

OPEN MASTERS GAMES

ABU DHABI 2026

BOWLING



Updated: November 28th, 2025

1. General Information

1.1. Governance

The bowling competition will be conducted in accordance with the regulations of the International Bowling Federation (IBF), the World Tenpin Bowling Association, the Emirates Bowling Federation (EBF) and any specific guidelines issued by the International Masters Games Association (IMGA).

1.2. Eligibility

In line with the sport-specific rules, an athlete must compete in their designated age group, with their age determined as of 31 December 2026. For example, if you are 39 years old during the Games time but turn 40 by 31 December 2026, you would compete in the 40-44 age category.

The age of the youngest registered team member determines which age category the team will compete in. For example, a team with the youngest member at 54 years old should register for the 50+ age category.

Health Declaration

Athletes should carefully evaluate whether their physical condition is suitable for participating in the competition. If they suffer from cardiovascular or other diseases that make them not suitable to engage strenuous exercise, seeking doctor's advice is recommended to evaluate whether they can safely participate in WMG events.

1.3. Dates

Date	February 9 Monday	February 10 Tuesday	February 11 Wednesday	February 12 Thursday	February 13 Friday	February 14 Saturday
Singles						
Doubles						
Mixed Doubles						

All dates and times are subject to change, pending final entries received. A detailed schedule of events for each discipline will be developed throughout 2025.

1.4. Venue

Khalifa International Bowling Centre, Zayed Sports City



2. Competition Information

2.1. Disciplines, Events & Grading

Discipline	Event	Category		
		Gender	Classification	Age
	Singles	Male	N/A	30+, 35+, 45+, 55+, 65+, 75+, 85+, 95+
		Female		
	Doubles	Male		
		Female		
	Mixed Doubles	Mixed		
Para	Singles	Male	Visually Impaired: ¹ TPB1, TPB2 and TPB3 Physical Impairment: TPB8, TPB9 and TPB10	35+, 55+
		Female		
	Doubles	Male		
		Female		
	Mixed Doubles	Mixed		

If there are insufficient entries in an age category, categories may be combined to conduct a viable competition. The awarding of medals will not be affected, that is, individuals will still be awarded medals in the age category in which they originally entered.

¹ Added detail on para classes (28/11)

Para Classification

All classes will compete together in the para competition. The OMGAD2026 will offer national classification opportunities in the days prior to the start of the competition.

International Classifiers will be available for the following impairments:

PI: Physical Impairment

VI: Visual Impairment

Only Athletes with 'New' sport class status must undergo national classification on site and must bring all relevant medical documentation (In ENGLISH).

Athletes will need to present themselves for classification at the date and time designated by the sport. As a result, the classification outcomes will not be officially recognized by the respective International Federations.

Eligible sport class status to participate in the Games are as follows.

N = New

R = Review

FRD = Fixed Review Date

C = Confirmed

2.2. Format

The bowling competition will follow a two-phase format: **Qualification Rounds** and **Finals**. Bowlers will bowl in a single-lane format, i.e., bowlers will not switch lanes during their round.

Qualification Rounds

All registered athletes will compete in the qualifying stage, where each participant will bowl a set number of games—typically six. The total cumulative pinfall from these games will determine the preliminary rankings. Performances in the qualifying rounds are critical, as only the top-ranked athletes from each age and gender category will advance to the final stage.

Finals

The top athletes—usually the top 4, 6, or 8 depending on the number of entries—will progress to the finals in their respective categories. The finals may consist of an additional series of games, with pinfall from these rounds alone determining the final rankings. Qualification scores will not carry over to the finals unless otherwise specified in the competition briefing.

In some categories, finals may also adopt a stepladder or knockout format, based on final entry numbers and the decision of the Bowling Committee

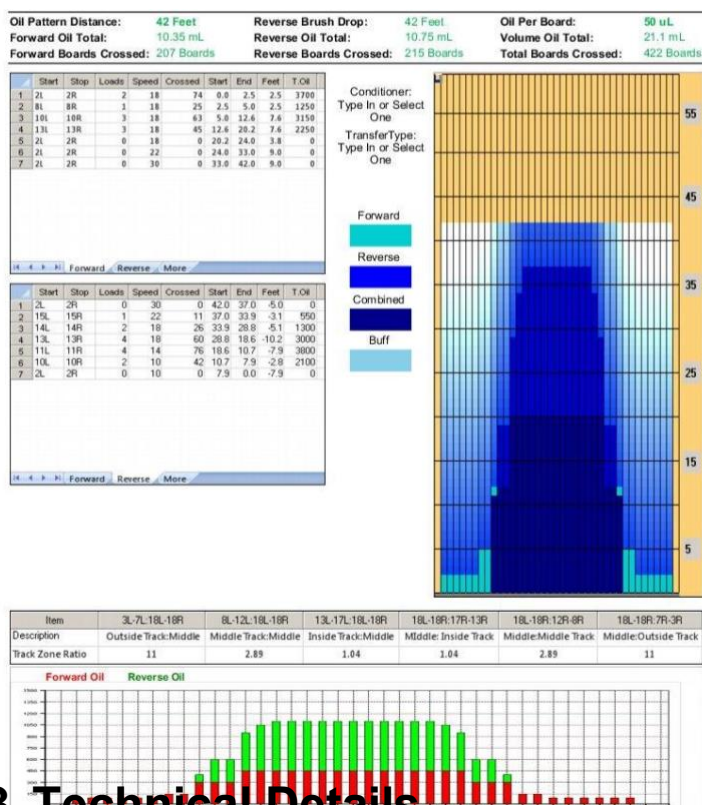
2.3. Scoring

The competition will use **total pinfall** as the primary method for ranking participants. Each athlete's total number of pins knocked down across their games will be recorded and used to determine their standings in both qualification and finals.

In the event of a tie for a medal position, a **one-game roll-off** will be conducted to determine the final placement. If a tie persists after the roll-off, further tie-breaking procedures, such as sudden-death bowling (frame by frame), may be used at the discretion of the tournament officials.

2.4. House Pattern

The house pattern will be 42 feet



3. Technical Details

3.1. Technical Delegate

The Technical Delegate, endorsed by the EBF, will oversee the implementation of all sport specific rules and requirements at the Games.

4. Equipment & Uniform

4.1. Equipment

Participants are expected to bring and use their **own personal bowling equipment** during the competition. This typically includes:

- Bowling shoes: Non-marking, sport-specific shoes are required.
- Rosin bags, wrist supports, gloves, or braces: If used, these must meet safety regulations and not interfere with play.
- All personal equipment must conform to the technical requirements of international bowling standards. Athletes are responsible for the maintenance and condition of their gear. Organisers reserve the right to inspect equipment for compliance and safety. Use of unauthorized or unsafe equipment may lead to disqualification.

4.2. Uniform

All athletes participating in the OMGAD2026 bowling competition are required to wear appropriate sportswear that reflects the spirit of fair play and professionalism. The following uniform guidelines apply:

- Shirts: Collared or bowling-specific shirts must be worn. Sleeveless tops, tank tops, or tops with offensive graphics or messages are not permitted.
- Trousers or skirts: Athletes may wear tailored sports trousers, skirts, or skorts. Denim jeans, shorts above mid-thigh, or excessively loose or torn clothing are not allowed.
- Uniforms must be free of any political messages, personal slogans, or imagery that could be deemed inappropriate or disruptive to the spirit of the competition.

5. Awarding

5.1. Medals

The top 3 athletes will be awarded the gold medal, silver medal and bronze medal respectively.

5.2. Ceremonies

- In OMGAD2026, athletes are individuals and represent themselves. National flags and anthems will not be included in medal ceremonies.
- The medal ceremony will be held after each final.
- The medal ceremony will be conducted in Arabic and English.

6. Protests and Appeals

6.1. Protests

- Competition-related disputes and protests shall be handled according to rules and related regulations of the international association of the sport. If there are no rules regarding such disputes and protests in place, the competitor may first make verbal protest and submit written protest to OMGAD within 30 minutes after the end of a contest.
- No protest can be lodged by any team members or staff against a judging (scoring) decision during the competition period.

6.2. Appeals

- Based on the principle of trust, the Organizer will not take the initiative to review the grade of athletes upon registration. Matters regarding athlete qualifications and grades should be submitted to the Organizer with relevant supporting materials before the Games or when the fact occurs. The complaint will be handled in accordance with the rules and relevant regulations of international sports federations and relevant regulations.
- Applications that are not submitted within the stipulated time or with incomplete materials will not be accepted.

7. Doping Control



7.1. Regulations

- Doping Control should be conducted in accordance with WADA World Anti-Doping Code (<https://www.wada-ama.org/en>) and International Masters Games Association (IMGA) Anti-Doping Rules (<https://imga.ch/masterssports/anti-doping>).
- Participants are deemed to have agreed to be subject to doping control procedures in accordance with the International Masters Games Association Anti-Doping Rules upon entry to the competition. Participants must obey antidoping rules and conduct themselves in a considerate manner.

8. Updates

The final version of the competition guide will be released by December 15th. Important additional information, including the sports schedule, will be available at that time. In the meantime, please address all inquiries to: sports@omgad2026.ae