EBF Rules for Championships and approved International Tournaments.

These Rules consists of a rules for the European Championships, a common rules and special rules for each various Championship, also for the approved international tournaments hosted within Europe and finally rules for awards that EBF can present. It is divided into the following 7 chapters:

3. Common championship rules
4. European Championships for men and women
5. European Championships for youth
6. European Championships for seniors / grand seniors
7. European Champions of Champions
8. Approved international tournaments
9. Awards

Note

In the EBF Rules, the masculine gender used in relation to any physical person (for example, names such as member, official, participant, competitor, athlete, referee, member of a jury, or pronouns such as he, they, them) shall, unless there is a specific provision to the contrary, be understood as including the feminine gender.

3. Common championship rules

3.1 EBF Championships

3.1.1 The official EBF Championships are as follows:
- a) European Men Championships (EMC)
- b) European Women Championships (EWC)
- c) European Youth Championships (EYC)
- d) European Senior Championships (ESC)
- e) European Grand Senior Championships (EGSC)
- f) European Championships of Champions (ECC)

3.1.2 The specific rules, which apply to each championship, are specified in Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 respectively.

3.1.3 The applicable universal playing rules are found in Chapter 1 of IBF´s Playing Rules. The equipment specifications are found in chapters 2-4 of IBF´s Playing Rules.

3.2 Championship bids

3.2.1 Four times per year, preferably early each quarter, a bid round will be initiated by the EBF Presidium.

3.2.2 Each bid round will include championships to be conducted in the actual year plus the following three years, where no hosts have been appointed yet.

3.2.3 Applications to host one of EBF's championships can always be submitted by member federations and in addition by bowling centres, public entities, public organizations or companies as decided by the EBF Presidium from bid round to bid round.

3.2.4 If the EBF Presidium prefers to award the hosting of a championship to another entity, than a national member federation, the member federation in which jurisdiction the championship might be held, must approve the selection before the final awarding takes place.

3.2.5 In cases where a member federation objects to the selection made by the EBF Presidium, the member federation must motivate the objection.

3.3 Applications to host championships

3.3.1 In order to be considered for selection the application must meet all requirements specified in the current issue of the Championship Application.

3.3.2 The required fee for filing an application, as specified in 2.1.3, shall be transferred to the EBF bank account when the application is submitted.

3.3.3 When the deadline for submitting applications is passed, the EBF Presidium will evaluate the championship application and, in case additional information is needed, the applicants will be requested to submit such information. In some cases the EBF Presidium might decide to perform an evaluation visit to collect more details about the organisation, the bowling centre, the hotel(s), and any other relevant matters of concern before the selection of the host can be made. Applications not meeting the requirements will be rejected and the application fee will be reimbursed.

3.3.4 The EBF Presidium decides, in agreement with the host, on the dates for the championship. The dates shall be chosen in a way that they, as far as possible, do not interfere with the dates of other important international events. The Presidium's decision cannot be appealed.

3.4 Financial commitments of the host

3.4.1 Transportation expenses for participating teams and EBF officials
- a) Airport pick-up and return
- b) Transportation between designated hotels and the bowling centre as of the last day of arrival and up to the day of departure
- c) Pre-arranged schedules must be prepared for the transportation
- d) If a participating member federation chooses to stay at a hotel other than that/those reserved by the host, the host has no obligation to cover the expenses for transportation to and from such a hotel

3.4.2 Bowling expenses
- a) Lane fees for the official practice
- b) Lane fees for all events of the championships

3.4.3 Expenses related to ceremonies
- a) Opening ceremony
- b) Medal presentations
- c) Farewell banquet (optional)

3.4.4 Expenses for meeting facilities
- a) Team Managers meeting
- b) EBF Congress (if any)
- c) EBF Presidium and Committee meetings (if any)

3.4.5 Expenses for media facilities
- a) A comfortable room for accredited media representatives
- b) Sufficient space, a table and a chair for each accredited media representative
- c) A fast speed line for Internet connections to be shared between the media representatives
- d) At least one printer
- e) Other equipment as decided by the host

3.4.6 Other expenses
- a) Championship administration costs

b) Designing and producing a championship logo
c) Badges of accreditation
d) Medical personnel on call
e) Security personnel

3.4.7 It is the obligation of the host to transfer fees to be paid to EBF latest one week after the conclusion of the championships.

3.5 Agreement

3.5.1 Following the selection of a host, the Secretary General will initiate a written agreement with duly authorised officials of the host and any other necessary parties.

3.5.2 The agreement will be prepared in accordance with the standard form shown in the current issue of the Championship Agreement. Any additional commitments shall be shown in appendices to the agreement.

3.5.3 Failure to sign the agreement within a reasonable time will be the cause for the EBF Presidium to consider the selection of another host.

3.5.4 After the agreement has been signed, the EBF Presidium can select another host should this become necessary due to force majeure (e.g. risk of war or terrorist attacks, elemental catastrophe, etc.) or in case of circumstances that do not provide sufficient sportsmanlike conditions. If the host disagrees, the EBF President can call for a meeting where officials of the host can participate at their own cost to present their case.

3.6 Championship Director's inspection

3.6.1 Championship Director's inspection is a methodical examination and review of the prerequisites and preparations for the hosting of a championship. It should take place approximately one year prior to the start of the championship. However, this time may be shortened if the host has previous experience of organising championships in a satisfactory way.

3.6.2 The objective is to identify eventual areas that need improvement and to verify that all necessary steps will be taken to guarantee a successful championship, which meets the expectations of athletes, coaches, officials, media representatives, spectators, and other interested persons.

3.6.3 The Championship Director will soonest possible after the selection of the host for a championship, and after co-ordination with the Technical Delegate and the IT Delegate, contact the host to agree on suitable dates for the inspection, if possible/preferably coordinated with inspections of the delegates.

3.6.4 The current issue of the document "Championship Inspection" shall form the basis for the inspection.

3.6.5 The inspection report shall be presented to the host and to the EBF Presidium. It is the responsibility of the Championship Director to follow up on any and all corrective action agreed upon with the host.

3.6.6 The expenses for the Championship Director to do the inspection will be paid by EBF. However, should it be necessary to repeat the inspection the host will bear the cost for such a visit.

3.7 Bowling centre inspection

3.7.1 At least half a year prior to the championship, the appointed Technical Delegate will visit the championship venue to perform or supervise a complete technical inspection of the bowling centre.

3.7.2 It is the responsibility of the Championship Director to co-ordinate the dates for the inspection.

3.7.3 All equipment, which is to be used during the championship, must meet the requirements specified by IBF. The inspection will at a minimum include lanes, pinsetters, pins, foul detection system, score keeping system, etc.

3.7.4 New pins or pins of not more than 300 games shall be used for the championship. Two sets of pins shall be used in each pin setting machine.

3.7.5 At the end of the inspection the Technical Delegate shall agree with the host on eventually necessary corrective actions, and if necessary also on dates for a follow up inspection.

3.7.6 Within one week of the inspection, the Technical Delegate shall issue a complete inspection report to the host, bowling centre management, and the EBF Presidium.

3.7.7 It is the responsibility of the Technical Delegate to follow up on any and all corrective actions agreed upon with the host.

3.7.8 When all specification requirements are met, the Technical Delegate will accept the bowling centre to be used for the actual championship.

3.7.9 The expenses for the Technical Delegate to perform the inspection will be paid by EBF. However, should it be necessary to repeat the inspection, the host will bear the cost for the visit.

3.8 IT inspection

3.8.1 At least half a year prior to the championship, the IT Delegate will visit the championship venue to perform an IT inspection of the bowling centre.

3.8.2 It is the responsibility of the Championship Director to co-ordinate the dates for the IT inspection.

3.8.3 The IT inspection will as a minimum include:
- a) Guiding and advising the host when it comes to line requirements
- b) Guiding and advising the host when it comes to network requirements
- c) Guiding and advising the host when it comes to requirements for IT equipment
- d) The score system
- e) On-line scoring in use
- f) List of needed adjustments and requirements for the host and the centre

3.8.4 The expenses for the IT Delegate to perform the inspection will be paid by EBF. However, should it be necessary to repeat the inspection, the host will bear the cost for the visit.

3.9 Website

3.9.1 EBF in co-operation with the host shall prepare and publish website for each championship approximately six months prior to each championship. Before publishing, the website must be approved by the Championship Director.

3.9.2 Information about the publishing of the the website must be circulated to all member federations at the time of publishing.

3.10 Participants

3.10.1 The official delegation of each participating federation includes athletes and officials appointed by the federation to serve their team.

3.10.2 In addition to the official delegation a national federation may list other individuals on the entry forms. They are considered as guests and are offered championship services such as transportation, entry to the bowling centre, etc. They fall under the jurisdiction of the respective national federation that has submitted their names on the entry form.

3.10.3 The entry fee for members of the official delegation and the entry fee for guests shall be agreed upon between the host and the Championship Director.

3.11 Eligibility of athletes

3.11.1 The EBF championships are open for EBF member federations only.

3.11.2 To be eligible to enter athletes in EBF championships, member federations must be current with their fees.

3.11.3 Any athlete in the EBF championships must be a national of the country of the EBF member federation, which is entering him (subject to the exceptions below).

3.11.4 Exceptions

a) An athlete, who is a national of two or more countries at the same time, may represent the federation in either one of them, as he may elect. However, after having represented one federation in World, continental or regional games or in World or Zone Championships, he may not represent another federation in EBF championships, unless at least three years have passed since he last represented his former federation. This period may be reduced or even cancelled by the EBF Presidium, with the agreement of the national federations concerned, taking the circumstances of each case into account.

b) An athlete, who has represented one federation in World, continental or regional games or in World or Zone championships, and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in EBF Championships to represent his new federation provided that at least three years have passed since the athlete last represented his former federation. This period may be reduced or even cancelled by the EBF Presidium, with the agreement of the national bowling federations concerned, taking the circumstances of each case into account.

c) In the following circumstances, the three year period does not apply, and an athlete may choose to represent, in EBF Championships, the federation to which he belonged or his new federation if one exists. Such a choice may be made only once.
   - If an associated state, province or overseas department, a country or colony acquires independence.
   - If a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border.
   - If a country merges with another country.

d) If an athlete has the nationality of a union consisting of two or more countries, which have their own national bowling federations, he may choose to represent, in EBF Championships, either one of the federations concerned. When such a choice has been made, he may not represent another federation in EBF Championships unless at least three years have passed since he last represented his former federation.

e) If an athlete has the nationality of a country, where World Bowling has granted membership to more than one national bowling federation, he may then chose to represent, in EBF Championships, either one of the federations concerned. When such a choice has been made, he may not represent another federation in EBF Championships, unless at least three years have passed since he last represented his former federation.

3.11.5 In all cases, in which an athlete would be eligible to participate in EBF Championships, either by representing a federation of another country than his, or by having the choice of the federation which he intends to represent, the EBF Presidium may take all decisions of a general or individual nature, with regard to issues resulting from nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of any athlete, including the duration of any waiting period.

3.12 Entry deadlines

3.12.1 It is the obligation of the host to agree with the Championship Director on deadlines for the entry forms to be received and to publish the deadlines to all member federations.

3.12.2 Federations not meeting the deadlines specified for hotel forms, arrival & departure forms, and media accreditation forms cannot expect to be provided with the full championship service, for instance accommodation at the official hotels.

3.12.3 The entry deadline

a) The entry deadline, which is specified in the entry form, is the last date the entry form must be received by the host. It will not be possible for federations to enter a championship if they fail to meet the entry deadline.

b) In case a federation is increasing the number of athletes of a team after the entry deadline, the federation must pay a double entry fee for each added athlete.

c) In cases where one or more athletes are withdrawn after the entry deadline without being replaced by another athlete, the federation must pay a penalty for each withdrawn athlete equal to the double entry fee.

d) In case a federation is completely cancelling their participation after the entry deadline, the federation must pay in addition to the withdrawal penalty for each athlete a cancellation fee as specified in Chapter 2 of the current issue of this Constitution.

3.13 Championship management

3.13.1 Organising Committee

a) The host shall select a Tournament Manager, who together with designated key persons shall supervise and perform the activities directly related to the operation of the championship

3.13.2 Championship Committee

a) For each championship a Championship Committee shall be established. It shall consist of:
   - Championship Director
   - Technical Delegate
   - Host Tournament Manager

b) The Championship Director and the Technical Delegate shall be appointed by the EBF President. Both of them must come from another federation than the federation of the host

c) The Championship Committee shall act as an advisory body to the Organising Committee with regard to the operation of the championship

d) It is the responsibility of the Championship Committee to handle appeals against decisions taken by referees or by the Organising Committee. All appeal decisions by the Championship Committee shall be presented in writing to the parties involved, and written documentation of all such cases shall be included in the Championship Director's final report of the championship

3.13.3 Duties of the Championship Director

a) The Championship Director will oversee the preparation of the website and other relevant documents related to the championships, and will approve the website prior to the publishing
b) The Championship Director will be present in due time before and during the championships to assist the Championship Organising Committee
c) The Championship Director is the Chairman of the Championship Committee and is especially responsible for matters related to the playing rules
d) Within two weeks of the conclusion of the championship it is the Championship Director's responsibility to issue a summary report of the Championship Committee actions taken during the championship. The report shall be presented to the ETBF Presidium and to the members of the Championship Committee

3.13.4 Duties of the Technical Delegate

a) The Technical Delegate is, together with the external lane maintenance partner of ETBF, responsible for the design of the one oil-pattern to be used at the championship
b) It is the responsibility of the Technical Delegate to make sure that the bowling ball registration preceding the championship follows established rules and procedures
c) During the championship it is the responsibility of the Technical Delegate to make sure that the established technical procedures are followed, and that eventual necessary corrections are made.
d) The Technical Delegate is especially responsible for all matters related to the lanes, machines, ball inspection etc.
e) Within two weeks of the conclusion of the championship it is the Technical Delegate's responsibility to issue a summary report of the technical related actions taken during the championship. The report shall be presented to the ETBF Presidium and the members of the Championship Committee.

3.13.5 Duties of the Host Tournament Manager

a) The Host Tournament Manager is responsible for all matters related to the operation of the championship.
b) The Host Tournament Manager is responsible for the communication with the local championship staff.
c) Other duties of the Host Tournament Manager are as specified by the host

3.13.6 Duties of the IT Delegate

a) For each EBF championship an IT Delegate will be appointed according to an external agreement made between EBF and an external company providing IT services and manpower for the function.
b) The IT Delegate is especially responsible for
   - Guiding and advising the host when it comes to line requirements, network requirements and requirements for IT equipment
   - Knowledge of the score system in use
   - Knowledge of eventually on-line scoring in use
   - Delivering the necessary result software
   - Delivering web pages to present lane assignments, results and standings
   - Operating the score system (if needed)
   - Operating the software for results and standings

3.13.7 Jury of Appeal

a) For each EBF championship the EBF President shall appoint a Jury of Appeal, consisting of three members. Three different federations must be represented on this body
b) It is the responsibility of the Jury of Appeal to handle appeals against decisions taken by the Championship Committee
c) The Jury of Appeal may decide on an issue after all material involved has been studied by the members of the jury, either at a regular meeting, or by an e-mail vote, or by a telephone conference
d) Minutes of all meetings of the Jury of Appeal shall be kept, and shall be forwarded to the EBF Presidium soonest possible after a decision has been made
e) All decisions of the Jury of Appeal shall be presented in writing
f) The fee for an appeal shall be forwarded to the EBF President for inclusion in the EBF financials

3.14 Assignments to squads and lanes

3.14.1 When all participants are known, it is the responsibility of the Championship Committee to establish an impartial draw for the squad assignment for each squad in the championships. The squad assignment remains an internal document in the Championships Committee.

3.14.2 Singles pairs, Doubles and Trios respectively, from the same national federation shall be assigned to different squads.

3.14.3 Athletes not joined with other team members in an event are considered as extra athletes, who nevertheless will play in each event to be able to play the same number of games like all other athletes in the All Event competition of the championships.

3.14.4 Extra athletes from different federations are combined and assigned to squads in a number either equal to or one lower than the number of athletes per lane in the event, in which they are playing in a combined single pair, double, trio or team.

3.14.5 Eventually incomplete single pairs, doubles, trios or teams are distributed over as many squads as possible of the event.

3.14.6 When the registration of all teams in a championship is concluded, after which the final number of athletes attending is known, the IT Delegate will perform a draw of the lane assignments, squad by squad and event by event, together with two officials from different federations attending the championships.

3.14.7 Athletes assigned to commence bowling on odd numbered lanes will move left and athletes assigned to commence bowling on even numbered lanes will move right for each successive game. The Championship Committee will determine the number of lanes to be moved after each game of the squad.

3.14.8 The lane assignment and the lane movement procedures are presented either at the Team Managers' meeting, or soonest possible after, when the assignment draws have been made by the IT Delegate.

3.15 Pacers

3.15.1 A pacer is an athlete taking part in a squad of an event without a counting pin fall.

3.15.2 A pacer must, to the highest possible degree, have bowling skills as close as possible to the athletes in the squad.

3.15.3 The gender of a pacer must be the same as the athletes in the squad.

3.15.4 An athlete from one of the participating national teams cannot be a pacer.

3.15.5 Pacers are only used, when the final number of athletes attending makes it impossible to meet the policies for incomplete combined single pairs, doubles, trios or teams, as specified in Articles 3.14.3-5.

3.15.6 In case of a withdrawal during a squad, no pacer will be added.

3.16 Team Managers meeting

3.16.1 Prior to the start of the official practice, a meeting shall be held to provide all necessary information about the competition and related activities, and to answer questions.

3.16.2 The Championship Director, the Technical Delegate, the IT Delegate and the Host Tournament Manager shall attend the meeting.

3.16.3 From the participating federations only team managers and coaches may attend the meeting.

3.17 Ceremonies

3.17.1 An opening ceremony and medal presentations are mandatory. The farewell banquet is optional.

3.17.2 Opening ceremony
- a) The Opening Ceremony shall, at a minimum, include an athletes parade with flag display and appropriate remarks by representatives of the host and EBF
- b) The program is subject to the approval of the Championship Director

3.17.3 Medal presentations
- a) The medal presentations should be conducted after each event and preferably before the commencement of the next event

b) National anthems shall be played for the winners
c) Medal presentations shall follow a plan established by the host and approved by the Championship Director

3.18 Bowling ball procedure

3.18.1 Only bowling balls that are included in the USBC Approved Bowling Ball list may be used in competition. The official USBC list of ineligible bowling balls shall be recognized by the EBF and shall apply to EBF Championships. The list is published on: www.bowl.com Urethane balls are only allowed if manufactured with a minimum hardness of 78D and approved by USBC.

3.18.2 Athletes are responsible for ensuring that all bowling balls used in competition comply with the current eligible requirements.

3.18.3 Cleaning of the surface of the bowling ball is permissible prior to any delivery during a game. Any dry cloth product that is non-abrasive and contains no chemicals would be acceptable to use. Cleaners, which are products meant to clean the ball surface without changing the surface roughness, may be used only between block of games, and provided they are on the list of approved products.

If the ball picks up a foreign substance that cannot be removed by rubbing, an approved liquid cleaner such as rubbing alcohol may be used. However, this action requires approval from the Championship Committee.

3.18.4 Adjusting of the surface of the bowling ball by means of scrub sponges, scoring pads, and polish that are on the list of approved products may be done only during any practice session and between any block of games, as well as between semi-finals and finals of an event, provided it is done outside of the athletes' area.

3.18.5 Altering the surface of the bowling ball by means of bonded or coated abrasives may only be done in a designated area and only during any practice session, and between any block of games, as well as between semi-finals and finals of an event.

3.18.6 The list of approved as well as not acceptable products for cleaning and adjusting of the surface of bowling balls can be found on the website www.bowl.com.

3.18.7 Prior to the start of the Official Practice the bowling balls to be used during competition shall be inspected and registered. The inspection shall include but not be limited to
a) Eligibility of the ball as specified in the list of approved bowling balls
b) Serial number
c) Visual inspection with regard to material, surface, plugs, etc.
d) Compliance with all applicable IBF specifications, including hardness requirements

3.18.8 Immediately following the Official Practice, the ball registration list for each athlete shall be modified only to include the bowling balls to be used during the championship events. Each athlete will be permitted to have maximum 6 bowling balls registered. No replacements or additions will be allowed once the first event has started, and no modifications of a bowling ball shall be permitted apart from the altering of the surface as described above. In very special circumstances the Championship Committee may allow a replacement of a registered bowling ball once the first event has started.

3.18.9 Random ball checks during competition or between blocks may be conducted. Such checks may include verification of ball identity, serial numbers, inspection of physical characteristics, and hardness testing. Such checks are at the discretion of the Championship committee.

3.18.10 Any bowling ball measuring below 72D during inspection shall be deemed non-compliant and shall be removed from competition.

3.18.11 The following penalites shall apply:

a) Before use: The bowling ball shall not be permitted for use in competition. No score penalty shall apply.

b) After play: The athlete shall receive a zero score for the entire block in which the non-compliant bowling ball was used.

c) Medal round violation: The athlete shall be immediately disqualified from the medal round.

d) Repeated violation by the same athlete: The athlete shall be suspended from participation in EBF Championships for a period of one (1) year.

e) Repeated violations involving the same Member Federation in multiple Championships: A fine of EUR 2,000 shall be imposed on the Member Federation and be payable to EBF.

The Championship Committee shall determine the timing of the violation and the applicable penalty based on the results of the inspection and all relevant circumstances.

3.19 Lane dressing procedures

3.19.1 The general goal for the lane maintenance shall be to achieve a fair and equitable scoring condition, which places a premium on athlete versatility, accuracy and consistency.

3.19.2 Only one oil pattern will be in use during the entire period of the championship for EMC, EWC, and ECC. - For EYC, ESC and EGSC different oil patterns will be used for each gender

3.19.3 Latest 2 months prior to the first day of the championships, the host will, at the championship website and in an email circulated to all member federations, publish the expected length of the oil-pattern.

3.19.4 The final selected oil pattern(s) will be announced at the Team Managers' meeting.

3.19.5 The length of the final selected oil pattern(s) might vary with a maximum of +/- one foot from the originally published length.

3.20 Playing uniform

3.20.1 Athletes shall wear a standard uniform approved by their member federation. In a team event (doubles, trios, team & official practice) athletes of the same team must wear uniforms of the same color and type.

3.20.2 The name of the member federation, which the athlete represents, must appear on the uniform.

3.20.3 The following may appear on the uniform
a) Name of the athlete
b) Logo of the member federation, which the athlete represents
c) Advertisements

3.20.4 Coaches in the athlete's area must wear a uniform specified by the member federation, including bowling (or sport) shoes.

3.20.5 At medal ceremonies, all medallists (athletes and coaches) must wear a uniform specified by the member federation, including bowling (or sport) shoes.

3.21 Using alcohol

3.21.1 Athletes and coaches must not consume alcohol or be under the influence of alcohol while in competition; i.e. during the entire period of a block of games.

3.21.2 If an athlete or a coach is in breach of this rule, the athlete or the coach in question will be excluded from the rest of the championship by the Championship Committee.

3.22 Smoking and using tobacco products

3.22.1 Athletes and coaches must not smoke, use tobacco products or use any kind of synthetic cigarettes or e-cigarettes while in competition; i.e. during the entire period of a block of games.

3.22.2 For the first offence by an athlete, the penalty will be either zero pins in the game, where the offence happens, or zero pins in the succeeding game, if the offence happens in between two games in a block.

3.22.3 For the second offence by the same athlete, the athlete will be excluded from the rest of the championships by the Championship Committee.

3.22.4 For the first offence by a coach, the coach will be excluded from the block of games.

3.22.5 For the second offence by the same coach, the coach will be excluded from the rest of the championships by the Championship Committee.

3.23 Anti-doping rules

3.23.1 Anti-doping regulations as appearing in IBF´s Doping Control Manual will be applicable for the EBF championships when so decided by the EBF Presidium.

3.23.2 Doping control tests may also be conducted at the discretion of the national doping control agency of the country of the host.

3.24 Competition area

3.24.1 The competition area shall be clearly defined and be separated from the spectator's area, either by already existing tables or barriers, or by temporary installations for the championship ensuring the separation.

3.24.2 Restrictions in the competition area

a) It is not permitted to bring in or consume food in the competition area. This does not include candy bars or fruit.

b) Non-alcoholic beverages may be consumed in the competition area provided they are kept in a way, which eliminates the risk of contaminating the competition area, approaches or lanes.

c) The use of any other liquids, such as bowling ball cleaners, must be controlled in a way that would eliminate the risk of contamination of the competition area.

3.24.3 Athletes in the competition area

a) Only athletes in competition are permitted in the area.

3.24.4 Coaches in the competition area

a) Only one coach per single pair, double, trio, team, or master's qualified will be allowed in the competition area. The decision to permit an assistant coach (as per rule 3.24.4.e) or a mental coach to accompany them lies with the Championship Director. However, if a mental coach is considered, they must be able to present a bachelor's or a higher degree.

b) A coach must be positioned in the immediate vicinity of the pair of lanes on which the athletes he is coaching are competing.

c) The name of each coach must be mentioned at the entry form of the discipline to be able to coach during a block of games.

d) A coach cannot be exchanged during a block of games.

e) A coach must be certified as an EBF Level II coach or equivalent by one of tht national or international programs approved/recognized by EBF and or World Bowling to be able to coach in EBF's Championships. *)

f) The relevant digital copy of the certificate must preferably be sent to the organizer when the name list is submitted or latest to the organizer upon registration at the site of a championship. *)

*) Article 3.24.4.e-g will be in effect as of 1. January 2021.

3.25 Practice

3.25.1 The athletes of each federation shall be nominated prior to the start of the Official Practice.

3.25.2 Each federation will have one session of Official Practise prior to the start of the first event. Minimum one hour practice is required for each federation.

3.25.3 After the lanes have been prepared and the Official Practice concluded, no play whatsoever by the participants of the championships shall be allowed on the competition lanes during the entire duration, except the championships proper. This will not preclude efforts (e.g. exhibition) to promote bowling before, after or in between events. However, this does not allow any play by participants on the competition lanes after the last event of the day when the bowling centre is available to the public for open bowling. Violators are subject to disqualification.

3.25.4 Once bowling balls have been registered and inspected, they must always remain in the designated ballpark/storage area, except during the official competition period when the athlete is participating in their assigned squad. Before the start of the athlete's squad and immediately after the completion of the squad, all registered bowling balls must be returned to a dn remain in the designated ballpark/storage area. If for any exceptional reason, a ball must be removed from the ballpark area outside the athlete's official competition period, prior approval from the championship committee should be required. Championship committee might request re-inspection of the balls before entered back into competition use to ensure it still complies with all equipment regulations.

3.25.5 Practice immediately before events in each block of games will be 10 minutes, except in the Team event, where the practise will be 15 minutes.

3.26 Slow bowling

3.26.1 Athletes preparing to step on the approach and deliver a ball shall have the following obligations and rights

a) Athletes shall be ready to bowl when it is their turn and shall not delay the start of their approach or delivery if the lane immediately adjacent to them on both the right and left is clear
b) They may claim right of way only over an athlete moving to the approach or preparing to bowl on the lane immediately to their left.
c) They shall yield to an athlete moving to the approach or preparing to bowl on the lane immediately to their right.

3.26.2 If an athlete/team does not observe the procedures outlined above, it shall be construed as slow bowling. An athlete or a team failing to observe these procedures shall be warned by an authorized tournament official as follows

a) A verbal warning for the first offence
b) A yellow card for the second offence
c) A red card for the third and each succeeding offence in any block of games in an event. The penalty shall be a zero pin fall for the frame

3.26.3 Whenever there is any question concerning the enforcement of the rule, or lack thereof, in a Masters event or Finals, the Championship Director, notwithstanding the reference to the referees, shall make the final decision.

3.27 Re-racks

3.27.1 An athlete is allowed a maximum of two re-racks per game without asking a referee for permission.

3.27.2 Unless permission for additional re-racks in the same game is granted by a referee, the re-rack is illegal.

3.27.3 A referee can only accept additional re-racks, when it is obvious that the pin setting is clearly off spot.

3.27.4 If an athlete violates this rule, the frame following the illegal re-rack, or the remaining part of frame 10, if the violation happens in frame 10, will be set to zero.

3.28 Style of play

3.28.1 In dual lane style of play competing individual athletes or teams shall successively and in regular order bowl one frame on one lane of a pair of lanes, and for the next frame alternate and use the other lane of the pair until five frames are bowled on each lane of the pair. For the next game the athletes move to another pair of lanes.

3.28.2 In single lane style of play competing individual athletes or teams shall successively and in regular order bowl one frame at a time on the same lane until 10 frames are bowled on that lane. For the next game the athletes move to another lane.

3.28.3 Unless otherwise specified for any event the dual lane style of play shall be used.

3.29 Tardy athletes

3.29.1 Any athlete or team arriving late shall begin play with the score count beginning with the frame then being bowled on the lane or lanes to which they are assigned.

3.29.2 If they are scheduled alone, they will start in the earliest frame then being bowled on the squad.

3.30 Interrupted game

3.30.1 The tournament officials may authorize the completion of a game and block of games on another pair of lanes when equipment failure on the starting lanes would delay the normal progress of the block.

3.31 Tie breaking

3.31.1 Definition of a game score
- a) Actual pin fall in the game for an individual athlete
- b) Actual pin fall for any size of team in a game for the athletes of the team

3.31.2 The following will apply to all events except in head-to-head matches

In all tie situations, except in head-to-head matches, the highest positioned will be the athlete/team with the highest last game score, then the highest second last game score etc.

3.31.3 The following will apply to head-to-head matches
- a) In case of a tie in a game a one ball roll off on a full set of pins will be played, repeated until the tie is broken
- b) In the case of dual lane style of play the athletes will for the first roll off delivery be positioned on the lanes where they ended the game. The highest ranked athlete after the qualification will chose the order of play. For a second roll off delivery the athletes will switch lanes and the order of deliveries will be opposite to the first one and so on
- c) In the case of single lane style of play all roll off deliveries will be played on the same lane as the tie occurred. The highest ranked athlete after the qualification will choose the order of play. For a second roll off delivery the order of play will be the opposite of the first one, and so on

3.31.4 The following will apply to the Semi Finals and finals of the Doubles, Trios, and Team events:
- a) In case of a tie in a match, each team member will bowl a one ball roll off on a full set of pins. After all athletes of both teams have completed their roll offs, the total pin fall is counted to break the tie
- b) For the first roll off delivery the teams will be positioned on the lanes where they ended the game. The athletes of each team will make the roll off deliveries in the same order as the line-up for the whole match. The highest ranked team after the qualification will chose which of the teams to start
- c) When the first athlete of the team chosen to start the roll off has made his delivery, the first athlete of the other team makes his delivery, followed by the second athlete of the starting team and the second athlete of the other team, and so on until all athletes of both teams have made their deliveries
- d) When both teams have made their deliveries and there is still a tie, the teams switch lanes and the order of the team to begin will be reversed. The line up of each team will remain the same as for the previous round of roll offs. This procedure will continue until the tie is broken

3.32 Penalties

3.32.1 Unless otherwise specifically stated in a rule, the penalties for rule violations shall be as follows.

3.32.2 An athlete/team failing to observe a rule shall be warned by an authorized tournament official with a yellow card for the first offence.

3.32.3 For a second offence in the same championship, the athlete/team will be disqualified from the championship and will not be allowed to participate in EBF approved tournaments and EBF championships for 90 days.

3.32.4 All offences shall immediately be reported by the Tournament Manager to the EBF Secretary General, who will report to all member federations.

3.33 Protests

3.33.1 Protests involving eligibility or general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to a tournament official not later than 24 hours after the game in which the infraction occurred or before the medal presentation, whichever is the sooner.

3.33.2 When a protest involving a foul or the legality of pin fall is entered, an official representative of the federations involved may be present when evidence is taken relative to the protest.

3.33.3 If no written protest is entered prior to the expiration period as stated, the game or games shall stand as bowled.

3.33.4 Each rule under this rule shall not be construed to cover a similar or previous violation.

3.34 Appeals

3.34.1 All matters, which cannot be settled by the referee, shall be heard and reviewed by the Championship Committee. The decision of the Championship Committee is final unless there is an appeal to the Jury of Appeal within 24 hours after the decision is announced, or before the medal presentation, whichever is the sooner.

3.34.2 Protests on eligibility arising after the conclusion of the championships shall be filed directly with the Jury of Appeal within 30 days.

3.34.3 All appeals from the Championship Committee's decisions must be filed in writing with a member of the Jury of Appeal, or with the Secretary General of EBF. Each appeal must be specific and include a fee of € 100. If the Jury of Appeal does not uphold the appeal, the fee will be forfeited to the EBF. The foregoing also applies to protests filed directly with the Jury of Appeal.

3.34.4 The Jury of Appeal shall be empowered to cite before it all documents and persons involved in the appeal at a regularly scheduled meeting or if deemed appropriate, the Jury of Appeal may decide an issue by a mail vote after all material involved in the matter has been studied by each of its members.

3.35 Medals

3.35.1 The medals to be awarded will be the same for all events in all championships.

3.35.2 The medals will be provided by EBF.

3.35.3 The medals to be presented will be the following

a) Gold medal(s) will be presented to the highest positioned in an event
b) Silver medal(s) will be presented to the second highest positioned in an event
c) Bronze medal(s) will be presented to the third highest positioned in an event. In events with semi-finals, bronze medals will be presented to both losers of the semi-finals

3.35.4 Medals will be presented to the athlete(s), to the coach and to the federation.

3.36 Amendments

This Chapter was adopted by the Congress in 2005 and was amended by Congresses in 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and by Presdium 2024 and 2026

4. European Championships for men and women

4.1. Championship periods

4.1.1. European Men Championships (EMC) will be conducted in 2019 and 2020 and again in 2023 and 2024 etc., in odd years preferably in June during weeks 23 and 24, in even years preferably in August during weeks 33 and 34.

4.1.2. European Women Championships (EWC) will be conducted in 2018 and 2020 and again in 2022 and 2024 etc., preferably in June during weeks 23 and 24.

4.2. Age limitations

4.2.1. There is no age limitation for the EMC and the EWC.

4.3. Participants

4.3.1. Each EBF member federation may enter maximum six athletes in each of the championships.

4.4. Events

4.4.1 The following events are included in the EMC and EWC
- a) Singles, 6 games
- b) Doubles, 6 games
- c) Trios, 6 games
- d) Team, 6 games
- e) All Event, consisting of the above 24 games.
- f) Masters as specified in 4.4.6 and 4.4.7

4.4.2 Specifications for the Singles event
- a) The Singles event will be played in one block of six games
- b) The four highest positioned in the event qualification are qualified for the Semi Finals, seeded as 1-4 according to the final standing of the event qualification
- c) The athletes in the Semi Finals will be matched as the 1st seeded athlete vs. the 4th seeded athlete and the 2nd seeded athlete vs. the 3rd seeded athlete
- d) The Semi Finals are one game matches. The two highest seeded athletes will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin
- e) The winners of the Semi Finals are qualified for the Final, while the highest seeded of the losing athletes will be positioned 3 in the results list and the lowest seeded of the losing athletes will be positioned 4 in the results list
- f) The Final is a one game match. The highest seeded athlete will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin

4.4.3 Specifications for the Doubles event
- a) The Doubles event qualification will be played in one block of six games

b) Change of athletes in a double is not permitted during the event
c) Line-up changes are not permitted during a block
d) The four highest positioned in the event qualification are qualified for the Semi Finals, seeded as 1-4 according to the final standing of the event qualification
e) The doubles in the Semi Finals will be matched as the 1st seeded double vs. the 4th seeded double and the 2nd seeded double vs. the 3rd seeded double
f) The Semi Finals are one game matches. The two highest seeded doubles will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin
g) The winners of the Semi Finals are qualified for the Final, while the highest seeded of the losing doubles will be positioned 3 in the results list and the lowest seeded of the losing doubles will be positioned 4 in the results list
h) The Final is a one game match. The highest seeded double will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin

4.4.4 Specifications for the Trios event
a) The Trios event qualification will be played in two blocks of three games
b) Change of athletes in a trio is not permitted during the event
c) Line-up changes are not permitted during a block
d) The four highest positioned in the event qualification are qualified for the Semi Finals, seeded as 1-4 according to the final standing of the event qualification
e) The teams in the Semi Finals will be matched as the 1st seeded trio vs. the 4th seeded trio and the 2nd seeded trio vs. the 3rd seeded trio
f) The Semi Finals are one game matches. The two highest seeded trios will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin
g) The winners of the Semi Finals are qualified for the Final, while the highest seeded of the losing teams will be positioned 3 in the results list and the lowest seeded of the losing teams will be positioned 4 in the results list
h) The Final is a one game match. The highest seeded team will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin

4.4.5 Specifications for the Team event
a) The Team event qualification will be played in two blocks of three games
b) In the team event a team may change one athlete at the start of the second block
c) Line-up changes are not permitted during a block
d) The four highest positioned in the Team event qualification are qualified for the Semi Finals, seeded as 1-4 according to the final standing of the Team event qualification
e) The teams in the Semi Finals will be matched as the 1st seeded team vs. the 4th seeded team and the 2nd seeded team vs. the 3rd seeded team
f) The Semi Finals are one game matches. The two highest seeded teams will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin
g) The winners of the Semi Finals are qualified for the Final, while the highest seeded of the losing teams will be positioned 3 in the results list and the lowest seeded of the losing teams will be positioned 4 in the results list
h) Prior to the start of the final the teams are allowed to change one athlete. Earliest at the beginning of the 9th frame of the Semi Finals, the 6th athlete of the teams may start practising on the lanes specially allocated for practice

i) The Final is a one game match. The highest seeded team will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin

4.4.6 Specifications for the matches of the Masters event

a) The 24 highest positioned athletes in the final all event standing are qualified for the masters event, seeded as 1-24 in all steps of the masters event according to their position in the final all event standing
b) In all steps of the masters event there will head to head matches, where the highest seeded athletes will be matched against the lowest seeded athlete
c) Each match will consist of 2 or 3 games. If the same athlete is the winner of the first two games, the 3rd game will not be played
d) Each match will be played on one pair of lanes
e) Each game in a match will be played with the dual lane style of play
f) In each match the highest seeded athlete is deciding whether he wants to begin the first game on the left or right lane. In the second game the order of athletes will be opposite to the first game and in a possible third game the order of athletes will be the same as in the first game
g) In case of withdrawals from any match in the masters event, the athlete without opponent will be declared the winner of the match

4.4.7 The steps of the Masters event

a) There will be 8 matches in the Masters event Step 1, including the athletes seeded 9-24. The winners of the 8 matches will continue to the Masters event Step 2
b) There will be 8 matches in the Masters event Step 2, including the athletes seeded 1-8 plus the 8 winners of the Masters event Step 1. The winners of the 8 matches will continue to the Masters event Step 3
c) There will be 4 matches in the Masters event Step 3, including the 8 winners of the Masters event Step 2. The winners of the 4 matches will continue to the Masters event Step 4
d) There will be 2 matches in the Masters event Step 4, including the 4 winners of the Masters event Step 3. The winners of the 2 matches will continue to the Masters event Step 5
e) There will be 1 match in the Masters event Step 5, including the 2 winners of the Masters event Step 4. The winner of the match is the European Masters Champion

4.4.8 The final positioning

a) The winner of the match in the Masters event Step 5 will be positioned as number 1 and the loser of this match as number 2
b) The losers of the matches in the Masters event Step 4 will be positioned in the interval 3-4 according to their seeding before the Masters event
c) The losers of the matches in the Masters event Step 3 will be positioned in the interval 5-8 according to their seeding before the Masters event
d) The losers of the matches in the Masters event Step 2 will be positioned in the interval 9-16 according to their seeding before the Masters event
e) The losers of the matches in the Masters event Step 1 will be positioned in the interval 17-24 according to their seeding before the Masters event
f) The remaining athletes will be positioned 25-NN according to their scores in the All Event standing

4.4.9 Lane assignments in the Masters event

a) Lanes are dressed before Step 1 and before Step 3 of the Masters event
b) When the same pair of lanes, for TV purposes are in use for both Semi Finals and the Final (Masters Step 4 and Step 5), the lanes will be redressed before each match
c) The Championship Committee will perform an impartial draw for matches to be assigned to lanes in Step 1 of the Masters event
d) In Step 2 of the Masters event, the winners of the matches in Step 1 will move two pair of lanes to the right inside the same 8 pair of lanes in use
e) Unless the same pair of lanes is in use for more than one match, there will be seven different pair of lanes in use for Step 3, Step 4 and Step 5 of the Masters event
f) The Championship Committee will, to avoid situations where athletes are playing at the same pair of lanes in following steps, decide the lane assignment of matches in Step 3, Step 4 and Step 5 of the Masters event

4.5. Qualification for World Championships

4.5.1 A point system will be in use, when a ranking of federations, taking part in European Championships, is used as qualification basis for World Championships.

4.5.2 European Championships for women and European Championships for men, conducted in the year before the World Championships, will be used for the qualification.

4.5.3 The following standard point list is valid for positions in European Championships:

Position 1: 100 points
Position 2: 90 points
Position 3: 80 points
Position 4: 70 points
Position 5: 50 points
Position 6: 46 points
Position 7: 42 points
Position 8: 38 points
Position 9: 34 points
Position 10: 30 points
Position 11: 27 points
Position 12: 24 points
Position 13: 21 points
Position 14: 18 points
Position 15: 15 points
Position 16: 13 points
Position 17: 11 points
Position 18: 9 points
Position 19: 7 points
Position 20: 5 points
Position 21: 4 points
Position 22: 3 points
Position 23: 2 points
Position 24: 1 point

4.5.4 For each event, points in the standard point list will be multiplied with the number of athletes in the event (1, 2, 3 or 5).

4.5.5 Positions points will be given for all six events included in European Championships.

4.5.6 Points given in each event will be summarized for a final ranking of federations in the championships counting for qualification.

4.5.7 In case of a tie in the ranking of federations, the positions in the team event will decide the order of federations.

4.5.8 A federation must confirm participating with at least 5 athletes in a team to be able to take part in the World Championships.

4.6. World Games qualification

4.6.1 The World Games will be held every fourth year (2017, 2021 etc.).

4.6.2 Five federations, each sending two women and 5 federations each sending two men, will qualify from each Zone. In addition the federation, in which country the World Games takes place, will send two women and two men.

4.6.3 The European Zone qualification for participation in the World Games is determined by the All Event standings of the nearest foregoing EWC for the women's division and the nearest foregoing EMC for the men's division.

4.6.4 The position numbers for the two highest ranked athletes from each federation in the All Event standing, excluding the World Games host federation, if the World Games is held in Europe, are added together, forming a World Games qualification list sorted by the lowest vs. highest principle.

4.6.5 Ties in position points are broken by positioning the federation highest, which have the highest position of their third highest ranked athlete in the All Event standing.

4.6.6 If one of the top 5 federations in a division will withdraw from participation in the World Games, then the number 6 qualifier will be offered the opportunity to participate, then the number 7, and so on.

4.7. Amendments

This Chapter was adopted by the Congress in 2005 and amended by Congresses in 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015.

5. European Championships for youth

5.1 Championship period

5.1.1. European Youth Championships (EYC) will be conducted each year, preferably in the period up to and during the Easter week.

5.2 Age limitations

5.2.1. Athletes must not reach the age of 19 years in the season in which the championships takes place. With season is meant 1 September until 31 August the following year.

5.3 Participants

5.3.1. The EYC consists of separate divisions for boys and girls.

5.3.2. Each EBF member federation may enter maximum four athletes of each gender in the championships.

5.4 Events

5.4.1. The following events exist
a)Singles, 6 games
b)Doubles, 6 games
c)Team of Four, 6 games
d)All Event, consisting of the above 18 games
e)Masters as specified in 5.4.5 and 5.4.6

5.4.2. Specification for the Singles event
a) The singles event will be played in one block of six games
b) The four highest positioned in the event qualification are qualified for the Semi Finals, seeded as 1-4 according to the final standing of the event qualification
c) The athletes in the Semi Finals will be matched as the 1st seeded athlete vs. the 4th seeded athlete and the 2nd seeded athlete vs. the 3rd seeded athlete
d) The Semi Finals are one game matches. The two highest seeded athletes will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin
e) The winners of the Semi Finals are qualified for the final, while the highest seeded of the losing athletes will be positioned 3 in the results list and the lowest seeded of the losing athletes will be positioned 4 in the results list
f) The final is a one game match. The highest seeded athlete will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin

5.4.3. Specification for the Doubles event
a) The doubles event qualification will be played in one block of six games
b) Change of athletes in a double is not permitted during the event

c) Line-up changes are not permitted during a block
d) The four highest positioned in the event qualification are qualified for the Semi Finals, seeded as 1-4 according to the final standing of the event qualification
e) The doubles in the Semi Finals will be matched as the 1st seeded double vs. the 4th seeded double and the 2nd seeded double vs. the 3rd seeded double
f) The Semi Finals are one game matches. The two highest seeded doubles will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin
g) The winners of the Semi Finals are qualified for the final, while the highest seeded of the losing doubles will be positioned 3 in the results list and the lowest seeded of the losing doubles will be positioned 4 in the results list
h) The final is a one game match. The highest seeded double will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin

5.4.4. Specification for the Team event
a) The team event qualification will be played in two blocks of three games
b) Line-up changes are not permitted during a block
c) The four highest positioned in the team event qualification are qualified for the Semi Finals, seeded as 1-4 according to the final standing of the team event qualification
d) The teams in the Semi Finals will be matched as the 1st seeded team vs. the 4th seeded team and the 2nd seeded team vs. the 3rd seeded team
e) The Semi Finals are one game matches. The two highest seeded teams will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin
f) The winners of the Semi Finals are qualified for the final, while the highest seeded of the losing teams will be positioned 3 in the results list and the lowest seeded of the losing teams will be positioned 4 in the results list
g) The final is a one game match. The highest seeded team will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin

5.4.5. Specifications for the matches of the Masters event
a) The 16 highest positioned athletes in the final all event standing are qualified for the masters event, seeded as 1-16 in all steps of the masters event according to their position in the final all event standing
b) In all steps of the masters event there will head to head matches, where the highest seeded athletes will be matched against the lowest seeded athlete
c) Each match will consist of 2 or 3 games. If the same athlete is the winner of the first two games, the 3rd game will not be played
d) Each match will be played on one pair of lanes
e) Each game in a match will be played with the dual lane style of play
f) In each match the highest seeded athlete is deciding whether he wants to begin the first game on the left or right lane. In the second game the order of athletes will be opposite to the first game and in an eventually third game the order of athletes will be the same as in the first game
g) In case of withdrawals from any match in the masters event, the athlete without opponent will be declared the winner of the match

5.4.6. The steps of the Masters event
a) There will be 8 matches in the masters event Step 1, including the athletes seeded 1- 16. The winners of the 8 matches will continue to the masters event Step 2

b) There will be 4 matches in the master's event Step 2, including the 8 winners of the master's event Step 1. The winners of the 4 matches will continue to the masters event Step 3
c) There will be 2 matches in the master's event Step 3, including the 4 winners of the master's event Step 2. The winners of the 2 matches will continue to the masters event Step 4
d) There will be 1 match in the master's event Step 4, including the 2 winners of the master's event Step 3. The winner of the match is the European Masters Youth Champion

5.4.7. The final positioning
a) The winner of the match in the masters event Step 4 will be positioned as number 1 and the loser of this match as number 2
b) The losers of the matches in the masters event Step 3 will be positioned in the interval 3-4 according to their seeding before the masters event
c) The losers of the matches in the masters event Step 2 will be positioned in the interval 5-8 according to their seeding before the masters event
d) The losers of the matches in the masters event Step 1 will be positioned in the interval 9-16 according to their seeding before the masters event
e) The remaining athletes will be positioned 17-NN according to their scores in the All Event standing

5.4.8. Lane assignments in the Masters event
a) Lanes are dressed before Step 1 and as needed before each step of the Masters
b) When the same pair of lanes, for TV purposes are in use for both Semi Finals and the Final (Masters Step 3 and Step 4), the lanes will be redressed before each match
c) The Championship Committee will perform an impartial draw for matches to be assigned to lanes in Step 1 of the Masters event
d) The Championship Committee will, to avoid situations where athletes are playing at the same pair of lanes in following steps, decide the lane assignment of matches in Step 2, Step 3 and Step 4 of the Masters event

5.5 Amendments

This Chapter was adopted by the Congress in 2005 and amended by Congresses in 2011 and 2015, and EBF Presidium in 2023

6. European Championships for seniors / grand seniors

6.1. Championship periods

6.1.1. European Senior Championships (ESC) will be conducted in 2020, 2023, 2025, 2027 etc., preferably in January-February during weeks 4 and 5 / European Grand Senior Championships (EGSC) will be conducted in 2026, 2028, 2030 etc in January-February during weeks 4 and 5.

6.2. Age limitations

6.2.1. Athletes must be 50 years of age or older in the year of an ESC.
6.2.2. Athletes must be 65 years of age or older in the year of an EGSC

6.3. Participants

6.3.1. The ESC/EGSC consists of separate divisions for men and women.

6.3.2. Each EBF member federation may enter maximum four athletes of each gender in the championships.

6.4. Events

6.4.1. The following events exist
a)Singles, 6 games
b)Doubles, 6 games
c)Team of Four, 6 games
d)All Event, consisting of the above 18 games
e)Masters as specified in 6.4.5 and 6.4.6

6.4.2. Specification for the Singles event
a) The singles event will be played in one block of six games
b) The four highest positioned in the event qualification are qualified for the Semi Finals, seeded as 1-4 according to the final standing of the event qualification
c) The athletes in the Semi Finals will be matched as the 1st seeded athlete vs. the 4th seeded athlete and the 2nd seeded athlete vs. the 3rd seeded athlete
d) The Semi Finals are one game matches. The two highest seeded athletes will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin
e) The winners of the Semi Finals are qualified for the final, while the highest seeded of the losing athletes will be positioned 3 in the results list and the lowest seeded of the losing athletes will be positioned 4 in the results list
f) The final is a one game match. The highest seeded athlete will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin

6.4.3. Specification for the Doubles event
a) The doubles event qualification will be played in one block of six games

b) Change of athletes in a double is not permitted during the event
c) Line-up changes are not permitted during a block
d) The four highest positioned in the event qualification are qualified for the Semi Finals, seeded as 1-4 according to the final standing of the event qualification
e) The doubles in the Semi Finals will be matched as the 1st seeded double vs. the 4th seeded double and the 2nd seeded double vs. the 3rd seeded double
f) The Semi Finals are one game matches. The two highest seeded doubles will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin
g) The winners of the Semi Finals are qualified for the final, while the highest seeded of the losing doubles will be positioned 3 in the results list and the lowest seeded of the losing doubles will be positioned 4 in the results list
h) The final is a one game match. The highest seeded double will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin

6.4.4. Specification for the Team event

a) The team event qualification will be played in two blocks of three games
b) Line-up changes are not permitted during a block
c) The four highest positioned in the team event qualification are qualified for the Semi Finals, seeded as 1-4 according to the final standing of the team event qualification
d) The teams in the Semi Finals will be matched as the 1st seeded team vs. the 4th seeded team and the 2nd seeded team vs. the 3rd seeded team
e) The Semi Finals are one game matches. The two highest seeded teams will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin
f) The winners of the Semi Finals are qualified for the final, while the highest seeded of the losing teams will be positioned 3 in the results list and the lowest seeded of the losing teams will be positioned 4 in the results list
g) The final is a one game match. The highest seeded team will decide on which lane (left or right) to begin

6.4.5. Specifications for the matches of the Masters event

a) The 16 highest positioned athletes in the final all event standing are qualified for the masters event, seeded as 1-16 in all steps of the masters event according to their position in the final all event standing
b) In all steps of the masters event there will head to head matches, where the highest seeded athletes will be matched against the lowest seeded athlete
c) Each match will consist of 2 or 3 games. If the same athlete is the winner of the first two games, the 3rd game will not be played
d) Each match will be played on one pair of lanes
e) Each game in a match will be played with the dual lane style of play
f) In each match the highest seeded athlete is deciding whether he wants to begin the first game on the left or right lane. In the second game the order of athletes will be opposite to the first game and in an eventually third game the order of athletes will be the same as in the first game
g) In case of withdrawals from any match in the masters event, the athlete without opponent will be declared the winner of the match

6.4.6. The steps of the Masters event

h) There will be 8 matches in the masters event Step 1, including the athletes seeded 1- 16. The winners of the 8 matches will continue to the masters event Step 2
i) There will be 4 matches in the master's event Step 2, including the 8 winners of the master's event Step 1. The winners of the 4 matches will continue to the masters event Step 3
j) There will be 2 matches in the master's event Step 3, including the 4 winners of the master's event Step 2. The winners of the 2 matches will continue to the masters event Step 4
k) There will be 1 match in the master's event Step 4, including the 2 winners of the master's event Step 3. The winner of the match is the European Masters Senior (Grand Senior) Champion

6.4.7. The final positioning
a) The winner of the match in the masters event Step 4 will be positioned as number 1 and the loser of this match as number 2
b) The losers of the matches in the masters event Step 3 will be positioned in the interval 3-4 according to their seeding before the masters event
c) The losers of the matches in the masters event Step 2 will be positioned in the interval 5-8 according to their seeding before the masters event
d) The losers of the matches in the masters event Step 1 will be positioned in the interval 9-16 according to their seeding before the masters event

6.4.8. Lane assignments in the Masters event
e) Lanes are dressed before Step 1 and as needed before each step of the Masters
f) When the same pair of lanes, for TV purposes are in use for both Semi Finals and the Final (Masters Step 3 and Step 4), the lanes will be redressed before each match
g) The Championship Committee will perform an impartial draw for matches to be assigned to lanes in Step 1 of the Masters event
h) The Championship Committee will, to avoid situations where athletes are playing at the same pair of lanes in following steps, decide the lane assignment of matches in Step 2, Step 3 and Step 4 of the Masters event

6.5. Amendments

This Chapter was adopted by the Congress in 2017, and changed by EBF presidium in 2025 (adding EGSC).

7. European Championships of Champions (ECC)

7.1 Championship period

7.1.1. European Championships of Champions will be conducted each year, preferably in October during week 43.

7.2 Age limitations

7.2.1. There is no age limitation for the ECC.

7.3 Participants

7.3.1. The ECC consists of separate divisions for men and women.

7.3.2. Each EBF member federation may enter the reigning national woman and man champion. Each federation shall define who the reigning national champion is.

7.3.3. If a reigning national champion is not able to participate it is allowed for the federation to send no. 2 from their championships (or no. 3 or 4 etc.).

7.3.4. The ECC champions of last year are automatically qualified for participation to defend their titles.

7.4 Qualification

7.4.1. 24 games per athlete, divided in 3 squads of 8 games.

7.4.2. One of the 8 game blocks will be played as mix doubles. Federations that are having one athlete of each gender will be playing for medal in Mix doubles, no final. First 3 in that block will be getting Gold – Silver – Bronze in Mix Doubles. Those federations that do only send one gender, they will be playing as combined team to get the number of games for the qualification. As the federation with the defending champion can decide (in case they have 2 athletes of the same gender) which of the athletes is part of the mixed double, the remaining athlete will be put on a combined team and therefore cannot participate in getting a medal in mix double.

7.4.3. Top 12 after the 24 qualifying games are qualified for the Final Step 1.

7.5 Final steps

7.5.1. In Step 1 of the final, 12 athletes will play 8 games with the pin fall from the preceding 24 games carried forward. Top 4 are qualified for the Final Step 2.

7.5.2. There will be 2 matches in the Final Step 2; the athletes seeded 1 vs. the athlete seeded 4 and the athlete seeded 2 vs. the athlete seeded 3. The winners of the 2 matches will continue to the Final Step 3.

7.5.3. There will be 1 match in the Final Step 3 between the 2 winners of the Final Step 2.

7.5.4. Matches in the Final Step 2 and Step 3 will consist of 2 or 3 games. If the same athlete is the winner of the first two games, the 3rd game will not be played.

7.5.5. Each game in a match will be played on one pair of lanes.

7.5.6. Each game in a match will be played with the dual lane style of play.

7.5.7. In each match, the highest seeded athlete is deciding whether he wants to begin the first game on the left or right lane. In the second game the order of athletes will be opposite to the first game and in an eventual third game, the order of athletes will be the same as in the first game.

7.5.8. In case of withdrawal from any match, the athlete without opponent will be declared the winner of the match.

7.6 Positioning

7.6.1. The winner of the match in the Final Step 3 will be positioned as number 1 and the loser of the match as number 2.

7.6.2. The losers of the matches in the Final Step 2 will be positioned as number 3 and 4 according to their seeding before the step.

7.6.3. The non-qualified athletes from the Final Step 1 will be positioned 5-12 according to their positions in the Final Step 1.

7.6.4. The remaining athletes will be positioned 13-NN according to their positions in the qualification.

7.7 Amendments

This Chapter was adopted by the Congress in 2005 and amended by Congresses in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2019 and by the Presidium in 2023

8. Approved International tournaments

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1. This chapter includes requirements and procedures that shall apply to tournaments approved or recognized by EBF.

8.1.2. EBF approval of a tournament means that it is open for participation by athletes who are individual members of EBF member federations.

8.1.3. Approval shall not be granted to any tournament, which implies by its title that the winners shall be designated as World Champions, World Tenpin Champions, World Amateur Bowling Champions, European Champions, European Tenpin Champions or European Amateur Bowling Champions. A member federation shall not permit its members to participate in tournaments using such titles.

8.1.4. The only exception from rule 8.1.3 is the European Senior Bowling Championships, organized by the ESBC organization.

8.1.5. Approval shall not be granted to any tournament, which is included in a series of tournaments, where the word "European", or a combination of the words "European" and "Tour", is part of the name of the series of tournaments, or is used for official promotion or information about such a series of tournaments.

8.1.6. If an EBF approved tournament joins a tour or series of tournaments, which is in conflict with rule 8.1.5, the EBF Presidium has the right to withdraw the original approval of the tournament.

8.1.7. In order for a tournament to be approved, the Eligibility requirements and Approval requirements as specified in IBF´s Playing Rules Articles 3.3 and 3.5 respectively, must be met.

8.2 Definition of Tournaments

8.2.1. World Bowling Tournament

a) A tournament approved by IBF is open for athletes from two or more Zones
b) A tournament cannot be open for athletes from other than EBF member federations, unless an approval from IBF is given
c) To achieve an approval from IBF, the tournament needs to be approved first by both the national federation where the tournament takes place and EBF. See 8.2.3 for exceptions related to tournaments adopted in the European Bowling Tour.

8.2.2. EBF Tournament

a) An EBF Approved Tournament is open for athletes from EBF member federations
b) To achieve EBF approval the tournament needs to be approved first by the national federation where the tournament takes place. See 8.2.3 for exceptions related to tournaments adopted in the European Bowling Tour.

c) An EBF Approved Tournament can be either with free entries (Open) or limited to specific federations, groups or individuals invited (Invitational)
d) The prize fund of an EBF Approved tournament can be either fixed or conditional. If the prize fund is conditional, at least two possible prize lists must be provided and criteria for any size of a possible prize fund must clearly be stipulated.
e) An EBF Approved Tournament can be accepted as a member of other tours or series of tournaments as long as the rules of the tours or series of tournaments are not in conflict with the EBF Rules and World Bowling's Playing Rules

8.2.3. Tournaments adopted in the European Bowling Tour

a) The organizer of a tournament adopted in the European Bowling Tour can be a federation, a club or any other organization related to the federation, in whose jurisdiction the tournament takes place. In addition a tournament in the European Bowling Tour can be organized by a bowling centre or any other legal company, registered in the country, where the tournament is conducted.
b) International tournaments must, before they can be adopted in the European Bowling Tour, be approved by EBF.
c) It is optional for each federation to decide, whether they, for tournaments in the European Bowling Tour conducted under their jurisdiction, want to add a national approval.
d) If a national approval for a tournament adopted in the European Bowling Tour is required in addition to the EBF approval, the national approval cannot include any premises, which are in contradiction with the ETBF Constitution or the EBT Rules.
e) Federations, in whose jurisdiction tournaments will be adopted in the European Bowling Tour, will, at least one year prior to the beginning of the tour, be informed about the conduction periods of such tournaments.
f) In case of later changes in already informed conduction periods, the new conduction period will be discussed both with the organizer and with the national federation, in whose jurisdiction the tournament will be conducted.
g) It is the obligation of EBF to ensure, that already known outstanding issues between a federation and an organizer of a tournament with a later adoption in the European Bowling Tour, are discussed both with the organizer and with the national federation, and resolved before the tournament is adopted.
h) It is the obligation of a federation to inform EBF in case of occurred irregularities related to a tournament or the conduction of a tournament in their jurisdiction, for tournaments already adopted in the European Bowling Tour. EBF will then investigate the raised issues and find a solution, where possible proven irregularities are solved or, as the most far-reaching solution, that the tournament is removed from the European Bowling Tour.

8.2.4. National Open Tournament

a) A National Open Tournament is open for athletes from the federation where the tournament takes place and in addition athletes from three EBF member federations
b) If the tournament is open for athletes from more than four EBF member federations, EBF approval is mandatory

c) The tournament needs approval from the federation, where the tournament takes place

8.2.5. National Tournament

a) A National Tournament is only open for athletes from the federation where the tournament takes place

b) The tournament needs approval from the federation where the tournament takes place

8.2.6. EBF Recognized Tournaments

a) In addition to EBF approval of tournaments, EBF can recognize other tournaments with participation of athletes, who are members of EBF member federations, such as multisport games and tournaments organized for a certain group of athletes

b) Already recognized tournaments are:
- The European Senior Bowling Championships (ESBC), conducted annually
- The Mediterranean Bowling Championships (MBC), conducted annually
- The Small Nations Cup (SNC), conducted biennially

c) In order for a tournament to be EBF recognized all rules specified in the IBF´s Rules Chapters 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12 shall apply.

8.2.7. Affinity Tournaments

a) Other tournaments organized for specific groups of people, such as events for persons belonging to a trade union, an organization for disabled persons, etc.

b) If such tournaments have not been approved or recognized by EBF it is the responsibility of the national federation to decide whether their members are allowed to participate or not. In that case EBF has no responsibility to protect the rights of athletes participating or to accept any appeals related to such tournaments

8.2.8. Unapproved tournaments

a) Any tournament, which does not fall under the categories specified above, is classified as an Unapproved Tournament.

b) Individual members of an EBF member federation are not allowed to participate in unapproved tournaments unless the national federation or the EBF Presidium gives specific permission.

c) If an individual member, without specific permission, participates in an unapproved tournament, the national federation or the EBF Presidium may deny him the privilege of competing in future approved tournaments or championships. Such denial should be time limited.

8.3 Official sources of approved tournaments

8.3.1. Tournaments approved by IBF and conducted in one of the other Zones, will appear on the Website of the respective Zone.

8.3.2. Tournaments approved by IBF, and conducted in an EBF member federation, and tournaments approved only by EBF, will appear in the Tournament Calendar published on the EBF Website.

8.3.3. National Open Tournaments must be listed on the Website of the EBF member federation approving the tournament.

8.4 Approval fees

8.4.1. National approvals
- a) National approval fees for tournaments, not adopted in the European Bowling Tour, are solely decided by each federation
- b) National approval fees for tournaments, adopted in the European Bowling Tour, cannot exceed more than a maximum of € 200 per approval

8.4.2. EBF Approved Tournaments
- a) The fee of receiving EBF approval is € 200 in addition to the fee for receiving approvals at the national level
- b) Invoices will be sent by EBF to the federations at regular intervals
- c) Once a tournament has been approved by EBF there will be no refund in case the tournament is cancelled

8.4.3. Tournaments approved by IBF
- a) IBF´s approval fee is USD 100 in addition to fees for receiving approvals at the national and the EBF level
- b) The fee will be invoiced by EBF together with the fee of the EBF approval
- c) Once a tournament has been approved by IBF there will be no refund in case the tournament is cancelled

8.5 Approval procedures

8.5.1. The organizer must fill in the form "EBF Tournament Application" and, for tournaments not to be adopted in the European Bowling Tour, send it by email to the office of the national federation or, for tournaments to be adopted in the European Bowling Tour, send it by email to the Chairman of the EBF Tournament Committee.

8.5.2. The tournament organizer shall in the form indicate if he, in addition to EBF approval, wants approval from IBF as well.

8.5.3. The EBF Tournament Application will only be accepted, if it is send to EBF electronically by email.

8.5.4. When the EBF approval has been given, an approving letter will be send by email to the tournament organizer and the national federation. Furthermore the content of the application will be published in the Tournament Calendar on the EBF Website and the tournament will be classified as an EBF Tournament.

8.5.5. A tournament, where the application is received later than two weeks before the first day of the tournament, might not be approved.

8.5.6. If the organizer wants approval from IBF in addition to the EBF approval, the application will be forwarded by EBF to IBF.

8.5.7. EBF approval can be granted for tournaments organized during the current year and/or the following two years. All approved tournaments will be listed in the EBF Tournament Calendar.

8.5.8. Tournaments adopted in other series than the EBT

a) If a tournament is adopted in a series of tournaments, the name of the series, the period of the series (year or season), the number of the tournament in the series and the website of the series must appear in the application form.
b) The source of the rules of the series must also be mentioned in the form.
c) In case of specific restrictions, limitations or special requirements for individuals (athletes, coaches or officials) taking part in a tournament adopted in a series, they must be specified and defined in the format section of the form.
d) The rules of the series must, for each edition of the series, be finalized in due time and published by the management of the series before the entry registration is opened for the first tournament in a season of the series.

8.6 Obligations and liabilities

8.6.1. The athletes

a) Before entering in a tournament make sure that it has been duly approved
b) Be aware of the penalties, which apply when entering in an unapproved tournament (see 8.2.7)
c) According to EBF's alcohol rules, it is not allowed to consume alcohol or be under influence of alcohol while in competition; i.e. during the entire period of a squad or final stage.
d) According to EBF's smoking and tobacco rules, it is not allowed to smoke, use tobacco products or use any kind of synthetic cigarettes or e-cigarettes while in competition; i.e. during the entire period of a squad or final stage.
e) The athletes must be able to show identity evidence, either in the form of a valid license card or a certification letter issued by the national federation

8.6.2. The organizers

a) The EBF Tournament Application must be filled in a proper way
b) It is not allowed to publish any information about the tournament before the tournament has been approved by EBF
c) The eligibility requirements must be met
d) The identity of all athletes entering the tournament must be checked
e) Provision of possibilities for proper medical care and first aid treatment on call must be provided
f) A complete results list must be published latest one week after the conclusion of the tournament

8.6.3. The national federation
- a) Process the EBF Tournament Application
- b) Make sure that all requirements will be met
- c) Make sure that the Tournament Management has sufficient knowledge about the rules and obligations
- d) Guarantee that the IBF´s Rules as well as the EBF Rules will be enforced during the tournament
- e) Act as communication link between the EBF and the Tournament Organizer
- f) A written report to EBF, explaining the problem and actions taken, must be submitted in case of problems related to the tournament

8.6.4. EBF
- a) Process any EBF Tournament Application within two weeks after it has been received from the national federation
- b) Update the Tournament Calendar on the EBF Website at the moment of approval
- c) Keep the Tournament Calendar on the EBF Website up to date when corrections of tournament information are received from national federations and organizers of tournaments adopted in the European Bowling Tour.
- d) Advice the national federations to inform their athletes not to take part in tournaments where it is known that the organiser fails to follow the requirements for an approved tournament
- e) EBF has the right to refuse approval of a tournament if the organizer has previously failed to meet the requirements
- f) An EBF or a IBF approval of a tournament does not mean that EBF or IBF can be made liable for any financial disputes or claims, which may occur

8.6.5. Liabilities in case of a cancellation, changed prize funds or a changed period
- a) Article 8.6.5.c applies to a tournament, if one or more of the following situations occurs after the registration for the tournament has opened:
  - If a tournament is cancelled
  - If the entry fee or re-entry fee for one or more squads and/or fees for competitions like a desperado squads or a turbo competition is increased
  - If a fixed prize fund is reduced
  - If the prize fund status of a tournament is changed from fixed to conditional
  - If a tournament with a conditional prize fund changes the criteria for the prize fund calculations in a way, where reduced prize funds will be awarded
  - If the period of a tournament is changed, other than adding days to the beginning of the tournament
- b) Article 8.6.5.c applies to an athlete meeting the following three requirements:
  - The athlete is signed up for a cancelled tournament or the athlete decides not to play a tournament, in cases where other changes, as listed in 8.6.5.a, occur
  - The athlete is able to provide the necessary documentation for lost money

- The athlete is able to provide the necessary documentation for confirmed entries

c) An organizer, taking one or more of the actions listed in 8.6.5.a, is liable to compensate athletes meeting all requirements listed in 8.6.5.b. A compensation must cover the total amount of the following expenses for the athlete:
   - Non-refundable flight ticket expenses
   - Other non-refundable travel expenses
   - Non-refundable accommodation expenses
   - Other expenses occurred as a consequence of the situation

d) Latest the day after one of the situations in 8.6.5.a have occurred, and related changes have been published at the EBF Website, the organizer must contact all athletes with confirmed entries in the tournament, and announce the changed situation. In the information provided, all such athletes must be offered to send the requested documentation latest two weeks after they have been contacted. Latest two weeks after the deadline for athletes to reply, any valid compensation must have been received by the athletes.

8.7 Protests

8.7.1. Protests involving eligibility or IBF´s Rules Chapter 2 must be confirmed in writing to a responsible tournament official not later than 24 hours after the game in which the infraction occurred or before the prize presentation, whichever is the sooner.

8.7.2. When a protest involving a foul or the legality of pin fall is entered, an official representative of the parties involved may be present when evidence is taken relative to the protest.

8.8 Penalties

8.8.1. If an athlete is in breach of 8.6.1.c, referring to EBF's alcohol rules, the athlete will be excluded from the rest of the tournament by the Tournament Management.

8.8.2. If an athlete is in breach of 8.6.1.d, referring to EBF's smoking and tobacco rules, the penalty for the first offence will be either zero pins in the game, where the offence happens, or zero pins in the succeeding game, if the offence happens in between two games in a squad or final stage. For a second offence by the same athlete, the penalty will be an exclusion of the athlete from the rest of the tournament by the Tournament Management.

8.8.3. Unless otherwise specifically stated in the tournament rules, the penalties for other rule violations during the tournament shall be as follows.

a) An athlete failing to observe the rules shall be warned by an authorized tournament official with a yellow card for first offence (no penalty).

b) For a second offence in the same tournament, the athlete shall be disqualified from the tournament, and will not be allowed to participate in EBF and IBF tournaments / championships for 90 days.

c) All penalties issued by the tournament management shall immediately be reported to the EBF Secretary General for further action.

8.8.4. Athletes participating in unapproved tournaments, which require approval, as described herein, may be subject to penalty (for instance denial to participate in tournaments for a stated period) given by the national federation of the athlete, EBF or IBF.

8.9 Appeal procedures

8.9.1. Unless otherwise specifically stated in the tournament rules, the appeal procedures shall be as follows.

8.9.2. Any appeal from the decision of tournament management shall, within one week, be directed to the national federation within whose jurisdiction the tournament was conducted.

8.9.3. The national federation shall, within two weeks, review the appeal and make its decision. Copies of the decision shall be sent to the appellant and to the EBF Secretary General.

8.9.4. An appeal of that decision may be directed to the EBF Presidium within two weeks. The appellant and the national federation will be notified by the EBF Presidium of the decision within 30 days.

8.9.5. An appeal of that decision may be directed to the Executive Board of IBF within two weeks, and its decision shall be final. The appellant, the national federation and the EBF Presidium will be notified by the Executive Board of IBF of the decision within 30 days.

8.10 Amendments

This Chapter was adopted in 2005 and amended by Congresses in 2009, 2013, 2015 and 2019.

9. Awards

9.1 The EBF Presidium is authorised to present the following awards:

a) Silver Jubilee Pin, which can be awarded to officers of the EBF Presidium after serving for at least 25 consecutive years as a presidium member.
b) Gold Pin, which can be awarded to officers of the EBF Presidium after serving for at least eight years as a presidium member.
c) Silver Pin, which upon recommendation by the National Federation, can be awarded to those officers of EBF member federations after serving the Presidium of their National Federation for at least 10 years.
d) Distinguished Service Award, which can be awarded to persons on recommendation by the National Federation or as otherwise decided upon by the EBF Presidium.
e) EBF Presidium can nominate EBF Presidents that have rendered outstanding and long services to EBF as EBF Honorary President.
EBF Honorary Presidents can attend EBF Presidium meetings without a vote

9.2 Amendmends

This Chapter was adopted in 2023