

BRITISH TENPIN BOWLING ASSOCIATION



Inter County Championships Rules & Regulations

January 2024 v 1.1

Latest Amendments		
January 2019	General	Several admin corrections made. Addition of criteria for tied places and for teams dropping out Changes to acceptable clothing.
	Seniors	Removal of Age Bonus - Trial Change of eligibility date
	U22/U16/U12	New Age Categories Insertion of rules governing the photography of children
January 2022	General	County Eligibility change. Membership level requirement changed for U22 event. (May 22 v1.2)
	Seniors	Removal of age bonus adopted
	Adult	Finals reduced to 10 teams in each division. Top 3 teams from each region to qualify for the finals. Defending champions will to be invited to the nest finals. Finals will be a Baker format
	Juniors	Under 12 championships deleted Under 16 Championships – One division Mixed team
January 2023	General	Adult championship name changed to Open Championship. Ladies' division changed to four-person format.
	Open	Qualifying groups could be 3 or 4 depending on the location of entering Counties. Finals Baker format removed. 9 game round robin in each division.
	Youth	Under 16 and Under 22 championships format change.
January 2024	General	Eligibility for non-British Passport holders shortened to 2 years in the country. A competitive membership must be held by all registered squad members in both open and senior championships. Any home nation national squad member may be seeded into a County/association team. If a county is unable to field a ladies team, eligible females may be registered in the men's team. Shorts are permissible and have been added to the ladies attire list. Flexibility of the dates for finals added.
	Seniors	Finals will be played in a Peterson point format.

1. Purpose

To promote competition between eligible Counties/Area Associations of Great Britain to produce County Champions for Male and Female Teams at all levels.

From here on in these rules, area associations will be referred to as 'counties'.

2. Management

The Championships will be governed by the Inter County Secretaries appointed by the National Council of the BTBA.

3. Eligibility

a) Registration of Counties will only be accepted from:

- i) County or Area Associations of the BTBA and Affiliated Associations.
- ii) Counties forming part of any Area Association of the BTBA.
- iii) In the Adult tournament only an RAF team formed from serving Royal Air Force personnel.

Note A county association may exist and enter these championships even if there is no bowling centre within that County.

Note - For the sake of clarity within these rules, from here on the word County in association with the Open Championships is assumed to include the RAF in all eligible championships.

b) The following qualifications are required for County representation:

- i) The individual must be a current member in good standing with the BTBA or Affiliated Association.
- ii) In the Open and Senior events all bowlers registered in the county squad **must** hold a BTBA competitive membership. In the junior championships a junior or league membership is adequate.
- iii) The individual must be eligible to hold a British Passport or have lived continuously in the UK for at least **2 years**.
- iv) The individual must have been born within the boundaries of their County, or
- v) The individual must have resided within the boundaries of their County for not less than one year at the time of registration. Serving members of HM Forces (not participating in the RAF team) and their dependants, shall qualify after six months residential period.

RAF Team only: RAF personnel must be serving personnel, stationed in the UK at the time of the RAF selection tournament and not currently registered for another County.

c) County Eligibility will be determined by Post code as determined using this [tool](#). This gives you access to download the excel spreadsheet. You will need to enable editing before it can be used.

Bowlers with eligibility via the previous county borders of 1961, will continue with reserved rights.

- d) All applications for change of registration must be lodged for a period of one year before becoming effective. The one-year waiting period shall commence for unregistered players from the date of receipt of written notification, for registered players from the end of the final in the year of application.
- i) Until their new qualification takes effect, these individuals will continue to be eligible to play for their previous County.
 - ii) No individual may play for different Counties in successive years without first having given one year's notice of intent to the relevant Inter County Secretary who in turn will notify the BTBA Head Office.
 - iii) Individuals who fail to notify the Inter County Secretary of their intent to change Counties may if they desire, but not necessarily: After one complete year (during which time their name must not be registered for any County) they are then at liberty to register for a new County, provided they meet the criteria of Rule 3b.
 - iv) RAF 'County' registered players leaving the Service must advise the Adult Inter-County Secretary in accordance with eligibility rule d above of the county to which they wish to become affiliated to either by birth or residence in accordance with the eligibility rules above.
- e) Orphan Bowlers
- i) If a bowler lives and was born in a County that has no local association, then if they bowl in a league in another area, they can declare to the ICC secretary that they wish to participate for that County. If either their County of residence or birth form an accepted County association this temporary attachment will be rescinded. ii) Bowlers who live or were born in a County with an association who cannot raise a team to play then this is unfortunate, but the bowler will be unable to play.
- f) Notice of Intent. Counties wishing to participate must send notification to the relevant Inter County Secretary as follows:

Seniors	14 th February
Adults	14 th February
Under 22's	28 th February
Under 16's	28 th February

This is to be followed by the registration fee (determined by the BTBA) to arrive with the appropriate ICC Secretary no later than the following dates:

Seniors	31 st March
Open	30 th April
Under 22's	30 th June
Under 16's	30 th June

Fees are not refundable. The fee will be used to defray the expenses of the Final.

g) Age Eligibility

Senior

- Senior participants must be aged 50 on or before the 31st December in the year of the Championship.

Open

- No specific age criteria.

Youth Championships

Under 22 at any point during the year of the tournament.

Under 16 at any point during the year of the tournament.

4. General

Under 16 bowlers may play in the Under 22's with a Junior Membership card. For all other championships a standard, BTBA membership is the minimum requirement.

5. Selection – All Levels

- a) A BTBA or Affiliated Association Sanctioned Tournament for selection purposes must be held in a certified centre and there must be equal opportunity for all members to represent their County. It is not necessary that the certified centre chosen for the tournament be within the jurisdiction of the County.
- b) All County Trials are organised by the BTBA not the NAYBC hence the Tournament Sanction Fee (TSF) will also apply to U16/U22 divisions.
- c) Entry Forms for the tournament must include a declaration of eligibility to be completed by the participants.
- d) The entry form for the U16/U22 tournaments must include the following:

Before, during, and after the event there could be photography, filming or video taken of participants and medal winners by anyone attending the event, either as an official, spectator, parent, or guardian.

If you (as a participant, parent, or guardian) object to this, you must make your objections known to the tournament manager prior to the event starting and reasonable adjustments will be made.
- e) **To be eligible for selection, Individuals must participate in the selection tournament. At the discretion of the County any home nation national squad member, may be exempt and seeded into their eligible age group and no other.**
- f) All-county selection tournaments will be played scratch.

- g) The top two bowlers from each of the county selection tournaments (County Trials) must be given the opportunity to play at least two games during the qualifying round.

Note. This does not necessarily mean that these two players need bowl at the same time.

- h) The results of the selection tournaments must be returned with the list of registered players and their BTBA card expiry date to the relevant Inter County Secretary by the following dates:

Seniors	30 th April each year
Open	14 th June each year
Youth - U16 and U22	Dates to be advised by ICC secretary.

- g) The top two players from the selection tournament must be listed first on the registration form that is sent to the relevant ICC Secretary.
- h) A maximum of 15 players may be registered in each division for the Open and Senior Championships and 6 players for the under 16 & 22.
- i) In the event of the maximum number of bowlers not being registered by the dates stated then additions may only be made by the authority of the relevant ICC Secretary.

6. Formats & General Rules

- a) All matches and games shall conform to BTBA Rules and Regulations.
- b) There will be 2 divisions in the Open and Senior Championship. In the under 16 and 22, the teams can either be single or mixed gender but play in a single division.
- c) Each eligible County shall be permitted to enter one team in each division. for the Open and Senior Championships. The under 16 & 22 championships, counties can enter two teams.
- d) **IF a county is unable to field a female team, female bowlers are permitted to be registered and play in the men's county team.**
- e) It is the responsibility of each County to arrange for provision of suitable shirts of the same colour and design bearing the name of, and if possible, the crest of, their County. Reference to a commercial sponsor may appear but, shall not be more than half the size of the County Name or be the predominant feature. Individual's names are acceptable on the front or back.
- f) No denim of any description will be allowed. Ladies/girls may wear skorts, **shorts**, skirts, trousers, ¾ length trousers or sports leggings. Men/boys can wear trousers or tailored shorts. Whichever attire is worn it must be of the same colour.

NB – Sports leggings are deemed as not see through. The acceptable length of skirts, skorts or shorts, is a length that is no shorter than the tip of the longest figure when the bowler's arm is resting by their side

- g) Summary of Formats with specific details found in the Annexes.

Seniors	Male 5 persons Qualifying round and a Grand Final	Female 4 persons
Open	Male 5 persons Qualifying round and Grand Final	Female 4 persons
Under 16	A county may enter up to two teams of mixed or single gender 4 persons. 6 games for total pinfall only.	
Under 22	A county may enter up to two teams of mixed or single gender 4 persons. Qualifying round and round robin final	

The under 16 and under 22 championships will be held over a single weekend. Under 16's play on the Saturday and under 22 on the Sunday. Bowlers eligible for the U16 can also participate in the U22.

- h) Only bowlers and team managers and bowlers are allowed in the players area during play.
- i) Lane patterns for the finals will be published at least 48 hours before the final.

7. Ties

- a) See individual Championship specific rules.

BRITISH TENPIN BOWLING ASSOCIATION



Inter County Championships Rules & Regulations Specific to Each Level

[Senior Tournament](#)

[Open Tournament](#)

[Under 22 Tournament](#)

[Under 16 Tournament](#)

Seniors

1. Format

- a) The Country will be split into four qualifying groups nominally North, Midlands, South East and South West for both male and female divisions with an equal number of counties, as far as is practical, in each group. The groups will be compiled by the Inter-County Secretary and confirmed by the General ICC Secretary.

Note: With the varying number of counties entering on a year-by-year basis, the number of qualifying groups may have to be amended, after receipt of entries, to create as evenly numbered and geographically balanced groups as possible.

- b) Each team will play six games in the qualifying round during the first weekend in June. The top three men's teams and two ladies from each group will qualify for the final.
- c) If possible, the round will be played on the Sunday only, subject to the number of entries and the availability of a suitable hosting centre. If necessary, a draw will be made (normally at the BTBA Nationals) to determine which day the county will play on in the qualifying round. The draw will initially be based on the counties with both a male and female team and then by those with just one. This assures an even balance of teams across both days.
- d) The final will be an eleven-game round robin for the Men and seven for the ladies played over the second full weekend in October, subject to school half term dates and the centres availability.

2. Qualifying Rounds - 1st Sunday in June

- a) Venues for the qualifying rounds will be notified as soon as possible after the closing date for entries. The County that hosts a qualifying round will be responsible for applying for the tournament sanction for that qualifying round.
- b) Times of registration will be announced by the Inter County Secretary or host County to all participating Counties in the qualifying round.
- c) Each player must be a **current** BTBA or Affiliated Association Member. Any bowlers whose membership is out of date will not be allowed to play. If a bowler is subsequently found NOT to be a member, then their scores will be removed. Teams or players not registered by the stated time will not be allowed to bowl, except in an emergency or unless otherwise agreed by the ICC Secretary at the time of registration.
- d) In the event of a tie for a position in the final, the team with the lower difference between its highest and lowest team game will go through.
- e) Lane dressing will be undertaken after three games.
- f) The Captain / Manager of any County may introduce a registered substitute at the end of any game. There will be no substitution during a game, except in an emergency.

- g) The Tournament Manager must send the results of the qualifying round either by first class post or by email to the Inter County Secretary on the next working day after completion of the qualifying event.
- h) **No** Food or Drink will be consumed in the playing area at any time during the Tournament. Non-alcoholic beverages may be taken outside of the playing area.
- i) Anyone whose conduct is considered to be derogatory to the best interests of the Tournament maybe disqualified immediately.
- j) Any individual considered to be under the influence of alcohol will be disqualified immediately.

4. Grand Final - 2nd weekend in October (subject to school half term dates)

- a) The rules covering the qualifying round plus the following special rules govern the final.
- b) Application for sanction will be made by the Inter County Secretary.
- c) Each competing County shall be permitted to nominate:
 - i) Male: Seven players from their registered squad with five bowlers for each game being from those nominated.
 - ii) Female: Six players from their registered squad with four bowlers for each game being from those nominated.
- d) Time of registration will be announced by the Inter County Secretary and nominally will be 45 minutes before the opening ceremony. All participants in the Final must be a current BTBA or Affiliated Association Member. Any bowlers whose membership is out of date will not be allowed to play. If a bowler is subsequently found NOT to be a member, then their scores will be removed. Teams or players not registered by the stated time will not be allowed to bowl, except in an emergency or unless otherwise agreed by the ICC Secretary at the time of registration.
- e) Each team will compete on a round robin basis, playing one game against each other to a prearranged schedule in a Peterson Points format. Each bowler will be awarded 10 bonus pins if they beat their opposite number i.e. player one plays player 1. A team win will gain 50 pins for men's team and 40pins for women's. All bonuses will be half of these in the event of a draw as either an individual bowler or a team. The team on the left lane are to declare their line up first.
- f) The final will be two-day event. The men's division will play with six games on the Saturday and five games on the Sunday. The ladies will play two games on the Saturday and five on the Sunday. The awards will be presented on completion of the schedule.

5. Awards

All registered bowlers at the Final will be eligible for an award whether they have participated in the Final or not.

6. Ties & Team Withdrawals

- a) In the event of a tie for first place the County with the highest pinfall will be declared the Champions. If this still results in a tie, then the highest last game will preside and so on.
- b) If during the round robin a team or individual withdraws, any remaining matches against that team will continue with win bonuses awarded accordingly. Any past results from previous rounds will stand.

7. Protests

Protests must be made verbally at the time of dispute and confirmed in writing to the Inter County Secretary within 30 minutes of the game in which the infringement took place.

8. Buffet / Dance

Each team in the Final will have tickets made available one per registered bowler. Any costs to be confirmed by ICC secretary. Should further tickets be required for guests, they shall be made available (where possible) at a cost determined by the ICC Secretary.

9. Communications

All correspondence will be addressed to the Local Area Association Secretary or a nominated representative.

Open

1. Format

- a) The Country will be split into three qualifying groups nominally North, Central and South for both male and female divisions. There will be an equal number of counties, as far as is practical, in each group. The groups will be compiled by the Inter-County Secretary and confirmed by the BTBA. Due to the non-specific location of the RAF team, they will be allocated to the most appropriate group.

Note: With the varying number of counties entering on a year-by-year basis, the number of qualifying groups may have to be amended, after receipt of entries, to create as evenly numbered and geographically balanced groups as possible.

- b) Each team will play six games in the qualifying round over the first weekend in September.
- c) The final will consist of 10 teams – male and female. With a round robin of 9 matches over the first weekend in November.

2. Qualifying Rounds - First Weekend in September

- a) Venues for the qualifying rounds will be notified as soon as possible after the closing date for entries. The County that hosts a qualifying round will be responsible for applying for the tournament sanction for that qualifying round.
- b) Times of registration will be announced by the Inter County Secretary to all participating Counties in the qualifying round.
- c) In each group (North, Central & South) and in each division (male and female) each county will play six games on a scratch basis. The three highest scoring teams over the six games from each group will qualify for the Final. In the event of a tie for a position in the final, the team with the lower difference between its highest and lowest team game will go through.
- d) The defending champion county will be automatically invited to the finals of the next Championship. They will however be expected to play in the qualifying round for that year. If that county is unable to field a team the additional team space for the final will be given to the qualifying group they are in.
- e) Teams for the finals will consist of the top 3 teams from each round and the winning county from the previous year, making a total of 10 teams for both male and female.
- f) Lane dressing will be undertaken after three games.
- g) The Captain / Manager of any County may introduce a registered substitute at the end of any game. There will be no substitution during a game, except in an emergency.
- h) The Tournament Manager must send the results of the qualifying round either by first class post or by email to the Inter County Secretary on the next working day after completion of the qualifying event.

- i) No Food or Drink will be consumed in the playing area at any time during the Tournament. Non-alcoholic beverages may be taken outside of the playing area.
- j) Anyone whose conduct is considered to be derogatory to the best interests of the Tournament maybe disqualified immediately.
- k) Any individual considered to be under the influence of alcohol will be disqualified immediately.

3. Grand Final – First or Second weekend in November (subject to school half term dates)

1. The rules covering the qualifying round plus the following special rules govern the final.
2. Application for sanction will be made by the Inter County Secretary.
3. Each competing County shall be permitted to nominate:
 - i) Male: Seven players from their registered squad with five bowlers for each game being from those nominated.
 - ii) Female: Six players from their registered squad with four bowlers for each game being from those nominated.
1. Time of registration will be announced by the Inter County Secretary and nominally will be 45 minutes before the opening ceremony. All participants in the Final must be a current BTBA or Affiliated Association Member. Any bowlers whose membership is out of date will not be allowed to play. If a bowler is subsequently found NOT to be a member then their team score will be removed in all games that they play. Teams or players not registered by the stated time will not be allowed to bowl, except in an emergency or unless otherwise agreed by the ICC Secretary at the time of registration.
2. Each team will compete on a round robin basis to a prearranged schedule The winner of each game will be awarded 100 bonus pins (50 pins for a draw) in the men's division and 80 pins (40 for a draw) in the Ladies.
3. The Captain / Manager of any County may introduce a registered substitute at the end of any match. There will be no substitution or change in the bowling order during a game or match, except in an emergency.
4. The final shall be a two-day event. The scheduling of matches will be determined by the ICC Secretary and Bowling Centre host. The awards will be presented on completion of the schedule.

4. Awards

Registered bowlers at the final of the teams that medal, will be eligible for an award whether they have participated in the Final or not.

5. Ties & Team Withdrawals

- a) In the event of a tie for any place the County with the highest pinfall will be declared the Champions. If this still results in a tie, then the highest last game match total will preside and so on.
- b) If during the round robin a team or individual withdraws, any remaining matches against that team will continue with win bonuses awarded accordingly. Any past results from previous rounds will stand.

6. Protests

Protests must be made verbally at the time of dispute and confirmed in writing to the Inter County Secretary within 30 minutes of the game in which the infringement took place.

7. Buffet / Dance

Each team in the Final will have tickets made available one per registered bowler. Any costs to be confirmed by ICC secretary. Should further tickets be required for guests, they shall be made available (where possible) at a cost determined by the ICC Secretary.

8. Communications

All correspondence will be addressed to the Local Area Association Secretary or a nominated representative.

Under 22

1. General

- a) Counties must give notice of intention to compete in the tournament, in writing, to the Inter County Secretary by the 28th February. Each county will be eligible to enter two teams in a single division. The registered squad of up to 6 players is to be provided by no later than midnight on the 28th June with their dates of birth and BTBA membership number.
- b) A provisional ball will be rolled if a dispute relating to pinfall cannot be resolved immediately.
- c) Protests must be lodged with the ICC Secretary / Tournament Manager within 30 minutes of the infraction occurring and confirmed in writing before the presentation.
- d) NO COMPETITOR will be allowed to:
 - i) Consume alcoholic beverages during play, lane changes, or the duration of the day's play.
 - ii) Wear headgear, but subject to the discretion of the Inter County Secretary.
 - iii) Consume Food or Drink in the playing area at any time during the Tournament. Non-alcoholic beverages may be taken outside of the playing area.
- e) Only one licensed instructor is allowed in the playing area at any time. BTBA rule 330 applies for details on coaching/instruction. **Licenses must be displayed at all times.**
- f) Mobile phones are to be switched off in the player's area.

2. Format

- a) The format for play will be in a single division.
- a) Each county will be eligible to enter two teams in the division, single or mixed gender and may lodge with the ICC Secretary an entry of up to 6 squad players for each team. This squad will be specific to the team entered if more than one County team is entered.
- b) Anyone whose conduct is considered to be derogatory to the best interests of the Tournament maybe disqualified immediately.
- c) Any individual considered to be under the influence of alcohol will be disqualified immediately.

3. Qualifying

- a) Each player must be a **current** BTBA or Affiliated Association Member. Any bowlers whose membership is out of date will not be allowed to play. If a bowler is subsequently found NOT to be a member, then their scores will be removed. Teams or players not registered by the stated time will not be allowed to bowl, except in an emergency or unless otherwise agreed by the ICC Secretary at the time of registration.

- b) QUALIFYING ROUNDS - Each team will bowl a series of 6 games bowled on the Sunday morning. Teams change lanes after each game.
- c) QUALIFIERS FOR THE FINALS - This will be the 4 teams with the highest pinfall. In the event of a tie then the team with the highest individual team game will go through. If still tied after this, then the next game will count etc until a decision is reached.
- d) The Captain/Manager of any County may introduce a registered substitute at the end of any game. There will be no substitution during a game, except in an emergency.

4. Final

The finals will be a single game round robin between the top four teams from the qualifying stage. Pinfall will revert to zero.

5. Ties

In the event of a tie for any place the County with the highest last game will preside. If still tied after this, then the next game will count etc until a decision is reached.

6. Awards

Medals will be awarded to all team squad members with 3rd and 4th places each receiving a bronze medal

7. Protests

Protests must be made verbally at the time of dispute and confirmed in writing to the Inter County Secretary within 30 minutes of the game in which the infringement took place.

8. Communications

All correspondence will be addressed to the Local Area Association Secretary or a nominated representative.

Under 16

1. General

- g) Counties must give notice of intention to compete in the tournament, in writing, to the Inter County Secretary by the 28th February. Each county will be eligible to enter two teams in the division, single or mixed gender. The registered squad of up to 6 players is to be provided by no later than midnight on the 28th June with their dates of birth and BTBA membership number.
- a) A provisional ball will be rolled if a dispute relating to pinfall cannot be resolved immediately.
- b) Protests must be lodged with the Tournament Manager/Youth ICC Secretary within 30 minutes of the infraction occurring and confirmed in writing before the end of the tournament.
- c) Only one licensed instructor is allowed in the playing area at any time. BTBA rule 330 applies for details on coaching/instruction. Licenses must be displayed at all times.
- d) NO COMPETITOR will be allowed to:
 - i) Consume alcoholic beverages during play, lane changes, or the duration of the day's play.
 - ii) Wear headgear, but subject to the discretion of the Inter County Secretary.
 - iii) Consume Food or Drink in the playing area at any time during the Tournament. Non-alcoholic beverages may be taken outside of the playing area.
- e) Mobile phones are to be switched off in the player's area.

2. Format

- b) The tournament will be played in 1 division of either single or a mixed gender team. Each County may register two teams each with a squad of up to 6 players This squad will be specific to the team entered if more than one County team is entered.
- c) Mixed gender teams must have at least one male and one female bowler in each game. No gender specific bonus pins will be added.
- d) The Captain/Manager of any County may introduce a registered substitute at the end of any game. There will be no substitution during a game except in an emergency.
- e) FORMAT - Each team will bowl a series of 6 games bowled on the Saturday. Teams change lanes after each game.

4. Ties

In the event of a tie for any place the County with the highest last game will preside. If still tied after this, then the next game will count etc until a decision is reached.

5. Awards

Medals will be awarded to all team members with 3rd and 4th places each receiving a bronze medal

6. Protests

Protests must be made verbally at the time of dispute and confirmed in writing to the Inter County Secretary within 30 minutes of the game in which the infringement took place.

7. Correspondence

All correspondence will be addressed to the Local Area Association Secretary or nominated representative.