



## 60th National Scratch Championships 2026

*Official Rules & Conditions of Entry*

**14th – 17th May 2026**

<b>Event</b>	60th National Scratch Championships 2026
<b>Governing Body</b>	Tenpin Ireland (TI)
<b>Tournament Dates</b>	Thursday 14th – Sunday 17th May 2026
<b>All Events Final</b>	Sunday 17th May 2026
<b>Venue</b>	Leisureplex Charlestown
<b>Tournament Manager</b>	Barbara Sloan
<b>Tournament Committee</b>	Barbara Sloan, Adrienne Dunne, Aine Lebioda
<b>Entry Closing Date</b>	Wednesday, 6th May 2026
<b>Open Lane Draw</b>	Friday, 8th May 2026
<b>Lane Assignments Published</b>	Sunday, 10th May 2026 — TI website
<b>Entry Method</b>	Online only (postal, downloaded forms and telephone entries are NOT accepted)
<b>Eligibility</b>	Current TI members aged 16 years or over on the date of participation

### 1. Participation & Eligibility

Entry is open to all current Tenpin Ireland (TI) general members who are 16 years of age or over on the date of participation, on submission of a completed Entry Form.

Under-18 bowlers are not eligible for the Champion of Champions international representation (see Section 8).

### 2. Entry Form & Entry Process

All entrants must complete an Entry Form. All requested information must be given. Entry must be completed online — postal, downloaded forms or telephone entries will NOT be accepted.

- a. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, 6th May 2026.
- b. EVERY bowler intending to play in ANY event must fill in a separate Entry Form. Being named on another bowler's entry is not sufficient.
- c. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to reschedule, add or delete squads, and amalgamate Men's and Ladies squads for some events, to ensure the smooth running of the Championships.
- d. It is your responsibility to check your squad and registration times.

- e. Late entries will be wait-listed. Bowlers will be allocated places in squads as they become available where (i) squad balancing is required, (ii) lane availability permits, or (iii) a withdrawal/cancellation occurs. Entries received after the closing date may not be included in the Open Draw — their lane assignments will be allocated by the Tournament Committee.
- f. The Tournament Committee takes no responsibility for forming teams or finding members to fill teams. Gaps in teams (doubles/trios/team event) will be filled, where possible, by amalgamating incomplete teams after the 6th May 2026 entry closing date. At its sole discretion, the Committee may add bowler(s) to any event to fill teams/squads. Once teams are published, NO CHANGES WILL BE PERMITTED.
- g. It is the responsibility of each entrant to ensure the information on the Entry Form and the Ball Registration Form is correct. Where incorrect information is submitted, the individual and, where applicable, the team concerned, will be liable to disqualification from any event affected.
- h. Individuals who find that they cannot play at their scheduled time are expected to notify the Tournament Committee to avoid the potential of disciplinary action.
- i. To play, including Mixed Doubles, each entrant must wear a polo or dye-sublimated bowling shirt affiliated with the Tenpin Bowling Industry. It is no longer a requirement to have first name and surname on the back.

### 3. Ball Registration

Maximum of 6 balls per bowler. All entrants must complete, sign and return the Ball Registration Form when registering in their first event.

All bowling balls listed must conform to the latest specifications for weight, balance and hardness as set out in the USBC Approved Bowling Ball List. Spot checks will take place and illegal bowling balls will result in disqualification of the bowler.

**Slow Oil-Absorbing High-Performance Equipment (2026):** Please pay particular attention to the recently introduced regulation. Events where only 78D slow oil-absorbing high-performance balls are allowed — and the list of ineligible balls — can be found on the USBC National Tournament Ineligible Ball List: [USBC Ineligible Ball List \(PDF\)](#).

Ball surface adjustments are allowed only before competition (practice period).

- a. It is prohibited to use chemicals, solvents, or other methods to change the hardness of the ball surface after it is manufactured. The 78D hardness rule applies.
- b. The use of abrasive materials (including sandpaper and scuff pads) or other substances to alter the surface of the ball is allowed up until the end of practice.
- c. The use of talcum powder, open rosin bags/grip sacs, or similar substances, presents a serious hazard and will not be permitted in the bowling area, on approaches, shoes or balls.

### 4. Squad Assignments & Registration

An open lane draw will be held on Friday, 8th May 2026, with lane assignments published on the TI website on Sunday, 10th May 2026. No alterations will be allowed without prior consultation with the Tournament Committee, and only in extreme circumstances will exceptions be made.

**Registration on the day:** It is your responsibility to register on time. Registration for each squad opens 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time and closes 10 minutes before the scheduled starting time. Bowlers will not be permitted to register or play after the closing time.

### 5. Competition Format

Events: Singles, Doubles, Trios, Team Event and Mixed Doubles.

Bowlers competing in Singles, Doubles, Trios and Team Event are automatically entered in All Events — total pinfall is carried forward.

### 6. National Champions — All Events Playoff

**Date: Sunday, 17th May 2026.**

- a. Individuals who have entered Singles, Doubles, Trios and Team Event will automatically have their totals computed to establish their standing in the All Events. Pinfall will be carried forward.
- b. The top 6 Men will bowl a Round Robin Final (5 games). 20 bonus points for a win, 10 bonus points for a draw. The bowler with the highest total pinfall (plus bonus points) will be declared the winner.
- c. The top 4 Ladies will bowl a Round Robin Final (3 games). 20 bonus points for a win, 10 bonus points for a draw. The bowler with the highest total pinfall (plus bonus points) will be declared the winner.

## 7. Prizes & Awards

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded for Singles, Doubles, Trios, Team Event and Mixed Doubles. The winner of the All Events will hold the Jack Murphy Trophy (Men) for one year and the ITBA Perpetual Trophy (Ladies) for one year.

**Championship Record Awards:** A sponsorship prize of €100 will be awarded for each new Championship record. (Excludes All Events, which reverts to the Round Robin format used in the 13th–25th National Championships between 1978 and 1990.)

## 8. International Representation

Both the Men's and Ladies' winners of the All Events will represent Ireland in the **European Championship of Champions**, in **Ankara, Turkey, 28th September – 4th October 2026**, each receiving **€1,100** towards entry fees and costs, should they take up the invitation to represent Ireland at this prestigious tournament. If a winner cannot or does not accept the prize, it will be awarded to the next eligible bowler in line.

## 9. Ranking Points

Ranking points are awarded based on finishing position as documented in the Team Ireland Eligibility and Selection Criteria 2026 document on the TI website: [www.tenpinbowling.ie/teamireland.html](http://www.tenpinbowling.ie/teamireland.html).

## 10. Tournament Dress Code

**Shirts** — Polo or dye-sublimated bowling shirt affiliated with the Tenpin Bowling Industry. Logos must not compromise the Association's integrity.

**Bottoms** — Plain-coloured dress slacks, tracksuit bottoms, sports leggings, tailored golf shorts, skirts or skorts. Skirts, skorts and shorts must be below fingertip length and provide full coverage.

**Prohibited items** — Denim, jeans, combats, sleeveless shirts, T-shirts, large studded belts, straps, buckles and street shoes.

Bowlers must otherwise comply with the Team Ireland dress code, available on the TI website — Selection Criteria 2025/2026.

## 11. Playing Rules & Conduct

The General Playing Rules of Tenpin Ireland apply at all times, in addition to the following rules:

- a. Tied positions will be decided by the highest last game.
- b. To comply with IBF / EBF / Sport Ireland Anti-Doping rules, competitors will not be permitted to smoke or consume alcohol during competition. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.
- c. The Tournament Committee will permit no unreasonable delay in the progress of any game. Should a competitor refuse to proceed with a shot/game after being directed to do so, that game will be forfeited.
- d. No coaching is permitted during Championship play.
- e. Mobile phones must be turned OFF during squads.
- f. The consumption of food or drink is not permitted in the bowlers' area.

- g. Bowlers must comply with instructions issued by Lane Marshalls. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.
- h. All bowlers / team Captains must sign the official score sheets on completion of each squad. Unsigned score sheets may result in the loss of those scores.
- i. Any individual whose conduct is derogatory or not in the best interest of the sport, on or off the lanes, during the entire period of the Championships, may be disqualified from the tournament and will be reported to the National Governing Body.

## **12. Protests, Appeals & Committee Authority**

Protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Committee within 30 minutes after the completion of the game in which the infraction occurred.

Decisions made by the Tournament Committee during the Championships are final and binding on all parties. The Committee may take any action necessary to ensure fair play, maintain schedule integrity and protect the reputation of the Championships.

## **13. Health, Safety & Anti-Doping**

All competitors must comply with Sport Ireland Anti-Doping regulations. Reporting mechanisms are available via the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit.

## **14. General Conditions**

Participation in the Championships implies acceptance of all Championship Rules and TI policies (Code of Conduct, Ethics, GDPR).

These Championships are sanctioned and governed by Tenpin Ireland (TI) and conducted under the TI General Playing Rules, IBF / EBF rules (where applicable) and Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Regulations.

*Tournament Committee — 17th April 2026*