positions and dividing by the number of tied bowlers, for example: Bronze Event two bowlers tie for 7th position.

- 7th and 8th place = 57 + 55 = 112
- divided by 2 = 56 points for both tied bowlers

20. Grand Prix Points

Grand Prix ranking points are accumulated during the seasons 8 Tour events, which includes the Senior National Championships.

- To qualify for the Grand Prix a bowler must have played in a minimum of **5 of the 8** monthly Tour events.
- The best **7 of 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 on completion of the Senior National Championships - final Tour ranking event.
- 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.

21. Grand Prix Format

- **Check-in time:** will be advised in advance of the finals.
- Ladies' finalists play in first session followed by the 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 each qualifying bowlers plays the absent bowlers' blind score.*

22. Grand Prix Prize Fund

Cash prizes are awarded to all eligible Grand Prix bowlers.

Due to prudent financial management of the outgoing Senior Sub-committee, a Prize Fund of €3,250* will apply for the 2024-2025 Grand Prix Final in May 2025. *Subject to an average of 42 bowlers playing in the 7 monthly Tour events (excluding the Senior National Championships).

SENIOR GRAND PRIX 2025 - PRIZE FUND					
Place	Scr Men's	Hcap Men's	Scr Ladies	Hcap Ladies	Total (€)
1st	190	190	190	190	760
2nd	165	165	165	165	660
3rd	135	135	135	135	540
4th	120	120	120	120	480
5th	105	105			210
6th	100	100			200
7th	100	100			200
8th	100	100			200
Grand Prix Prize Fund 2025					3,250
Men's Prize Fund					2,030
Ladies Prize Fund					1,220

23. Grand Prix Shields

Shields are presented to each of the following Category winners:

- **Men's** 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

24. 29th Senior National Championships

The Senior Sub-committee will issue Entry and Ball Registration forms prior to this event. Each bowler must submit their own individual entry form and ball registration forms.

Format:

- **Mixed Doubles:** 3 games:
 - no lane change
 - results not included in All Events Scratch or Handicap totals (No Grand Prix or Ranking)
 - High Game in Mixed Doubles (Men 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
Men's 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
Men's 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
Men's 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 1st Men's Scratch	Masters 1st Ladies Scratch
Bernard Groves Trophy	Men's highest all events score incl. handicap (excluding all events qualifiers)	Ladies highest all events score incl. handicap (excluding all events)
Larry O'Leary Trophy	Singles Scratch Men	
Elsbeth Gailey Crystal	Singles Scratch Ladies	

25. Bowler Improvement Sessions

The Coaching Sub-committee has secured commitment from sufficient coaches who have completed EBF Coaching Course.

The sessions are free until the end of 2024 and are for all ages and abilities.

Monthly sessions from July to Dec 2024 will be FREE and from January 2025 there will be a nominal charge of €10.

Bowlers must pre-register for sessions, to allow the Coaching Sub-committee book sufficient lanes.

The monthly dates for the Bowler Improvement Sessions are published on the ITBA website in the Classic Calendar.

26. Lane information for Senior Touring League 2024-2025

Venue	No. of Lanes
ALSAA Bowl, Dublin Airport	10
Dundonald International Ice Bowl	20
LeisurePlex, Blanchardstown	18
LeisurePlex, Charlestown	16
LeisurePlex, Coolock	18
LeisurePlex, Tallaght	20