

48th NATIONAL BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

1 October – 5 October 2026

Venue: Sunway Mega Lanes, Petaling Jaya

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. **Rules:** All World Bowling Playing Rules as of September 2019 shall apply.
2. **Eligibility:** This Tournament is open to **all current and paid-up members of Affiliates of the MTBC.**
 Eligibility for **youth bowlers – born in 2005 & after.**
 Eligibility for **Peter Yap's Memorial Cup born in 2012 & after.**
 Eligibility for **Senior Division – born in 1976 and before.**
3. **Entry Fees:** All entries must be submitted with the relevant fees. No refund will be allowed.

Division	Entry Fee
Men Open Only	RM 700.00
Women Open Only	RM 600.00
Men Graded Only	RM 600.00
Men Graded + Men Open	RM 800.00
Women Graded Only	RM 450.00
Women Graded + Women Open	RM 600.00
Boys Open Only	RM 350.00
Boys Open + Men Graded Only	RM 550.00
Boys Open + Men Open Only	RM 600.00
Boys Open + Men Graded + Men Open	RM 700.00
Girls Open Only	RM 350.00
Girls Open + Women Graded Only	RM 450.00
Girls Open + Women Open Only	RM 500.00
Girls Open + Women Graded + Women Open	RM 600.00
Boys Graded Only	RM 150.00
Boys Graded + Boys Open Only	RM 350.00
Boys Graded + Boys Open + Men Graded Only	RM 550.00
Boy's Graded and Open + Men Graded and Open	RM 700.00
Girls Graded Only	RM 150.00
Girls Graded and Girls Open Only	RM 350.00
Girls Graded + Girls Open + Women Graded Only	RM 450.00
Girls Graded and Open + Women Graded and Open	RM 600.00
Men Senior Only	RM 350.00
Men Senior + Men Graded Only	RM 550.00
Men Senior + Men Graded + Men Open	RM 650.00
Women Senior Only	RM 350.00
Women Senior + Women Graded Only	RM 450.00
Women Senior + Women Graded + Women Open	RM 650.00
Peter Yap Memorial Cup (14 and under)	RM 100.00
DESPERADO SQUAD (Men Open/Graded, Women Open)	RM 150.00

4. **Averages:** Only official averages of MTBC will be used. New bowlers without established average with MTBC must produce written confirmation of their averages from their respective state associations and acceptance of the average is at the discretion of the tournament director.

It is the bowler's responsibility to ensure that their averages and divisions bowled in are correct. If a bowler bowls at a lower grade, they will be disqualified, and all scores will be removed. No refund will be given.

MTBC Certified Averages for the year can be checked on the MTBC Website at the following link. <https://www.bowling.my/average>

All bowlers in the National Team and National Youth will be classified in the Open division or Youth Open division respectively. They will be ineligible to bowl in any graded event.

Classification of Average:-

Men Open:	Open to All Bowlers
Men Graded:	Open to Bowlers with average 200 and below.
Women Open:	Open to All Bowlers
Women Graded:	Open to Bowlers with average 190 and below.
Boys Open:	Open to All Bowlers
Boys Graded:	Open to Bowlers with average 195 and below.
Girls Open:	Open to All Bowlers
Girls Graded:	Open to Bowlers with average below 185 and below.

6. **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.
7. **Substitutions:** Substitutions will NOT be accepted once the 1st squad commences.
8. **Qualifying:**
All Divisions will qualify at the same time. The Squads ARE limited to 384 entries on first-come-first-serve basis.

Bowlers that are eligible for multiple divisions MUST pay up and register for all the divisions they want to compete in BEFORE the start of the 1st Squad. (Squad A on 1 October 2026).

Each Qualifying Squad consists of 5 games moving lanes after each game. Bowlers will combine the 15 games total (3 days of Qualifying Scores) to qualify for the Finals.

There will be NO qualifying for Peter Yap Memorial Cup.

For Peter Yap Memorial Cup – The First 120 Fully-Paid Entries will be accepted.

10. **MASTERS FINALS:**

- a. The qualifying scores will be based on 15 games over 3 days of qualifying.
- b. In the event of a tie for the last position in the qualifying rounds, the highest last game in the qualifying round shall decide.
- c. All qualifiers must check with the Tournament Directors 24 hours before their finals roll-off, to confirm the fixtures and/or to check for any changes in the schedule.

No. of qualifiers for the Masters Final: -

Men's Open Masters (Finals: 8 Games Top 3 qualifies for Stepladder)	- 30 Top Qualifiers - 3 Desperado Squad - Total: 33 Finalists
Women's Open Masters (Finals: 8 Games Top 3 qualifies for Stepladder)	- 22 Top Qualifiers - 2 Desperado Squad - Total: 24 Finalists
Men's Graded Masters (Finals: 8 Games)	- 30 Top Qualifiers - 3 Desperado Squad - Total: 33 Finalists
Women's Graded Masters (Finals: 8 Games)	- Top 24 Qualifiers
Youth Boy's Open Masters (Finals: 8 Games)	- Top 24 Qualifiers
Youth Girl's Open Masters (Finals: 8 Games)	- Top 16 Qualifiers
Youth Boy's Graded Masters (Finals: 8 Games)	- Top 24 Qualifiers
Youth Girl's Graded Masters (Finals: 8 Games)	- Top 16 Qualifiers
Men's Seniors (Finals: 8 Games)	- Top 24 Qualifiers
Women's Senior (Final: 8 Games)	- Top 16 Qualifiers
Peter Yap's Memorial Cup Boys and Girls (Finals: 3 Games)	- First 120 Entries

The CHECK-IN TIME for the various divisions **MASTER FINALS** are as follows:

Division	Date	Time
Men & Women Open	05 October 2026	12:00
Men & Women Graded	04 October 2026	12:30
Boys & Girls Open	04 October 2026	17:00
Boys & Girls Graded	04 October 2026	08:30
Seniors (Men's & Women's)	05 October 2026	08:30
Peter Yap's Memorial Cup	27 September 2026	12:30

11. **SENIOR MASTERS** (*Men and Women*)

This event is open to 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. This handicap is only for the Senior Division. Seniors competing in other divisions will bowl with scratch scores.

The top 24 Senior Men and top 16 Senior Women will qualify for the Senior Finals to be held on 05 October 2026 at 9:00am.

12. **YOUTH MASTERS (*Boys and Girls*)**

This event is open to bowlers who were born in **2005 and after**.

The top 24 boys and Top 16 girls in the Graded and Open divisions respectively will qualify for the Youth Finals as below.

Boys and Girls Graded Finals: 04 October 2026 @ 09:00 roll off

Boys and Girls Open Finals: 04 October 2026 @ 17:30 roll off

13. **PETER YAP'S MEMORIAL CUP
(Boys and Girls – 14 and Under)**

This event is open to all bowlers who were born in **2012 and after**. The first 120 fully-paid entries (RM100.00) will be accepted to participate in the Peter Yap's Memorial Cup. Bowlers will bowl **3 games in the Finals** on Sunday (27 September 2026) at 13:00 roll off.

14. **MEN'S GRADED MASTERS**

This event is open to all Men bowlers with an **average 200 and below**, except those in the National Elite, National Back-up Elite and National Backup Squad. The top 30 qualifiers + 3 Desperado Squad will bowl **8 games** in the Finals.

15. **WOMEN'S GRADED MASTERS**

This event is open to all Women bowlers with an **average 190 and below**, except those in the National Elite, National Back-up Elite and National Youth. The top 24 qualifiers will bowl **8 games** in the Finals.

16. **WOMEN'S OPEN MASTERS**

This event is open to all women bowlers.

Round 1: Preliminary

Top 22 qualifiers + 2 Desperado Squad will play **8 games**. Top 3 bowlers based on highest total pinfalls shall proceed to the Step-Ladder Finals.

Step-Ladder Finals

The 1st match of the Step-Ladder Finals shall be played between the 3rd placed and 2nd placed bowler over 1 game. The 2nd match shall be between the winner of the 1st match against the 1st placed bowler on a 1 + 1 match. Should the 1st placed bowler wins the 1st game, the bowler shall be declared the champion. Should the winner of the 1st match wins the first game, there shall be another game, with the winner declared the champion.

Reserves will be called 15 minutes before the start of the Master Final, according to the positions in the Qualifying List.

17. **MEN'S OPEN MASTERS**

This event is open to all men bowlers.

Round 1: Preliminary

Top 30 qualifiers + 3 Desperado Squad will play **8 games**. Top 3 bowlers based on highest total pinfalls shall proceed to the Step-Ladder Finals.

Step-Ladder Finals

The 1st match of the Step-Ladder Finals shall be played between the 3rd placed and 2nd placed bowler over 1 game. The 2nd match shall be between the winner of the 1st match against the 1st placed bowler on a 1 + 1 match. Should the 1st placed bowler wins the 1st game, the bowler shall be declared the champion. Should the winner of the 1st match win the first game, there will be another game with the winner declared the champion.

Reserves will be called 15 minutes before the start of the Master Final, according to the positions in the Qualifying List.

18. **REPORTING TIME**

All Masters Finalists must check in **personally** minimum 30 minutes before their respective roll-off times. Reserves will be called 15 minutes before roll-off. Centre Clock is the official time piece.

19. **Verification of Scores:** It is the responsibility of each bowler and/or the team captain to verify the correctness of each game bowled by signing the official master score sheet. Once signed, the scores 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:

- a) Any part of a game that cannot be recalled will be rebowled from the first frame.
- b) If more than one game cannot be recalled, the series shall be declared null and void and a fresh series be rescheduled.
- c) If only one frame is missing, the bowler shall continue from the last frame bowled.

20. **Registration of Bowling Balls Illegality and Disqualification:**

No registration will be carried out during the Championship. All participants must ensure their bowling balls used have been checked as legal for weight and other specifications. The onus is on the bowler to ensure that all bowling balls he/she uses fall within specification as required by International Bowling Federation. The Tournament Directors reserves the right to check at random, bowling balls used by any bowler in the Championships.

If at any time a bowler is found to have used an illegal ball, he/she shall be disqualified from the entire Tournament and stripped of all his/her medals or positions standing.

SLOW OIL-ABSORBING HIGH PERFORMANCE (URETHANE) BOWLING BALLS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE USED. Penalty will be **DISQUALIFICATION** from the tournament.

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

Please click on:

[**National Tournament Ineligible Ball List - No Slow Oil Allowed including**](#)

- **ALL urethane balls (including Japan and Korea OEM urethanes)**
- **ALL urethane mixed coverstocks, such as: MicroCell Polymers (MCP), React-a-Thanes, PBS Urethane Mix, Pyramid GPS Navigational Urethanes**

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.

21. **Ties Breaking Procedure:**

- i) When a tie occurs for the last placed in the qualifying round, the highest last game shall decide. In the Step-Ladder Finals format, one ball roll off shall decide until the tie is broken.
- ii) If a tie occurs in the 3rd position after the last game roll off of the Open Masters to qualify for stepladder finals, there will be a 1 ball roll-off to determine the winner.

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

23. **Bowlers Attire:**

- a) Bowlers are requested to be dressed for their events with a sense of decorum.
- b) Bowlers are not permitted to wear the following:-
 - i) Men Bowlers – Short, Blue Denim Jeans, Singlet, and Cap.
 - ii) Women Bowlers – Blue Denim Jeans & Singlet.

24. **Slow Bowling:** Bowlers who are in readiness to step on the approach to deliver a ball, shall have the following rights and obligations.

- a) They may claim right of way over anyone moving to the approach or preparing to bowl on the lane immediately on their left.

- b) They may claim right of way over anyone moving to the approach or preparing to bowl on the lane immediately on their right.
- c) Players shall be ready to bowl when it is their turn should not delay going to the approach, if a lane immediately adjacent to them on the left and right side is clear.
- d) The Championship will utilize the **“ONE-LANE COURTESY” RULE**
- e) In addition to that a shot clock will be used in every game played. The shot clock will be strictly enforced during the tournament. The following time rules apply and will be strictly enforced during the entire event.
 - 1) First shot in a frame. When your opponent leaves the approach and you have a full set of pins, you have 30 (thirty) seconds to complete your shot. The shot is deemed complete in shot clock terms when the ball is FULLY RELEASED and has passed the foul line.
 - 2) Second shot in a frame. After your first ball has returned to the ball return, you have 30 (thirty) seconds to complete your shot. The shot is deemed complete in shot clock terms when the ball is FULLY RELEASED and has passed the foul line.
- f) First Offence: A warning for slow bowling is given to the player.
 Second Offence: A Warning for slow bowling is given to the player.
 Third and Continued Offence: The pin count of the whole frame where the offence occurred will be nulled (Counted as Zero).

25. **Protests:**

- a) Scores: Must be submitted in writing to one of the Tournament Directors or their Assistants within 12 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 Grand Finals of the Masters event, such protests, if any should be made to the same Officials before prize presentation. No protests made after Prize Presentation will be entertained.
- b) Foul: Must be brought to the attention of the lane marshal before the delivery of the next ball. No complaints made after the 2nd ball has been bowled shall be entertained.
- c) Eligibility: Must be submitted in writing to either the Tournament Directors or their Assistants within 24 hours of the first infringement or before the next round or prize presentation whichever is earlier.

26. **Altering of Bowling Ball Surface (By Block)**

Altering the surface of bowling balls is allowed in a designated area during the during the practice session immediately preceding a competition round. **Altering the ball surface in between games is NOT allowed.** A player may not alter the surface of the bowling ball during a block of games or Round.

27. **Special Notes:**

- a) Bowlers are requested to refrain from swearing on the lanes.
- b) Smoking is prohibited for all bowlers and coaches during the block of games.

- c) Bowlers shall restrict themselves to their specific lanes and exercise consideration for all participants.
- d) Bowlers wearing soft rubber soles on their non-sliding foot may be barred from further bowling subject to the scrutiny of the Tournament Directors.
- e) The Tournament Directors reserve the right to accept or reject any entry they deem fit.
- f) Any matters arising and not covered in these Tournament Rules will be decided by the Tournament Chairman or the Tournament Directors, 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.

Last updated by MC on 26/8/2026