CONDITIONS OF PLAY

WORLD BOWLS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

2026

(April 20, 2026)

Controlling Body:

International Federation (IF):	World Bowls and International Indoor Bowls Council
Tournament Director:	Mark Cowan
Chief Technical Official (CTO):	John Roberts

Event: **WORLD BOWLS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026**

Dates: Practice Days: May 10 – 11, 2026

Playing Days: May 12 – 16, 2026

Venue: **Ocean Grove Bowling Club,** 18 The Terrace, Ocean Grove, Vic 3226

1. ENTRY CONDITIONS

1.1 Affiliation

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

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.*
- Players nominated for events in this World Championship must be the current MNA Indoor Singles Champion(s) in one of the events listed unless:
    - In the event an International player wins an MNA's Indoor Singles Championship or the MNA's Indoor Singles champion declines the offer to enter, World Bowls will accept the next best qualifier from the MNA (runner-up) and if they decline also, then a nominated player.
    - If there is no indoor qualifying event held by an MNA, World Bowls will accept a nominated player.

1.3 Entry Process

- All entries are to be submitted to World Bowls by February 28, 2026
- No late entries will be accepted.

2. EVENT STRUCTURE

2.1 Event Structure

Events:

- Men's World Indoor Championship
- Women's World Indoor Championship
- Mixed Pairs World Indoor Championship

- The World Indoor Championships will be played in 4 sections for the men and women singles and 8 sections for the mixed pairs – the number of players in each section is subject to the number of entries received.

- All countries entered will be randomly drawn into a section until all teams have been allocated a position in the draw.
- The draw for each event will be completed following the close of entries (28/02/2026).
- If any player withdraws after the draw has been completed, then the Controlling Body, by ballot, may move a drawn player from one section to another to ensure that all sections contain, as near as possible, a similar number of teams.
- Any movement of players will be advised at the managers/coaches meeting on Monday 11/05/26 at 10am where all entries will be confirmed.
- At the completion of sectional play:

Men/Women Singles:

The top 2 ranked players from each section will advance to the quarter finals.

Quarter Finals

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

Mixed Pairs:

The section winner from each of the 8 sections will qualify for finals.

Quarter Finals

QF 1 – Section 1 winner v Section 5 winner
QF 2 – Section 2 winner v Section 6 winner
QF 3 – Section 3 winner v Section 7 winner
QF 4 – Section 4 winner v Section 8 winner

Semi Finals

SF 1 – Winner QF 1 v Winner QF 2
SF 2 – Winner QF 3 v Winner QF 4

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 two official practice days 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 mixed pairs.
- Games will be played consisting of 2 sets, with each set played over 7 ends.

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 is completed.
- If the shot scores are tied after the seventh 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 3-end tie-breaker will be played to decide the winner.
- If the shot scores are still tied at the end of the tie-breaker, more tie-breaker ends will be played until a winner is found.
- During Sectional play, all seven (7) 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 is completed.
- If the shot scores are tied after the seventh end has been completed, the set will be a draw.
- If the sets are tied one set each or both sets are drawn, a three (3) end tie-breaker will be played to decide the winner of the match.
- If the shot scores are still tied at the end of the tie-breaker, more tie-breaker ends will be played until a winner is found.
- During knockout play there must be no further play in a set/tie-break if at any point it becomes impossible for one player/team to draw or win the set/tie-break given the number of ends left.

3.3 Schedule of Play

- Although there is no stipulated time limit, the playing schedule shows 2hrs (including trial ends) between matches. *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 (9.00am on final day) and the Controlling Body will advise players as to when to commence their trial ends before the first game. Once trial ends are 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.
- All care will be taken to avoid clashes, but players may be drawn to play on the same rink between their mixed pairs games and singles games, across the event.

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 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 with the highest net total of shots over all games in the section (not including tie breaker ends).
- If game points, set points, and net total of shots are equal, then the player that won the match between the players will be declared the winner.

4. GAME FORMAT

4.1 Trial Ends

- One trial end in each direction 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 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 two metres 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 in Singles/Mixed Pairs must toss a coin and the winner of the toss must choose to either place the mat and then deliver the jack and the first bowl or tell the opposing player to place the mat and deliver the jack and the first bowl (the opposing player cannot refuse).
- Second Set: The winner of the first set should place the mat and then deliver the jack and the first bowl. If the first set is a draw, the winner of the last scoring end in that set should place the mat and then deliver the jack and the first bowl.
- Tie-breaker: In the first, fourth and any further ends of a tie-breaker, the opponents 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 in each set (including the tie-breaker ends), the winner of the previous scoring end must place the mat and then deliver the jack and the first bowl. If however, the first end of the first set or the first end of a tie-breaker is a tied end, the first to play in that end must also play first in the second end of the first set or the second end of the tie-breaker.

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.

Mixed Pairs

- The lead in Mixed 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, 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/IIBC and the Tournament Director prior to the commencement of the event.
- Where no coach has been appointed by a National Authority, the singles players may coach their opposite gender from their country but must also register with 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

Stamps on Bowls
All bowls used during the event must carry a registered World Bowls stamp of either the current year (2026) 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).
- 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 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.

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:

- Mark Cowan (Tournament Director).
- Gordon Woods (Asst. Tournament Director).
- John Roberts (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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