

INTER PROVINCIAL 5 PIN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP**F O R M A T**

The Inter Provincial 5 Pin Bowling Championship consists of five (5) steps:

- I The League Round (Optional)
- II The House Round (Optional)
- III The Zone Finals
- IV The Provincial Championships
- V The National Championships

GENERAL RULES

1. Open to all Canadian 5 Pin Bowlers' Association members nineteen (19) years of age and over as of December 31, 2025, EXCEPT where prohibited by law.
2. Entry fee structure to be established by the Provincial Association.
3. Entrants must have a current league average as of the date of entry, based on a minimum number of games as set by your Provincial Association. Bowlers that bowl regularly in two (2) or more leagues or centres, may enter in each league or centre and compete in the League, Zone and Provincial rounds, provided the scheduling of same permits, but shall only be permitted to bowl once in the National Championship.
4. Format in all rounds, except the National Championship, will be determined by the Provincial Association. Qualifying in all rounds shall be based on Pins Over Average. The National Championship will be match play based on Pins Over Average. Teams at the National Championship shall consist of four (4) players.
5. Only averages established under official rules of the Canadian 5 Pin Bowlers' Association shall be accepted. Scores and average of all winners in all rounds shall be authenticated and checked thoroughly. Any falsification or misrepresentation of scores or averages knowingly or unknowingly, shall result in automatic disqualification.
6. Replacement shall be allowed in all rounds (**except** the League Round).
7. A replacement **team** must be the next eligible team in order of finish from the preceding round.
8. A replacement **bowler** must be the next eligible bowler in order of finish from the previous round provided that the replacement bowler is from the same local association. Any bowler who vacates their position on a team for the next level of competition, forfeits their right to return to that team in the current year.

9. Personal bowling balls may be used if facilities permit. House balls must be used if the bowlers' personal bowling balls have not been returned (no delay of game). The use of personal bowling balls is at the bowlers' own risk. The proprietor shall not be liable for any damages to personal bowling balls.

Personal bowling balls may be randomly inspected at any time during the tournament or on completion of the tournament. Personal bowling balls must meet the specifications as set by the C5PBA. Weight to be not less than 3lbs. 4 ounces and not greater than 3 lbs. 12 ounces. Diameter to be not less than 4 3/4 inches and not greater than 5 inches. (See C5PBA rule book - Section A, Rule 6)

Penalty: Any scores rolled using non-regulation equipment, in sanctioned league or tournament competition, shall be disqualified for C5PBA Record or High Score Awards and/or shall nullify scores being used in qualifying for C5PBA sanctioned tournaments.

Should a question arise regarding the legality of a ball, the Tournament Director has final say. Appeals/complaints regarding personal bowling balls may be made following the procedure outlined in the C5PBA Rule Book (Section B, Rules 18 & 19).

10. Canadian 5 Pin Bowlers' Association rules shall apply in all rounds except in the League Round where league rules shall apply.
11. The consumption of alcohol, chemical depressants or stimulants (*performance enhancing drugs*) are prohibited during all levels of competition. Bowlers and/or coaches who are found to be under the influence of such substances will be suspended from the remainder of the competition.
12. No mechanical noisemakers will be allowed in any round of the event.
13. The use of chants, songs, cheers etc. which contain profanity, slanderous remarks or words which are deemed detrimental to the image of 5 Pin Bowling will not be allowed. Use of such illegal chants will result in forfeiture of game and repeated violation of this rule shall lead to suspension from competition.
14. The use of profanity, of any nature, will **NOT** be tolerated! A warning will be given, however, if use is continued, the offender will be suspended from competition.
15. The wearing or use of external electronic devices such as MP3 players, cell phones, etc. is prohibited. This applies while the bowler is on the approach but does not prohibit the bowler from using the device while awaiting his/her turn.
16. Suspended bowlers may NOT be replaced by emergency spares.
17. In case of any dispute, the decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final.
18. In all rounds, scorekeepers will be used only in the event of a malfunction with the scoring system.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. The National Championship shall be held April 23 - 25, 2026 in a centre designated by the Canadian 5 Pin Bowlers' Association.
2. All bowlers who compete in the Inter Provincial National Championship must use their highest league average (if a bowler bowls in more than one (1) league) as of March 15, 2026, based on a minimum of twenty-four (24) games having been bowled.
3. Only teams declared as Provincial Champions shall be eligible to compete in the National Championships.
4. The National Tournament Committee reserves the right to complete the field and all decisions by this committee shall be final. NOTE: the National Tournament Committee shall consist of the National Tournament Chairman and the C5PBA Tournament Committee. If a province cannot field a full team due to unforeseen circumstances, the C5PBA Executive will fill the field with the affected province covering related costs. Replacement bowlers would have all the rights and privileges of a team member.
5. Dress Code is in effect. Please review the new policy at www.c5pba.ca under About Us – Governance and Policies.

Penalty: Failure to adhere to the dress code rule will result in a penalty being assessed for each uniform infraction to the province as follows:

1st offence - \$100.00.

6. A match play format shall be used to determine the qualifiers and champions. Each bowler who beats his/her opponent on the opposing team, based on the most pins over average, shall receive one (1) point. Three (3) points shall be awarded to the team with the higher pins over average total for the game, making a total of seven (7) points maximum for the game.

Example:

TEAM "A" vs.					TEAM "B"				
Name	Ave.	Score	+/-	Pts.	Name	Ave.	Score	+/-	Pts.
Moffat	138	119	-19	0	Landry	184	213	+28	1
Jacobs	187	205	+18	0	Hopkins	160	181	+21	1
Ireland	159	176	+17	1	Jenkins	205	141	-64	0
Innis	197	177	-20	½	Miller	145	125	-20	½
	681	677	-4	3		694	660	-35	0

Results: Team A – 1 ½ + 3 = 4 ½ Points Team B – 2 ½ + 0 = 2 ½ Points

7. The lane draw is pre-drawn under the auspices of the Canadian 5 Pin Bowlers' Association's Tournament Committee.
8. In each game, the team assigned to the RIGHT HAND lane shall be the HOME team and the team on the LEFT HAND lane shall be the AWAY team. The coach for the AWAY team is obliged to submit the line-up for a game before the line-up for the HOME team is submitted.

9. At the beginning of the 10th frame, the Home team has the advantage to bowl first or allow the Away team to bowl first, then ball for ball to complete the frame. The next bowler in the line-up for the Home team will have the same advantage, and so on.
10. There shall be a five (5) minute warm-up preceding each block. Teams coming off a bye will be allowed to warm up when the other teams are in their 7th frame providing there are available lanes. If there are no lanes available, the National Tournament Committee shall advise.
11. The order of bowling (team line-up) may be changed for each game. Once the line-up is entered on the scoresheet at the start of every game, this is the order that must be bowled.
12. Any article falling from a bowler's person on or over the foul line during delivery of the ball is NOT a FOUL but you must call the Judge of Play to retrieve any such article.
13. Lead off bowlers shall not start the next frame until their anchor bowler has finished. Any ball or balls thrown shall be declared "dead".
14. Only bowlers competing in the event, coaches and tournament officials shall be permitted in the bowling enclosure.
15. Any team that does not have a full complement of bowlers shall bowl only with the bowlers on hand. Late bowlers shall start to bowl and count only from the time of arrival regardless of the reason.
16. Only a bowler taking their regular turn in the line-up shall be allowed on the approach at any given time. Coaches and all other team members must remain off the approach.
17. Only non-playing coaches shall be allowed to coach. "Coach" designation shall appear on the shirt or blouse.
18. All games shall start when the Judge of Play gives the starting signal (see Rule #17).
19. Any bowler who throws a ball prior to the starting signal shall be assessed a fifteen (15) pin penalty. Any ball or balls thrown shall be declared "dead".
20. For interpretation of any rules or controversy of any kind, stop play on your set of lanes and call the Judge of Play IMMEDIATELY.
21. Only coaches will be allowed to discuss, dispute or protest any point pertaining to the Championship with the Judge of Play.
22. Coaches must not approach a member of the opposing team with a complaint. If you have a dispute of any kind, stop the bowling on both lanes and summon the Judge of Play.
23. The Judge of Play shall make all rulings and all decisions shall be subject to appeal to the National Tournament Committee.
24. Flagrant violation of any rule may result in penalties being assessed by the Canadian 5 Pin Bowlers' Association Tournament Committee.

25. If a team is missing a bowler, in the match play format, the opposing bowler to the absent position must bowl at least 95% of his/her own average in order to receive the individual match play point. The team with the absent bowler will be credited with 90% of the missing bowlers average for the team total. If the opposing bowler fails to win the individual point, the point will be awarded to the missing bowler.
26. In the event of a tie between teams or individuals in any game during the qualifying round, all available points shall be divided equally between the tied teams or individuals.
27. Should the centre hosting the national championship be large enough to allow for all teams to play at the same time, the Inter Provincial will be a single round robin with each team playing each of the other teams once. The top two teams would receive a bye in the first round of playoffs, 3 would play 6, 4 would play 5 – then 1 would play the lowest seed of the two winners and 2 would play the other winner. If the centre is not large enough for all teams to play at the same time, teams will be divided into pools and will play a double round robin within that pool. The top two teams in each pool would advance to the crossover playoff format. (***subject to review***)
28. In 2026, there will be 19 teams competing at the National Championship using a single round robin format.
29. Ties for a playoff position will be broken by reverting back to the matches played between the tied teams in the qualifying round. If a tie still exists, the most pins over average in the qualifying matches between the tied teams will be used. If a tie still exists, a one game roll-off will be held using the same match play format.
30. There is a Tournament Assessment fee of \$700.00 if the province is sending one (1) team and \$1,200.00 if the province is sending two (2) teams. This money is used primarily for prize money for the winning teams and individual awards. All expenses to attend are the responsibility of the participating province and will be dealt with as predetermined by each provincial association.

NOTE: The National Championship format (rules 27 – 28) is subject to change based on the number of teams participating.