CONDITIONS OF PLAY

WORLD CUP

2025

(October 3, 2025)

Controlling Body:

International Federation (IF): World Bowls

Tournament Director: Syed Zainal Abidin Syed Zin (Bowls Asia, Secretary General)

Chief Technical Official (CTO): Mark Cowan

Event: **WORLD CUP 2025**

Dates: Practice Day: November 3, 2025

Playing Days: November 4 - 8, 2025

Venue: **Bukit Kiara National Lawn Bowl Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**

1. ENTRY CONDITIONS

1.1 Affiliation

- All Players are to be affiliated with their National Authority that is a member of World Bowls.

1.2 Eligibility

As a condition of entry:

- Competitors must meet the 'Eligibility of Players' requirements as set out in World Bowls Regulations 9.8 to 9.12 (adopted 21 June 2020). These are available on the World Bowls website, www.worldbowls.com.
- Competitors must comply with all Laws applicable as per the *Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition.*
- All para players must be internationally classified by IBD (International Bowls for the Disabled) by no later than July 31, 2025, before they can be registered and accepted into the event. IBD will inform World Bowls of the players confirmed class status ('P' for permanent or 'R' for review - with a fixed review date in 2025 or later for those with progressive disorders).

1.3 Entry Process

- All entries are to be submitted to World Bowls by July 31, 2025
- No late entries will be accepted.

2. EVENT STRUCTURE

2.1 Event Structure

Events:

- Men - Singles & Pairs
- Women - Singles & Pairs
- Para – Men & Women Singles, Mixed Pairs

- 12 countries are invited to participate based on the host country plus the next best 11 highest overall countries (men and women combined excluding para) from the previous World Championships in 2023. These are Malaysia (host country) – (in alphabetical order) Australia, Canada, England, India, Ireland, Hong Kong China, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, USA and Wales.
- 6-person teams – 2 open men, 2 open women, 2 physical or VI para's (1 of each gender – 15 points in total).

- There are 7 events in total – Open Singles and Pairs for both genders, Para Men and Women Singles and Para Mixed Pairs. Therefore, the composition of players for each country will be a minimum of 6 (or 8 if 2 VI players are selected with Directors).
- The World Cup will be played on two differing length greens. The first green will be undercover on a 40m carpet and the other green will comprise of 4 x 36m portable rinks on a fully enclosed indoor stadium. To allow players practice in the CG2026 format and for consistency, **all** matches will be played to designated Ts as per the 36m portable green markings. This means that the 40m green will have a number of extra markings on the green in each direction to mirror the 36m portable markings – see appendix A.
- The World Cup will be played in 4 sections for the men and women singles and in 2 sections for the men and women pairs, para men and women singles and para mixed pairs.
- All countries will be seeded in the various open disciplines based on their individual finishing position at the previous World Championships in 2023.
- Open Singles (where 2 players are competing for their country):
  - Players from the same country will not be drawn in the same section for the singles event.
  - One player (skip from the pairs) will be seeded in Section 1 and 2 whilst the second singles player (lead from the pairs) will be seeded in Section 3 and 4.
- Para – For the draw of the para disciplines, all countries will be randomly drawn into the 2 sections until all places are filled. This is due to the fact that the para group only played pairs (men, women and mixed VI) at the previous World Championships in 2023 (not singles) and not all countries competed in the VI mixed pairs. Note: The USA will be supplemented with para-athletes from Singapore to fill their para discipline positions.
- The draw for each event will be completed following the close of entries.
- At the completion of sectional play:

Men/Women Singles:
The top 2 ranked players from each of the 4 sections will advance to the quarter finals.

Quarter Finals
QF1 – Section 1 winner v Section 2 R/U
QF2 – Section 3 winner v Section 4 R/U
QF3 – Section 2 winner v Section 3 R/U
QF4 – Section 4 winner v Section 1 R/U

Semi Finals
SF1 - Winner QF1 v Winner QF2
SF2 - Winner QF3 v Winner QF4

Final
Winner SF1 v Winner SF2

Men/Women Pairs, Para Men & Women Singles and Para Mixed Pairs:
The top 2 ranked teams from each of the 2 sections will qualify for semi-finals.

Semi Finals
SF 1 – Section 1 winner v Section 2 R/U
SF 2 – Section 2 winner v Section 1 R/U

Final
Winner SF 1 v Winner SF 2

In all disciplines, the winners of each semi-final will play off in the final for the gold and silver medals. The losers of both semi-finals will be awarded bronze medals.

2.2 Event Schedule

- The final event schedule will be confirmed and published one month prior to the start of the event.
- The Controlling Body reserves the right to amend the proposed event schedule due to entry numbers, available greens and any other relevant factors.
- If a change to the proposed schedule is to occur, the commencement date of a specific event will be moved to later in the schedule rather than earlier wherever possible, in order to minimise disruptions to inbound travel for competitors.
- The Controlling Body, in case of unforeseen circumstances, can extend the length of the tournament if required.

2.3 Arrangements for Practice

- Law 4 of the *Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition* will apply.
- There will be one official practice day prior to the competition – see above. Any request for practice prior to these days can be made to the Tournament Director.

3. PLAYING FORMAT

3.1 Playing Format

Sets Play

- Sectional Play followed by Knockout Play.
- Four bowls of a set of bowls per player in singles
- Three bowls of a set of bowls per player in pairs.
- Games will be played consisting of 2 sets, with each set played over 7 ends for singles and 5 ends for pairs (replicating the format for Commonwealth Games 2026).
- The mat and jack will be placed on designated T's on the green at each end. (Note: the jack will not be delivered).
    - Due to the differing length of the two greens, the 40m green will have extra designated Ts in each direction to match the 36m markings. Play in one direction will be marked with a certain colour and play in the other direction with a different colour.
    - Length of designated Ts (40m undercover green) – See Appendix A
    - Length of designated Ts (36m portable rinks) – See Appendix B

3.2 Format of Play

Sectional Play

- The winner of each set will be the player with the highest number of shots when the seventh end in singles and fifth end in pairs is completed.
- If the shot scores are tied at the end of a set, the set will be a draw.
- If the game is tied after the two sets have been completed (each player having won one set or both sets having been drawn), a 1 end tie-breaker will be played to decide the winner.
- If the tie-breaker end is a no score end, more tie-breaker ends will be played until a winner is found.
- During Sectional play, all ends of both sets must be completed.

Knockout Play

- The winner of each set will be the player with the highest number of shots when the seventh end in singles and fifth end in pairs is completed.
- If the shot scores are tied at the end of a set, the set will be a draw.
- If the sets are tied one set each or both sets are drawn, a one (1) end tie-breaker will be played to decide the winner of the match.
- If the tie-breaker end is a no score end, more tie-breaker ends will be played until a winner is found.
- During knockout play there must be no further play in a set if at any point it becomes impossible for one player/team to draw or win the set given the number of ends left.

3.3 Schedule of Play

- Although following the CG2026 format in a number of areas, there are no shot clocks being used in this event (as there will be in CG2026). **Therefore all matches will be played to their conclusion.** The playing schedule shows 1hr 30 mins (including the one trial end) between matches as a guide to countries on what to expect at CG2026. *Delaying (slow) play* rules will apply.
- Start times shown on the playing schedule are subject to change. That is, if the greens become vacant, the next group of matches scheduled may commence earlier than the times shown on the schedule (as per any Controlling Body instructions).
- Therefore, players will need to be at the venue 30 mins prior to their scheduled start time (for each session).
- Play each day will commence at 8.30am and the Controlling Body will advise players as to when to commence their trial end before the first game. Once the trial end is completed, players can commence their games.
- Any player arriving after the official start time shall lose the right to play trial ends.
- Any player arriving at the green more than 15 minutes after the official starting time shall forfeit the game and the points for that game (during Sectional Play) and/or not progress through to the next round (in Knockout Play). This determination will be made by the Tournament Director in consultation with the umpire in control of the match.
- Session 4 on Friday 7/11 will commence 30 mins later (@ 2.30pm) due to prayers being held at Bowls Malaysia's request.

3.4 Alterations to the Format and Length of Games

- The Controlling Body reserves the right to alter the format, times of play, greens and venues to suit local unforeseen circumstances, giving as much notice as practicable. The preferred method of contact in these circumstances will be via email.
- Where an event is interrupted or cannot be completed due to inclement weather or other unsuitable conditions, the Controlling Body may alter any of the conditions of its programme if it decides it is essential to successfully carry out or finish the Championship. (Law 55.3.4)

3.5 Determination of Winners

Points will be awarded as follows:

- Three (3) game points for each game won.
- One (1) set point will be awarded for each set won.
- A half (0.5) set point will be awarded for each drawn set.
- No set points are awarded for any set lost. (The tie-breaker is not a set).
- If a game is forfeited, the non-offending player/team will be awarded three game points, two set points and a net total of shots that is equal to the average net total of shots scored by the winners of all other games played in the same round in the same section.

Section winners will be decided as follows:

- Highest number of game points scored.
- If game points are equal, the player/team with the highest number of sets won.
- If game points and sets won are equal, the player/team with the highest number of set points. (Note: This will include sets won and drawn)
- If game points, sets won and set points are equal, then the player/team with the highest net total of shots over all games in the section (not including tie breaker ends).
- If game points, sets won, set points, and net total of shots are equal, then the player/team that won the match between the players/teams will be declared the winner.

Overall Winner:

- The overall winner of the World Cup will be the country gaining the most ranking points across all seven disciplines played (Singles – men, women, para men, para women and Pairs – men, women and para mixed pairs).
- In determining the overall winner:
  Countries will be awarded the following points based on their finishing position in each discipline.
  1) Open Singles (Men and Women):
     1st (24pts) descending in order to 24th place (1pt)
  2) All other disciplines:
     1st (12pts) descending in order to 12th place (1pt)
- For those players/teams finishing equal 3rd (bronze medal) in all disciplines (including those in the open singles losing a quarter final), the player/team that finished higher in sectional play will receive the higher of the points towards the overall result.
- If the total ranking points across all disciplines is equal, then the country with the most sets won across all disciplines will be ranked higher.
- If positions are still equal, then net set points will be the next determining factor and if required followed by the highest net total of shots to decide the winner.

Most Valuable Player (MVP)

There will be a trophy for the 'Most Valuable Player' at the World Cup as judged by an appointed committee/jury of appeal members. Note: This may not be a player that wins the most medals but a player who is judged to have made a significant contribution or had the most influence.

4. GAME FORMAT

4.1 Trial Ends

- One trial end will be allowed for all games in accordance with Law 5.1.
- In trial ends players can use any combination of bowls taken from different sets of bowls so long as all bowls carry a registered 'World Bowls Stamp' of either the current or a future year.
- The Controlling Body reserves the right to amend the number of trial ends played in the case of unforeseen circumstances (as per Law 5.1.2).

4.2 Re-spotting the jack

- If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play, comes to rest in any hollow in the face of the bank, or rebounds to less than 20 metres from the mat line, the end should not be declared dead. Instead, the jack should be placed with the nearest point of the jack to the mat line at a spot on the rink which is **one** metre from the front ditch and on the centre line, and play must continue.

- If the spot is partly covered or completely covered by a bowl, the jack must be placed as close as possible to the covered spot, between and in line with that spot and the corresponding spot at the opposite end of the rink, without touching a bowl.

4.3 Sets Play – First to Play

- First set: the opponents/opposing coaches must toss a coin and the winner of the toss must choose to either place the mat, nominate the length of jack and deliver the first bowl or tell the opposing player to place the mat, nominate the length of jack and deliver the first bowl (the opposing player cannot refuse).
- Second Set: The winner of the first set should place the mat, advise the marker the length of jack and deliver the first bowl. If the first set is a draw, the winner of the last scoring end in that set should place the mat, advise the marker the length of jack and then deliver the first bowl.
- Tie-breaker: The first and any further ends of a tie-breaker, the opponents/opposing coaches should toss a coin and the winner of the toss has the options as described above (see first set).
- In all ends after the first end of each set, the winner of the previous scoring end shall place the mat, nominate the length of jack and then deliver the first bowl. If, however, the first end of the first set is a tied end, the first to play in that end shall also play first in the second end of the first set.

4.4 Leaving the Rink of Play

- If a player wishes to leave the rink of play, Law 32.1 will apply. However, if on more than one occasion, then on each occasion after the first they can do so only with their opponent's and the umpire's permission.
- The Umpires' permission will be granted in consultation with the player's coach when they are present.

4.5 Restricting the Movement of Players

Singles

- Players may only visit the head after delivery of their third and fourth bowls.
- In exceptional and limited circumstances, a singles player can ask the marker for permission to walk up to the head, earlier than described above. If a player does not meet the terms of this law, Law 13 (*Laws of the Sport of Bowls*) will apply.

Pairs

- The lead in Pairs may not visit the head (but may follow their final bowl to the head).
- The skip may visit the head after their second bowl.

4.6 Delaying Play

- If the umpire, either by their own observation or on appeal from one of the players, decides that a player is deliberately delaying the delivery of their opponent's bowl:
- On the first occasion, the umpire will warn the offending player.
- If the offending player commits the same offence a second time the end will be regarded as complete, and the opponent of the offender will score as many shots as there are bowls in use by such opponent.
- If the player offends a third time the game will be forfeited to the opponent.

- If the Controlling Body, either by their own observation or on appeal from an umpire or opposition player/coach, decides that a player/coach through their constant interaction during the game is delaying the game unnecessary, the Controlling Body reserves the right to remove the coach from coaching any further games in the event.

4.7 Scorecards

- Final scorecards must be checked and signed by the players, and the umpire in charge of that match prior to submission to the tournament office.

- All signed scorecards will be taken as final. Exceptions will only be made if the players concerned can prove to the Tournament Director that a genuine error has occurred.

5. COACHES

- Coaches appointed by their National Authority to act in this capacity for this event will be accredited and they must be registered with World Bowls and the Tournament Director prior to the commencement of the event.

6. FOOTWEAR and ATTIRE

6.1 Footwear

As per the 'Laws of the Sport of Bowls'.

6.2 Attire

As per the Laws of the Sport of Bowls. Players to wear their national shirts/uniform.

7. EQUIPMENT

7.1 Bowls

Players can use their own set of bowls and will be given stickers (Red/Blue) as per the draw to apply to their bowls for each round.

Stamps on Bowls

All bowls used during the event must carry a registered World Bowls stamp of either the current year (2025) or of a future year. Random checking of bowls may occur prior to the commencement of games.

Marking Touchers

Spray chalk will be used to mark touchers in all Singles games and is the preferred option in team events.

Bowls Stickers (stick on markings)

- Players must use any bowls stickers supplied by the Controlling Body if requested, including during the latter rounds of the event and for television/streaming matches.
- Any bowls stickers that are used on bowls must not obscure the serial number or the World Bowls Stamp (Law 52.1.8.3).
- First drawn teams will play with red stickers, second drawn team with blue stickers.
- Officials or the Controlling Body have the right to instruct players to remove, replace or apply alternate bowls stickers due to discolouration, damage, inappropriate placement or colour clashes.

7.2 Electronic Devices

- The use of mobile phones and other electronic/communication devices on the green and surrounds by players during play is not permitted.
- Mobile phones must be on silent, on vibrate or switched off during play.
- Arrangements for the use of electronic/communication devices by a player with a hearing disability, and for any other necessary communication requirement, will be made at the discretion of the Controlling Body.
- Volunteers will be using mobile phones to live score on each rink on WB Match Center.

8. PROHIBITIONS

8.1 Anti-Doping

Doping control may take place in accordance with *World Bowls Anti-Doping Regulations*.

8.2 Smoke Free Policy

- Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas at the host venue. These areas will always be signposted throughout the Championships.
- The following policy will apply at the venue Club and the following areas shall always be smoke-free:
  - the green
  - the bank
  - all indoor areas
  - all enclosed outdoor areas
  - all outdoor dining areas
  - all al-fresco dining areas
  - within seven (7) metres of any building entrance, or in accordance with Federal, State or Local Government Legislation.

8.3 Alcohol Policy

- At the venue, alcohol must be served in accordance with the relevant Federal, State/Territory or Local Government Legislation
- All playing areas will be alcohol free.
- All other areas will be subject to the venue's licence conditions.
- While any match is in progress, participating players and coaches should refrain from drinking alcohol.

8.4 Match-Fixing Policy

The World Bowls Match Fixing Policy shall apply throughout the event. All of those directly involved with the event, including but not limited to players, officials, and event staff, must comply with this policy, which can be found on the World Bowls website: www.worldbowls.com

9. JURY OF APPEAL

9.1 A jury of appeal of three people has been appointed for the purpose of deciding upon any points not provided in the Conditions of Play and/or for dealing with any referrals or appeals from decisions made by Umpires and/or the Controlling Body. In the event of a referral or appeal such referrals or appeals shall be made in accordance with the *Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark Fourth Edition* and any World Bowls Regulations.

9.2 The Jury of Appeal comprises:

- Brett O'Riley (World Bowls President)
- Syed Zainal Abidin Syed Zin (Bowls Asia, Secretary General) (Tournament Director).
- Mark Cowan (Chief Technical Official)

9.3 If a Member of the Jury of Appeal resigns or otherwise becomes unable to complete their role on the Jury of Appeal, the World Bowls Board shall have the power to immediately appoint another person in his place.

9.4 The functions of the Jury of Appeal shall be to:

- Hear and determine any allegation of misconduct properly made under the Conditions of Play, *Laws of the Sport of Bowls* or the World Bowls Articles of Association and Regulations.
- Hear and determine any disputes.
- Hear and determine any appeals.

10. OTHER LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

10.1 All other Laws, Regulations & Policies other than stated above shall conform to World Bowls Articles of Association, Regulations, Code of Conduct and the *Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition* as approved by World Bowls. Full details are available on the World Bowls website www.worldbowls.com.

10.2 Photography
World Bowls reserves the right to use any photographs taken during this event for marketing and promotional purposes.

11. CONTACT INFORMATION

For any event enquiries, please contact:

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