

44th MALAYSIAN INTERNATIONAL OPEN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

25 May – 7 June 2026

Sunway Mega Lanes, Sunway Pyramid

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Championship Organization and Sanction

The 44th Malaysian International Open Bowling Championship 2026 is organized by the Malaysian Tenpin Bowling Congress and sanctioned by Asian Bowling Federation (ABF) and International Bowling Federation (IBF). It will be conducted in accordance with the World Bowling Playing Rules as of September 2019.

2. Eligibility

This Tournament is open to all current paid up members of MTBC & IBF affiliates. All local participants must show proof by producing their membership cards or receipts for examination if requested. All overseas participants must obtain clearance from their respective National Tenpin Bowling Associations.

3. Averages

Only official average of MTBC will be used. Overseas bowlers must produce written confirmation of their averages from their respective National Association or Congress.

Bowlers without written confirmation of their averages from their respective National Association or Congress will have to bowl in the "OPEN" Divisions.

4. Classification

Competition will be divided into Open and Graded divisions for all categories i.e. Men, Women, Youth Boys and Youth Girls.

- 4.1. **Men's Open** - All male bowlers including graded and youth are eligible to participate in this division.
- 4.2. **Women's Open** - All female bowlers including graded and youth are eligible to participate in this division.
- 4.3. **Men's Graded** - All male bowlers with an average of **199 and below** are eligible to participate in this division.

- 4.4 **Women's Graded** - All female bowlers with an **average of 189 and below** are eligible to participate in this division.
- 4.5 **Youth Boys Open** - All male bowlers who were born in the year of **2005 and after**, are eligible to participate in this division.
- 4.6 **Youth Girls Open** - All female bowlers who were born in the year of **2005 and after** are eligible to participate in this division.
- 4.7 **Youth Boys Graded** - All male bowlers who were born in the year of **2005 and after** with an **average of 189 and below** are eligible to participate in this division.
- 4.8 **Youth Girls Graded** - All female bowlers who were born in the year of **2005 and after** with an **average 179 and below** are eligible to participate in this division.
- 4.9 **Senior Masters** – All male and female bowlers **aged 50 and over born in 1976 or before**). Bowlers **aged 55 (born in 1971) will be given a handicap of 5-pins**, and **an additional 1-pin for each year from age 56 onwards**. The handicap is given for each game played throughout the championship.

5 Events

MEN & WOMEN (OPEN)	YOUTH BOYS & GIRLS (OPEN)
a) Singles (3 games)	a) Singles (3 games)
b) Masters Qualifying (3 games)	b) Masters Qualifying (3 games)
c) Masters (refer rules)	c) Masters (8 games)

MEN & WOMEN (GRADED)	YOUTH BOYS & GIRLS (GRADED)
a) Singles (3 games)	a) Singles (3 games)
b) Masters Qualifying (3 games)	b) Masters Qualifying (3 games)
c) Masters (8 games)	c) Masters (8 games)

SENIOR MASTERS
a) Singles (3 games)
b) Masters Qualifying (3 games)
c) Masters (8 games)

- 5.1 **Singles** - 3 games will be bowled in this event. A bowler may try in as many attempts but the scores will only be listed in the Singles

event and not be counted in the Masters qualifying. A bowler may win only 1 prize in the Singles event. **The Singles MUST be completed before proceeding with the first MQ attempt.**

- 5.2 **Masters Qualifying (MQ)** – 3 games will be bowled in this event. A bowler may bowl as many times as he/she chooses. The best two attempts (total 6 games) will be listed for ranking into the Masters Qualifying.
- 5.3 **Desperado Squad** - One game will be bowled in this event on the last squad on **Friday, 5 June 2026**, and is for Men's & Women's Open and Men's Graded division only. A bowler must bowl at least 3 MQs in their respective category to be eligible, the fee is RM 300.00.
- 5.4 **Masters** - Scores obtained in the best two MQs in respective divisions will be used for Masters Qualifying. This event is open to those bowlers who have registered at least one Singles in their respective divisions and have paid up proof of their Registration.

All bowlers who have registered Singles in their respective division do not have to complete the same event in the higher division if they so wish to compete in the higher categories.

The number of Master finalists in each category is as follows:

OPEN	Men's Open	Women's Open
Round 1	Defending Champion	Defending Champion
	5 th – 12 th Local Qualifiers (8)	4 th – 10 th Local Qualifiers (7)
	5 th – 12 th Overseas Qualifiers (8)	4 th – 10 th Overseas Qualifiers (7)
	Top 16 from Local & Overseas Pool (16)	Top 10 from Local & Overseas Pool (10)
	Top 3 from 'Desperado' Squad (3)	Top 2 from 'Desperado' Squad (2)
	Total 36 bowlers (8 games)	Total 27 bowlers (8 games)
Round 2	Top 16 from Round 1	Top 12 from Round 1
	1 st – 4 th from Local Qualifiers (4)	1 st – 3 rd from Local Qualifiers (3)
	1 st – 4 th from Overseas Qualifiers (4)	1 st – 3 rd from Overseas Qualifiers (3)
	Total 24 bowlers (8 games)	Total 18 bowlers (8 games)
	The 2 nd and 3 rd placed from Round 2 to bowl 1 game. Highest pin fall	The 2 nd and 3 rd placed from Round 2 to bowl 1 game. Highest pin fall to

Round 3 (Semi-Finals)	to proceed to Round 4, 2 nd highest pin fall to take 3 rd position.	proceed to Round 4, 2 nd highest pin fall to take 3 rd position.
Round 4 (Finals)	The 1 st placed bowler from Round 2 and the winner from Round 3 will meet in the Finals. The Finals will be held on a 1+1 game format. If the top placed bowler from Round 2 wins the 1 st game, he shall be declared the Champion. Should the winner from Round 3 wins the 1 st game, there would be a "sudden death" play-off on 1 game. Whoever wins this game shall be declared the Champion.	The 1 st placed bowler from Round 2 and the winner from Round 3 will meet in the Finals. The Finals will be held on a 1+1 game format. If the top placed bowler from Round 2 wins the 1 st game, he shall be declared the Champion. Should the winner from Round 3 wins the 1 st game, there would be a "sudden death" play-off on 1 game. Whoever wins this game shall be declared the Champion.
GRADED	Men's Graded	Women's Graded
Masters Finals	Top 39 Qualifiers	Top 18 Qualifiers
	Top 3 from 'Desperado' Squad	
	Total 42 bowlers (8 games)	Total 18 bowlers (8 games)
YOUTH OPEN	YOUTH BOYS OPEN	YOUTH GIRLS OPEN
Masters Finals	Top 3 Local Qualifiers (3)	Top 3 Local Qualifiers (3)
	Top 3 Local Qualifiers (3)	Top 3 Local Qualifiers (3)
	Top 18 from Local & Overseas Pool (18)	Top 12 from Local & Overseas Pool
	Total 24 bowlers (8 games)	Total 18 bowlers (8 games)
YOUTH GRADED	YOUTH BOYS GRADED	YOUTH GIRLS GRADED
Masters Finals	Top 24 Qualifiers	Top 18 Qualifiers
	Total 24 bowlers (8 games)	Total 18 bowlers (8 games)
SENIOR MASTER	SENIOR MASTER Men	SENIOR MASTER Women
Masters Finals	Top 6 Local Qualifiers Top 6 Overseas Qualifiers Top 18 Qualifiers from Local & Overseas Pool	Top 4 Local Qualifiers Top 4 Overseas Qualifiers Top 16 Qualifiers from Local & Overseas Pool
	Total 27 bowlers (8 games)	Total 24 bowlers (8 games)

All the above top qualifiers based on the best two masters qualifying (MQ) scores, which will be listed on the Championship Results Board from the start of

the qualifying rounds till the end of last squad at 10:30pm on 6 June 2026. (Except for youth and senior qualifying to refer to the schedule).

In the event of a tie for the last position in the qualifying round, the highest last game in the MQ will decide, i.e. the higher last game of the 2nd best 3-games. If there is still a tie, the higher 2nd last game will decide and will continue until the tie is broken.

All qualifiers must check with the Tournament Directors 24 hours before their finals roll-off, to confirm their fixtures and/or to check for any changes in the schedule.

REPORTING TIME

All Masters Finalists must check in personally by 30 minutes (Check-in will start 1 hour) before their respective roll-off times. Reserves will be called 29 minutes before roll-off. The Center Clock will be the official time used.

Finalist that failed to personally check in at least 30 minutes before the respective roll-off time will have their slot forfeited to the reserves.

6 Registration and Fees

OPEN & GRADED	Men's Open	Women's Open	Men's Graded	Women's Graded
Registration Fees	RM150.00	RM150.00	RM100.00	RM100.00
Singles	RM150.00	RM150.00	RM150.00	RM120.00
MQs	RM150.00	RM150.00	RM150.00	RM120.00
Desperado Squad	RM300.00	RM300.00	RM300.00	NA
Masters Final	RM500.00	RM400.00	RM400.00	RM350.00
YOUTH	Boy's Open	Girl's Open	Boy's Graded	Girl's Graded
Registration Fees	RM100.00	RM100.00	RM100.00	RM100.00
Singles	RM120.00	RM120.00	RM70.00	RM70.00
MQs	RM120.00	RM120.00	RM70.00	RM70.00
Masters Final	RM250.00	RM220.00	RM150.00	RM150.00

SENIOR MASTER	SENIOR MASTER			
Registration Fees	RM100.00			
Singles	RM120.00			
MQs	RM120.00			
Masters Final	RM250.00			

Registration fee must be paid before commencing the first event.

7 Squad Times

If preferred squad times indicated on the entry forms are not available, the Tournament Directors or their Assistants reserve the right to reallocate squad times at their discretion. The Tournament Directors reserve the right to open additional squads.

8 Substitutions

Substitutions for MQ may be allowed provided it is reported to one of the Tournament Directors or their Assistants and duly approved by at least 30 minutes before the time of play. It is at the discretion of the Tournament Director to accept any late request for substitutions less than 30 minutes before squad time.

9 Participation

Bowlers must play in their respective grades or in higher one. Bowlers from a higher grade will not be eligible to play in any of the lower grades. Bowlers in the graded division or youth division, who wishes to participate in the Open division after qualifying in their respective grade, may do so without competing in the Singles again in the open grade. However they have to pay an **additional fee of RM50.00 which will be the ranking fee towards ABF.**

10 Verification of Score

It is the responsibility of each bowler and/or the team captain to verify the correctness of each game bowled by signing on the official entry form of each event. Once signed, the score shall stand unless otherwise decided by the Tournament Committee.

In the event of any interruptions caused by power failure, the following procedure shall be followed. Any part of a game that cannot be recalled will be re-bowled from the first frame. If more than one game cannot be recalled, the series shall be declared null and void and a fresh series be rescheduled. If only one frame is missing, the bowler shall continue from the last frame bowled.

11 Registration of Bowling Balls, Illegality and Disqualification

SLOW OIL-ABSORBING HIGH PERFORMANCE (URETHANE) BOWLING BALLS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE USED. Penalty will be zero points for the MQ Attempt. If used during the finals, the athlete will be DISQUALIFIED from the tournament.

Click the link below for the list of disallowed bowling balls.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xTyCpt6Bt-54MP1tNz20UVB3mvVcR07Z/view?usp=sharing>

All participants are advised to check their bowling balls used in the tournament are within the specifications for weight and other specifications before they compete in their events. The onus is on the bowler to ensure that all balls he/she uses are within the specifications in accordance with International Bowling Federation Rules.

If at any time a bowler is found to have used an illegal ball even if previously certified legal by the Tournament Office, he/she shall be disqualified from the entire Tournament and stripped of all his/her winnings or positions standing and if the Tournament Committee is of the opinion that such usage was deliberate and was intended to cheat, he/she may be further reported to the MTBC Disciplinary Committee/ or ABF Executive Committee for additional penalization. He/she may also be asked to return immediately to one of the Tournament Directors any awards that may have already been given to him/her.

12 Altering of Bowling Ball Surface

Altering the surface of bowling balls is allowed in a designated area during the official practice session, during the practice session immediately preceding a competition round, and in between blocks or competition round (MQ).

Altering of the surface of any bowling ball is NOT ALLOWED DURING OR IN BETWEEN GAMES WITHIN A BLOCK or ROUND OF COMPETITION. If the surface is adjusted during the game, **the penalty is zero pinfalls in that game**, regardless of whether the ball is thrown during the game. The resurfaced bowling ball will also not be allowed to be use throughout the remainder of the block.

13 Tie Breaking Procedure

- 13.1 When a tie occurs for the last placed in the masters qualifying, the highest last game in the qualified MQ will decide, i.e. the highest last game of the 2nd best 3 games.

In Round 3 (Semi Finals) and Round 4 (Finals), when a tie occurs on the matches, one ball roll-off shall decide until the tie is broken.

- 13.2 If a tie occurs in the last position after Round 1 of the Open Masters, the bowler with the highest last game in Round 1 will make it to Round 2. If the last game is still a tie, the 2nd last game will decide. This will continue until the tie is broken. Same tie breaker will apply to Round 2.

14 Cheating

Any bowler found guilty of cheating at scores, averages eligibility or in any other counts will be immediately disqualified from the entire tournament and reported to the Disciplinary Committee of MTBC for further action. He/she will also be stripped of his/her winnings and positions standing and be asked to return to the Tournament Directors any awards that may have already been given to him/her. When in doubt, bowlers are reminded to consult the Tournament Directors on any issues.

15 Bowlers Attire

- 15.1 Bowlers are requested to be dressed for their events with a sense of decorum. Men bowlers are not permitted to wear blue denim jeans, shorts, sleeveless shirts, while women bowlers are not permitted to wear blue denim jeans, sleeveless shirts.
- 15.2 If, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, a bowler is not appropriately dressed, he/she may not be permitted to bowl.
- 15.3 Caps and hats (Headgear) are not permitted unless it is under religious requirements, or with the consent of the Tournament Director on a case-to-case basis.

16 Slow Bowling

- 16.1 A bowler who is in readiness to step on the approach to deliver a ball, shall have the following rights and obligations. They may claim right of way over anyone moving to the approach or preparing to bowl on the lane immediately on their left.
- 16.2 Players shall be ready to bowl when it is their turn should not delay going to the approach, is a lane immediately adjacent to them on the left and right side is clear.
- 16.3 If the tournament director or tournament officials deems that a bowler is bowling too slowly, or not ready to bowl when the lane is

clear, the bowler will be given a 1st verbal warning, a 3rd warning will lead to the frame being scored zero points.

- 16.4 All competition shall follow a 1-lane courtesy rule. Bowlers will receive verbal warning as per rule 16.3 above if the Tournament Director or Tournament Officials deems that a bowler is not following the 1-lane courtesy.

17 Protest

- 17.1 Scores - Must be submitted **in writing** to the Tournament Directors or their Assistants **within 2 hours of the event**, and in the case of an elimination round, before the next round. In the case of the last match of the Step-Ladder Finals of the Masters event, such protests, if any should be addressed to the same officials before prize presentation **in writing**. No protest made after the prize presentation will be entertained.
- 17.2 Foul - Must be brought to the attention of the Referee before the delivery of the next ball. No complaints made after the 2nd ball has been bowled shall be entertained.
- 17.3 Eligibility - Must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Directors or their Assistants **within 24 hours** of the first infringement or before the next round or prize presentation or whichever is earlier.

18 Special Notes

- 18.1 Bowlers are requested to refrain from swearing on the lanes.
- 18.2 Bowlers shall restrict themselves to their respective lanes and exercise consideration for all participants.
- 18.3 Bowlers wearing soft rubber soles on their non-sliding foot may be barred from further bowling subject, to the scrutiny of the Tournament Directors.
- 18.4 The Tournament Directors reserve the right to accept or reject any entry they deem fit.
- 18.5 Any matters arising and not covered in these Tournament Rules will be decided by the Tournament Chairman, the Tournament Directors or the Tournament Committee whose decision shall be final subject **only to appeal to the MTBC Council**. Such appeal should be made **in writing and within 48 hours of the decision** by any of the above. Notwithstanding the above, an appeal FOR THE DECISION OF THE

MTBC may still be lodged with the Asian Bowling Federation but through the MTBC and within 30 days.