

MTBA Tournament Rules And Regulations

Definition and Qualifications

RULE 201: A bowling tournament is defined as a prearranged contest between teams, individuals, or combinations of both, in which members of the MTBA are eligible. A tournament can be sponsored by an association or one or more individuals and can include one or more events.

Any tournament consisting of six or more teams or singles tournaments consisting of six or more individual participants shall be eligible to apply for sanction with the MTBA.

It shall provide in its rules for the designation of annual champions of the events, in which individuals are entered, and total pins shall decide such championships and other prize-winners in the various events unless another system based on pinfall is otherwise provided for in the tournament rules. When two or more events are held, an all events championship may be determined based on the total pins scored in these events. Tournament champions shall hold such title until the next tournament is held. Such champions and other prize winners shall be certified to the General Secretary of the MTBA at the conclusion of the tournament after such championships have been determined.

When tournament prize-winners are determined by using a handicap system, the handicap must be based on a known average or the estimated ability of a bowler prior to the start of competition.

Total pins will decide the champions and other prize-winners in each of the events unless another system, based on merit pinfall is stated in the tournament rules.

Regular Tournament Sanction

RULE 202: On application to MTBA, a regular tournament sanction will be issued provided:

1. The tournament consists of six or more teams or a singles tournament of six or more individual entrants.
2. A copy of the entry form tournament rules and advertising material is submitted with the sanction application. These items should be submitted in draft form, before printing, for review by MTBA to assure compliance with MTBA rules.
3. The lanes used are MTBA certified for the current season.
4. Competition among entrants in an event, except all events, is held in the same establishment. When an event is divided in two or more divisions, competition in each division is to be held in the same establishment.

Notification that a tournament is sanctioned, along with the starting and ending dates, will be sent by the MTBA to the applicant.

A sanction will not be issued to a tournament when scores bowled in different bowling establishments are compared to qualify for prizes in a common prize list.

A tournament sanction may be refused if the tournament does not comply with the MTBA rules, and/or the value of the prizes offered or guaranteed, or the number of prizes offered are misinterpreted.

Management

RULE 203: Tournament management has supervisory control of all technical parts of the operation of the tournament, including drafting the schedule and prize list. In addition, tournament management has the following authority:

- a. To adopt and enforce the tournament rules provided they are not in conflict with any MTBA rules.
- b. To decide all disputes, complaints or protests involving any MTBA or tournament rules, or appeals from the decision of tournament personnel.
- c. To decide any matter about the operation of the tournament, when not consistent with the

- tournament rules or MTBA rules.
- d. To accept or reject any entrant.

The decision of tournament management shall be final except where an appeal is made to the MTBA Disciplinary Committee.

Authority Of Team Captain

RULE 204: The captain is the team representative and is responsible for the eligibility, line-up and conduct of the team in tournament play.

The acceptance of an entry by tournament management constitutes an agreement by the captain on behalf of the team to abide by all rules of the MTBA and the tournament. In addition, the captain shall:

- a. Receive in trust any prize money the team wins, and must divide it according to verbal or written agreements with the team members.
- b. Determine who bowls on the team in the team event. If the captain replaces a player originally entered in the team event, ample notice must be given to the player being replaced.
- c. The captain, or an authorized representative, may replace any team member who is unable to attend or compete at the scheduled time.
- d. The captain of a team entered in a tournament cannot be removed except for a rules violation or for failure to appear to bowl when scheduled.

Fees And Prizes

RULE 205: The management of a sanctioned tournament must publicize fees separately per event on the entry form and advertising material as follows:

Prize Fee
Bowling/Lineage Fee
Tournament Expense Fee
Total, Per Entrant, Per Event.

Prize fees and expense fees for all events and special features may be changed, but must be listed separately. These and other collections to qualify for participation, such as donations, subscriptions or banquet fees must be stated on the entry form and advertising material.

All Events

RULE 206: Participants in a tournament may be charged an optional fee for an all events contest under the following conditions:

1. When two or more events are scheduled.
2. When two or more tournaments are conducted under the same management.
 - a. The all events fee must be paid before the advertised closing date for entries, or before the participant bowls any of the events, whichever comes first.
 - b. Distribution of prizes shall comply with the formula prescribed for payment of regular position prizes and the ratio of return shall be at least one to twenty or major fraction thereof.
3. Expense fees may be charged for participation in an optional all events contest when published in accordance with the requirements in the former paragraph entitled Fees And Prizes.

Entries, Which Close In Advance Of Tournament

RULE 207: If the date for closing entries is before the opening day of the tournament, the following rules shall apply:

1. Advance notification of time and date of participation must be posted at the tournament site/s.
2. All entries postmarked the first post office business day after the entry closing date shall be

- accepted. Additional entries for any event shall not be accepted after that date.
3. If a schedule is not published, a complete list of entrants must be available for review upon request.
 4. Tournament management cannot show in the schedule "Partner", "Reserved", or similar term instead of a team or individual entry.

Entries, Which Close Prior To Last Squad

RULE 208: When the date for closing of entries is set prior to the time the last squad is scheduled, the tournament management shall post a notice showing:

1. The exact time of day the last squad is scheduled to start.
2. The exact time for closing of entries.
3. Number of entries to date.
4. A complete current list of all entrants.
5. The high score in each event or division of each event.

Tournament management shall not accept additional entries after the closing of entries.

Submitting Entries

RULE 209: The receipt of any entry in writing and its acceptance in any tournament, by tournament management for one or more events shall regulate the number of players who shall participate. The entry form shall contain the names of the players entered and the necessary prize fees must be in the hands of the tournament management prior to the closing date of entries for the tournament.

Entry In Both Singles And Doubles

RULE 210: A tournament that schedules both singles and doubles events may adopt a rule to make entry in both events a requirement for participation.

Conditions Cannot Change

RULE 211: The conditions under which entries are accepted cannot be changed or modified after the tournament starts, unless otherwise directed by the MTBA. This includes entry fee charges and the rules governing the competition.

Free Or Reduced Entries

RULE 212: Tournament management may not provide or arrange to provide any free or reduced entries that are not stated in the tournament rules. When a free or reduced entry is given, an amount equal to the prize fee for such entry must be paid into the tournament prize fund by management.

No Fees Returned

RULE 213: After an entry has been received, and the dates assigned by tournament management are not refused before preparation of the schedule, the entry fee cannot be refunded.

Multiple Participation

RULE 214: Participation in each event shall be limited to one time unless the tournament rules allow multiple participations. The number of times participation is permitted must be stated in the rules.

When more than one time participation is permitted, the following rules apply:

- a. Five-player team event - three or more of the same players on a team can qualify for only one position prize.
- b. Three or four-player team event - two or more of the same players on a team can qualify for only one position prize.

- c. Doubles event - the same two players on a doubles team can qualify for only one position prize.
- d. Singles event - the same individual can qualify for only one position prize.

When a bowler competes more than once, his first appearance in each event shall count towards his all events score.

Singles Event Squad

RULE 215: In singles tournaments, a minimum of two entries constitutes a squad and these entries must bowl on the same pair of lanes. If a bowler competes alone as a squad, the score shall be disqualified.

Averages

RULE 216: When a bowler has more than one average and the individual average is used to determine the handicap or classification of the bowler or his team, one of the following methods shall be selected to arrive at an average for the tournament:

- a. The highest average based on a minimum of twelve games.
- b. A composite average.
- c. A composite average, provided it is not more than ten pins below the highest average maintained in a league in which the bowler has competed in at least twelve games.

Average - Conditions That Apply

RULE 217: The following conditions apply to averages in handicap or classified tournaments unless the tournament rules state otherwise:

1. Individual averages must be based on a minimum of twenty-one games in an MTBA sanctioned league.
2. When the previous season's average is used, and at the time of bowling an entrant has a current average for twenty one games or more games that is ten pins or more higher than the prior season's average, the current average must be used.
3. Bowlers are responsible for verifying their own average whether submitted by the bowler, the team captain or others. If the submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower classification or more handicap, the bowler's score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average. In the case of a team of two or more bowlers, the averages will be combined to determine if the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total.
4. Average corrections can be made up at the end of the first game of a series, or, if an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the first game of a series, the correction can be made within forty eight hours after the end of the series.
5. When the MTBA publishes a Yearbook, a tournament using previous season averages to determine handicap or classification shall accept the yearbook average as official. Tournament management shall use the book to verify averages, if furnished, and not require the MTBA secretary to verify averages.

Assigned Averages

RULE 218: Regular Sanction. A bowler having no acceptable entering average under the tournament rules shall bowl scratch unless the rules provide that an average will be assigned. If the rules so provide, the assigned average established by rule shall not be less than 165 for women and 170 for men.

A bowler in a sanctioned senior tournament, in which all entrants must be fifty years or more, may be assigned an average in accordance with the figure established by tournament rules.

Moral support sanction: A bowler who does not have an acceptable average under the tournament rules may be assigned an average in accordance with the figure established by tournament rules.

Average Adjustments (Re-Rating)

RULE 219: The average of a bowler may be adjusted upward before the tournament commences. If the assigned average is not accepted by the bowler the entry fee shall be refunded, unless the original average was submitted incorrectly by the entrant.

Should the Entry Form advise participants of the fact, then average adjustments may also be carried out during a tournament.

Reporting Prior Prize Winnings

RULE 220: A handicap or classified tournament may require a bowler to report any previous tournament prize winnings as a condition for entry.

In a handicap or classified tournament that does have such a rule, anyone who has qualified for a cash and/or merchandise prize of **€ 5850** or more in the position standings prize list in any event in a tournament, including all events, special features, special prizes and donated prizes, within the last twelve month period, must give tournament management the following information at time of entry, for possible re-rating:

1. The name of each tournament in which he/she has been paid such a prize, or if not yet paid, in which he/she has qualified for the prize.
2. The amount of the prize.
3. The actual score bowled to qualify for the prize.
4. The prize position.

Failure to comply with these provisions is cause for a forfeiture of entry fee and prize winnings.

Two Lanes Required

RULE 221: Bowling shall begin in accordance with a previously arranged schedule. Two lanes immediately adjoining each other shall be used in each game of tournament play. The first game of a series starts on the lane where the team or individual is scheduled. Succeeding games start on the lane on which the team or individual finished the preceding game unless each complete game is bowled on a different pair of lanes.

Order Of Bowling

RULE 222: Members of competing teams, and individual entrants shall successively and in regular order bowl one frame on one lane, and for the next frame alternate and use the other lane until five frames have been bowled on each lane of the pair.

Interrupted Game Or Series

RULE 223: If equipment failure on a pair of lanes would delay the progress of the series, the tournament official can authorize the completion of a game and series on another pair of certified lanes.

The interrupted game and series must be resumed from the point of interruption.

Tardy Players

RULE 224: Any player or team arriving late shall begin play with the score to count from the frame then being bowled.

If a team refuses to start because a full line-up is not present, tournament management, at its own discretion, can declare the game forfeited. No blind scores will be permitted.

Pacers

RULE 225: Pacers are permitted to maintain competitive conditions, unless otherwise provided by specific tournament rules.

Scores bowled as a pacer shall not count in determining prize-winners.

No person, who serves as a pacer, shall be permitted to compete in the tournament.

Line-up Changes

RULE 226: If a change in a team line-up is desired, it must be requested at least fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled relative squad start. Thereafter, no player shall change position in any team line-up after the player has been checked onto the lanes to bowl unless authorized by the tournament official in charge.

Penalty: Disqualification.

Substitutions During Game Or Series

RULE 227: After a team series has started, no changes can be made in the order of the players, but the team captain can replace any player with a qualified substitute at the start of any game during the series. A player removed during a series cannot return to bowl in that series.

When a player is unable to complete a game because of disability, injury or emergency, and a qualified substitute is not available to bowl, the team of which he is a member shall count his actual score for the frames bowled in the game total, plus one-tenth of his blind score for each of the remaining frames in the game. The frames bowled shall not be used in determining the bowler's average.

When a player does not complete a game for reasons other than disability, injury or emergency, the player's team shall count zero for each remaining frame in the game.

If there is any doubt of a player's reason for not being able to continue a game, the league secretary shall decide and the player may be reported to the MTBA Disciplinary Committee.

Team Bowling Alone

RULE 228: A team or individual scheduled alone on a pair of lanes must bowl the games as though they were contested. Each player must complete a frame on one lane before the player bowling lead-off starts the next frame on the adjoining lane.

Tie Scores

RULE 229: When there is a tie for any championship in a tournament, it is optional with tournament management to have a play-off or declare co-champions.

Co-champions: If co-champions are declared, the cash prizes for the positions affected are to be equally divided. Extra trophies are to be supplied by the tournament management from the prize fund.

Play-off: In a match game or elimination tournament, the number of games bowled in deciding ties shall be determined by the tournament management. In other tournaments, three games shall be played in deciding all ties, unless otherwise stated in the tournament rules. Under no conditions shall ties be contested over less than one game.

Scorers

RULE 230: A tournament is required to have official scorers to record all games bowled in the tournament or use an A.B.C. approved automatic scoring device.

If a full compliment of scorers is not available and the bowlers affected cannot be re-scheduled, they may be allowed to record their own scores under supervision of the tournament management.

No scorer shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any bet or wager on any game or series. If at any time the scorer shall be found to be so interested, is incompetent, or interferes with tournament contestants, the Tournament Official/s may remove any such scorers.

Scoring Errors

RULE 231: After a score has been recorded, it cannot be changed unless there is an obvious error in scoring or calculation. Obvious errors must be corrected immediately upon discovery by a tournament official.

Once a tournament has proceeded into a further stage, and bowlers already selected by merit of pinfall or otherwise, the error will stand once that stage has already commenced. Tournament management may, by rule, set a time limit for the correction of errors.

Scores - Loss Of

RULE 232: A tournament game or frame within a game that is irretrievably lost in the scoring process may be re-bowled with approval of the tournament management. The decision of tournament management shall be final, except where an appeal is made to the MTBA Appeals Board for final consideration.

Appeal Or Protest

RULE 233: A protest or appeal involving eligibility or playing rules must be filed with the tournament management before:

- a. Prizes are paid in the event of the final day.
- b. Within twenty four hours in any of the qualifying rounds.

The protest or appeal must be made in writing and signed, and must be accompanied by an Administrative Fee of €12. This amount will be refunded should the applicant prove to be correct in the respective contestation.

Prizes for the positions affected cannot be distributed until the protest or appeal is resolved.

The decision of the MTBA Appeals Board shall be final and binding upon all entrants and officials of such tournament.

Official Prize List

RULE 234: The tournament secretary shall prepare the official prize list promptly following the closing date of entries. The prize list shall contain the number of prizes to be awarded in each event and the amount of each prize.

The official prize list may be included in the official tournament schedule, but if shown separately, the secretary shall file two copies of such official prize list with the secretary of the association prior to the opening of the tournament, and shall also post prior to the opening of the tournament a copy of the official prize list in the establishment where the tournament events will be conducted for the information of all contestants.

The above requirement shall not apply to the tournaments, which provide in their rules that the prize list must be approved at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors or delegates of the association conducting the tournament, if such meeting is held after the opening date of the tournament.

Prize Distribution And Report

RULE 235: Within thirty days after the completion of the tournament, the following post-tournament requirements must be met:

1. Distribute all prizes, except when the MTBA has authorized holding up payments pending settlement of any claim or protest which affects position standings.
2. File a copy of the prize list with the MTBA and the Association showing the name of each prize winner, his score and prize issued to him.
3. File a copy of the financial statement with the MTBA and the association secretary, listing all receipts and disbursements.

Bowling Out

RULE 236: A bowler, with the consent of the Tournament Director, may finish the final game of a Tournament before his opponents, unless the specific tournament rules do not permit bowling out. A player bowling out should do so while the others continue to bowl. The player should bowl on each lane immediately after the previous bowler completes the frame, so that the progress of the game is not delayed.

When a bowler is allowed to bowl out, the score counts in deciding pinfall. This score is included in the bowlers average and qualifies for MTBA awards. The score also counts for special tournament awards unless otherwise provided by the specific tournament's rules.

International Tournaments

RULE 237: All International Tournaments require sanctioning as follows:

1. If five or more Federations or individuals outside the country of the tournament are invited, then Zone sanctioning is required in addition to the sanctioning by the National Federation
2. If five or more Federations or individuals outside the Zone of the tournament are invited, then WTBA sanctioning is required in addition to the sanctioning by the National Federation and the Zone.

The Zone sanction fees will depend on the Zone itself and these can be found on the Zone's website.

The MTBA sanction fees currently are:

Singles Tournament	€235
Doubles Tournament	€235
Ranking Events	As agreed with the Tournament Organiser.