



## **Team Ireland Selection Process and Eligibility 2023/2024**

(Including Appendix 1 - Team Ireland Rules & Regulations and Appendix 2 – Anti-doping)

### **Team Manager:**

- Under the ITBA Code of Governance the ITBA Executive committee will advertise for the position of Team Manager and Assistant Team Manager (if required) who will assume responsibility over any teams selected.
- The Team Manager will sign a Team Manager's Contract which will set-out the main duties and responsibilities before, during and after any event.
- Coaches will also be advertised for on ITBA website and within the ITBA Coaching Forum.

### **Selection Committee:**

- Where selection is necessary to determine which bowler(s) shall represent the country or the Association in any tournaments, such selection for Team Ireland will be the responsibility of the Team Ireland Selection Committee in compliance with the ITBA Constitution.
- Members of the Team Ireland Selection Committee were ratified by the Executive at meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The Team Ireland Selection Committee have reviewed this Team Ireland Selection Process and Eligibility 2023/2024 document and have confirmed it will adopt it when reviewing such matters as Panels to be forwarded to the Executive for ratification and when choosing bowlers/teams to represent the country.
- Members of the Team Ireland Selection Committee shall themselves be ineligible for selection for the group for which they are a selector.
- The Team Ireland Selection Committee will confirm it will use the criteria set out in this document as a guideline for the 2023/2024 season for any selection representation for Team Ireland, including but not exclusively Adult Triple Crown, European Champions Cup, European Women's Championships and European Men's Championships.

### **Team Ireland Panel:**

- Bowlers must be current ITBA members in good standing and must hold a valid Irish passport to qualify for Ranking Points and a place on the Panel.
- The Team Ireland Selection Committee will submit a Panel of bowlers for ratification to the Executive Committee for both men and women.
- The Panel of bowlers should be well in excess of those required for any team to be chosen, this Panel shall not be published until ratified.
- The Executive Committee shall not withhold ratification of any selection without due cause.
- Teams and individuals required to be selected for "Top Flight" tournaments shall be chosen from those bowlers currently named as Panel members

- For the 2023/2024 season Team Ireland are trialing an open Panel, at the start of the season it will be the bowlers' responsibility to declare their interest for ratification on the Team Ireland Panel.
- Bowlers will be notified about this change through the following channels:
  1. There will be a section in the application form for the 1<sup>st</sup> tournament of the season.
  2. Social Media Posts.
  3. ITBA Website Announcement
- Top 12 ranked Panel bowlers throughout the season will be invited to attend open training sessions.
- Panel members are subject to review on the basis of performance by the Selection Committee based on, but not exclusively:
  - Practice sessions
  - National and International tournament participation
  - Leagues
  - Other competitive play

### **Junior Bowlers**

Junior bowlers may participate in scheduled Team Ireland tournaments, and providing they meet the 'Team Ireland' criteria will be entitled to ranking points during the season. However, junior bowlers eligible for international representation must prioritise participating in junior tournaments/ competitions/ training/ practice sessions if a scheduling conflict arises in line with the spirit of the ITBA's 'Child Safeguarding Statement'.

**Important:** With effect from the 2024/2025 season onwards any bowler under the age of 18 will not be permitted to travel as part of Team Ireland, irrespective of the fact that they may have accumulated the required number of ranking points to be eligible for automatic qualification or selection. In addition, with effect from the 2024/2025 season onwards any bowler aged 16 and under will not be permitted to take part in Team Ireland events/competitions so as to safeguard their welfare and wellbeing by ensuring they only participate in age appropriate events/competitions. These changes have been implemented to give effect to the guidance issued by Sports Ireland and a decision made by the Executive.

### **2023/2024 Team Ireland Panel Criteria – Adult Triple Crown (ATC)**

- The Team Ireland Panel to be ratified, in October 2023, will form the starting point of the selection process.
- Top 10 ranked Panel bowlers who were ratified onto the Panel in October 2023, will be used as guidance by the Selection Committee for selection of the team(s) for Adult Triple Crown.
- Panel members must also meet the criteria listed below to be eligible for ATC Panel.
- Bowlers must compete in a minimum of 6 of the 9 ranked tournaments throughout the season to be considered for team selection. If a tournament is cancelled bowlers must compete in a minimum of 5 of 8 ranked tournaments throughout the season to be considered for team selection.
- Ranking points will be allocated to bowlers based on their final scratch position at the end of qualifying (unless otherwise documented in the tournament entry form)

- In addition to this, there may be a total of one (1) exemption and one (1) wildcard or two (2) wildcards.
- The Exempt bowler will earn an automatic spot on the team that is to travel to the event.
- The Wildcard will be given an opportunity to participate in the Roll-Offs to make the final team

### **2023/2024 Team Selection – Adult Triple Crown (ATC 2024)**

- The “Top Two” bowlers in their standing’s will earn an automatic spot on the team that will represent Ireland at the ATC 2024 once they meet the required minimum averages.
- Top 10 ranked Panel members (excluding top 2 Ranked players) and any approved wild card applications will be invited to compete in a roll off to determine final team selection
- The roll off will be hosted across two days in two bowling centers.
- The roll off will be scheduled June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024
- Bowlers will compete in 10 games in total
- Bowlers must meet the minimum average to be eligible for team selection
- If/When an average is not met the Selection Committee reserves the right to send full or partial teams
  - Mens Minimum Average: 205
  - Ladies Minimum Average: 190

### **Ladies European Championships 2024**

- The “Number One” ranked bowler, who was ratified onto the womens Panel in October 2023, after the last ranked tournament January 2024 will earn an automatic spot on the team for the 2024 European Women’s Championships in line with the selection criteria in meeting the required minimum averages
- If the “Number One” ranked player is unable to participate in the tournament the automatic spot will be made available to the next highest ranked bowler.
- Top 10 ranked panel members (excluding number one ranked athlete) and any approved wild card applications will be invited to compete in a roll off to determine final team selection
- The roll off/remaining team selection will be determined by the final placing of panel members in the All Events at the ITBA National Scratch Championships 2024
- Minimum average criteria, set by the Team Ireland Sub-committee and ratified by the Executive Committee, will have to be met by bowlers wishing to travel.
- The Selection Committee reserves the right to send full/ partial teams if average is not met throughout the 2023/2024.
- The Selection Committee will review all wild card and exemption applications received to establish if such applications are valid for consideration and approval. If approved:
  - ⊖ The Exempt bowler will earn an automatic spot on the team.
  - The Wildcard will be given an opportunity to participate in the Roll-Offs to make the final team (Wildcard must participate at 2024 ITBA National Scratch Championships).

### **Men’s European Championships 2025**

- Team Ireland Selection Committee will submit a panel of bowlers for ratification to the Executive Committee in July 2024.

- The panel of bowlers will constitute the Top 10 eligible players in the Mens rankings at the end of 2023/2024.
  - Players must have participated in the minimum number of ranked tournaments in 2023/2024 season
  - Players must rank in the Top 10
- The Selection Committee will review all wild card and exemption applications received to establish if such applications are valid for consideration and approval. If approved:
  - ⊖ The Exempt athlete will earn an automatic spot on the team.
  - The Wildcard, once ratified, will be given a place on the Panel to compete for a spot on the team.
- Subject to ratification following the last tournament of 2023/2024 the Top 2 ranked bowlers from the Panel will earn an automatic spot on the team.
- In the event of an approved exemption the top 3 ranked bowlers from the Panel will earn an automatic spot on the team.
- The remaining Panel bowlers will be invited to compete in a roll off to fill the remaining two available places on the team
- Any approved wild card applications will also be invited to participate in the roll off
- The roll off will be scheduled for September 2024

### Wildcard/Exemptions

Examples of reasons for which a Wildcard / Exemption can be applied for include:

- An athlete returning from injury and has displayed their quality in tournaments / leagues since their return
- An athlete who competes in overseas tournaments, which limits their participation in domestic tournaments. An athlete would however have to show their support by playing in a minimum of three Ranking tournaments when / if not competing overseas
- An athlete living / working overseas, however an athlete would have to display their qualities in tournaments / leagues in the area where they currently reside
- An athlete who joins the Association/Team Ireland for the first time and demonstrates that their ability would be beneficial to Team Ireland
- Participation in 3 of the 9 ranking events is required for a wild card to be considered for the ATC.

### Ranking Events 2023/2024

No:	Event	Date	Status	Centre
1	TI Match Play	24 <sup>th</sup> September	Silver	Leisureplex, Charlestown
2	TI Singles	21 <sup>st</sup> October	Bronze	ALSAA
3	TI 2 for 1	26 <sup>th</sup> November	Bronze	Leisureplex, Blanchardstown
4	Dual Pattern	9 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Silver	ALSAA
5	Alsaa Open	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Silver	ALSAA
6	National Championships	22 <sup>nd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Gold	TBC
7	TI Doubles	10 <sup>th</sup> March	Bronze	Leisureplex, Charlestown
8	Strike 74	20 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Bronze	ALSAA
9	TI Singles	5 <sup>th</sup> May	Bronze	ALSAA
10	Roll Off – Adult Triple Crown	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	N/A	ALSAA and Blanchardstown

- In each Tournament, points will be awarded to both women and men
- If there is a combined division, women and men will be awarded points in relation to their final position relative to the other athletes of the same gender.
  - I. Points in Bronze Tournaments will be awarded to the top 50 of each gender according to the presented list below – 1 day event
  - II. Points in Silver Tournaments will be awarded to the top 50 of each gender according to the presented list times two – 2 day event
  - III. Points in Gold Tournaments will be awarded to the top 50 of each gender according to the presented list times three – 3+ day event

#### **Points Table**

No. 1	(50 Points)	No. 2	(40 Points)
No. 3	(35 Points)	No. 4	(30 Points)
No. 5	(25 Points)	No. 6	(24 Points)
No. 7	(23 Points)	No. 8	(22 Points)
No. 9	(21 Points)	No. 10	(20 Points)
No. 11-12	(15 Points)	No. 13-14	(14 Points)
No. 15-16	(13 Points)	No. 17-18	(12. Points)
No. 19-20	(11 Points)	No. 21-25	(8 Points)
No. 26-30	(6 Points)	No. 31-35	(4 Points)
No. 36-40	(3 Points)	No. 41-45	(2 Points)
No. 46-50	(1 Point)		

#### **Standings**

Once a tournament is completed, the Team Ireland Sub-committee will create the top 50 point lists in both sections – Men’s and Women - based on scores and standings provided.

#### **Rankings**

- Based on the point lists, the Team Ireland Sub-committee will update both the Women and Men’s standings
- The standings will be published on the ITBA Website and ITBA Facebook Page
- If a tie needs to be broken for any deciding position, the athlete in the highest position is the one with the highest number of maximum points awarded in all tournaments, then the athlete with the highest number of second highest maximum points awarded in all tournaments etc

## Team Ireland Appendix 1 Rules & Regulations 2023-2024 Season

- All participants seeking to earn ranking points in an ITBA Ranked event must be fully paid up current General Members of the ITBA prior to the first competitive ball thrown.
- All Team Ireland Representatives who will participate in any 'Topflight' International event must be fully paid-up general members of the ITBA. This includes events such as:
  - Adult Triple Crown
  - European Champions Cup
  - European Men's Championships
  - European Women Championships, World Men's Championships
  - World Women Championships, World Singles Championships
  - Any other newly added events

### Dress Code

- All athletes must adhere to the dress code requirements stated below.
- Failure to comply with the revised dress code requirements may result in zero points for the attended event.
- These rules apply throughout the 2023/2024 season in all Team Ireland affiliated events including official training sessions and Roll-Offs
  - a) Participant must wear a bowling shirt with their name clearly visible on the back
    - i. Bowling shirt may be a polo t-shirt or dye sublimated shirt
    - ii. Official Team Ireland Jerseys can be worn with or without players name displayed
    - iii. T-shirts are prohibited (v neck, crew neck, round neck etc)
  - b) Participants may wear slacks/trousers, tailored golf shorts, tailored chino shorts, skirts, skorts, plain black/navy tracksuit bottoms, plain black or navy exercise/yoga leggings
    - i. Length of skirt, skorts or shorts must be below the participant's fingertips when they are standing, and their arms are hanging down at their side
    - ii. Length of skirt, skorts, and shorts MUST be long enough to not see your bottom area (even if covered by under shorts) at any time
    - iii. Exercise/yoga leggings must be of good quality and must not be sheer or transparent
    - iv. Exercise/yoga leggings must be plain black or navy, must not contain any visible branding and must not have any design
    - v. Where a Team Manager or Tournament Committee has been ratified by the ITBA Executive, the details of the Dress Code, within the Association's overall Code, will be advised to participants for competition play
  - c) Prohibited items include club affiliated tops, denim, jeans, combats, cotton shorts, football jerseys, other sports related jerseys, sleeveless shirts, gym shorts, cycling/yoga shorts, basketball shorts, boxing shorts, gaa shorts, football shorts and street shoes.
- All queries and complaints can be sent formally to [team.ireland@tenpinbowling.ie](mailto:team.ireland@tenpinbowling.ie) to find out more information or follow up on issues.

- Spot checks of equipment will be in place throughout the 2023/2024 season in Ranked events to make sure that weights, balance, surfaces, and general standards are in compliance with World Bowling specifications. Penalty for a ball failing to comply with any of the above are as follows:
  - a) If it is only one ball which does not comply with the above, then it is removed from competitive play and the bowler receives a warning.
  - b) If it is more than one ball in the participants arsenal that fails to comply with the ball(s) shall be removed from play and the Team Ireland Sub-committee may decide to take further appropriate action within the ITBA Constitution's disciplinary procedures.
  - c) If the participant continues to use the balls which have been deemed unsuitable for competition after receiving a warning they will be disqualified from the event without a refund of entry fee. Throughout the 2023/2024 season there will be at least one member of the Team Ireland Sub-committee at each ranking event to uphold and enforce the Integrity Rules.

**Integrity Rules:** A participant:

- Must carry themselves in a respectful manner
- May not hit or damage any bowling center property
- May not use profanity while participating whether it be in a positive or negative manner
- Must treat the other competitors, staff and proprietors with respect and will not be derogatory towards them in any way during competition
- Must not distract other competitors while they are competing
- Must not delay the natural flow of a match/game ie. no slow bowling
- The use of music and headphones is not permitted during official play (including official practice)
- The answering of phone calls is not permitted during official play
- Mobile phones must be on silent mode for the duration of the official play

All queries and complaints can be sent formally to [team.ireland@tenpinbowling.ie](mailto:team.ireland@tenpinbowling.ie) within 24 hours of the issue occurring

**Penalties** (Note: All Penalties are subject to ratification from the ITBA Executive)

- Participant is issued a verbal warning
- Participant is issued a Yellow card which reduces earned ranking points by 25%. (No Refund of Entry Fee)
- Participant is issued a Red Card which reduces earned ranking points by 75%. (No Refund of Entry Fee)
- Participant is issued a Black Card which reduces earned ranking points by 100% and they are suspended for the following three ranked events. (No Refund of Entry Fee)
- If Participant has breached Four or More of the Integrity Rules in the one event they are then to be removed from the competition in which the breaches have happened and may be subject to a disciplinary hearing as outlined in the ITBA Constitution with either the Team Ireland Sub-committee or the ITBA Executive (as considered appropriate).

Conflict of interest - Bowlers (committee members) cannot marshal for breaking of rules – the complaints procedure will be used to avoid a conflict of interest. Any penalties will be decided by the executive committee in line with the ITBA constitution.

### **Appeals**

All Penalties can be appealed but must be done in a formal manner via email to the Team Ireland Sub-committee no later than 24hrs after the penalty has been issued. This in no way impacts upon a bowlers rights of appeal as set-out in the ITBA Constitution.

### **Sponsorship 2023/2024**

We are currently sourcing new sponsors to try and improve tournaments and reduce the overall costs for any bowlers who may travel to Major Championships.

### **Covid 19 guidelines**

All play is subject to the rulings of the HSE guidelines around COVID19 and the most up to date protocol can be found at [www2.hse.ie](http://www2.hse.ie)

### **OVERALL SUMMARY**

It is the responsibility of the participant to ensure compliance with all of the Rules and Regulations stipulated in this document. If there are any queries about a rule or penalty, please do not hesitate to contact the Team Ireland Sub-committee directly at [team.ireland@tenpinbowling.ie](mailto:team.ireland@tenpinbowling.ie)

Our goal by introducing these new Rules and Regulations, which have been ratified by the ITBA Executive, is to bring more integrity and professionalism into our sport on a national level. Any Rules listed in this document are in addition to the General Rules of the ITBA and are effective as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 until the end of the 2024 Bowling Calendar Year and to cover all Team Ireland affiliated events including official training sessions and Roll-Offs.

In Article 11 of the ITBA Constitution, we have adopted the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping rules. The ITBA – [www.tenpinbowling.ie](http://www.tenpinbowling.ie), International Bowling Federation (IBF) – [www.bowling.sport](http://www.bowling.sport) and Sport Ireland [www.sportireland.ie](http://www.sportireland.ie) are all committed to providing a clean sport and a stage upon where athletes can compete in fairness. The use of doping substances or doping methods to enhance performance is fundamentally wrong and is detrimental to the overall impact of bowling. Drug misuse can be harmful to an athlete's health and also indirectly impact other athletes competing in bowling. To ensure integrity of the sport of bowling, the ITBA is fully signed-up to IBF and Sport Ireland's National Programme and will enforce the World Anti-Doping Code developed by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) - [www.wada-ama.org/en](http://www.wada-ama.org/en).

### **WHAT IS DOPING:**

Doping is defined as the occurrence of one or more of the following anti-doping rule violations:

- Presence of a prohibited substance (such as steroids, stimulants, hormones, diuretics or narcotics) in an athlete's sample.
- Possession, trafficking, use or attempted use of a prohibited substance or method (such as blood transfusions or gene doping).
- Refusing to submit to sample collection.
- Failure to file whereabouts information and missed tests.
- Tampering with any part of the doping control process.
- Administering or attempting to administer a prohibited substance or method to an athlete.

### **AS AN ATHLETE, WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DOPING?**

Any athlete may be tested in- and out-of-competition at anytime, anywhere and with no advance notice. The principle of strict liability applies in anti-doping – if it is in the athlete's body, the athlete is responsible for it.

### **Athletes' responsibilities include (but are not limited to):**

- complying with the Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Rules in line with the World Anti-Doping Code;
- being available for sample collection (urine or blood), whether in-competition or out-of-competition;
- ensuring that no prohibited substance enters his body and that no prohibited method is used;
- making sure that any treatment is not prohibited according to the Prohibited List in force and checking this with the prescribing physicians, or directly with the Sport Ireland if necessary;
- applying to the Sport Ireland if no alternative permitted treatment is possible and a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) is required (see the Sport Ireland TUE application process)

Every athlete needs to take into account the list of prohibited substances and know what are his/her rights and responsibilities under the World Anti-Doping Code and the IF anti-doping rules. Athletes should know that, under the Code, they are strictly liable whenever a prohibited substance is found in their body. This means that a violation occurs whether or not the athlete intentionally, knowingly or unknowingly, used a prohibited substance or was negligent or otherwise at fault.

The World Anti-Doping Code (Code) is the core document that provides the framework for harmonized antidoping policies, rules and regulations within sport organizations and among public authorities. It works in conjunction with five International Standards aimed at bringing harmonization among anti-doping organisations in various areas: testing, laboratories, Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs), protection of privacy and personal information, and the List of Prohibited Substances and Methods. The Code and the Standards are mandatory documents for WADA's stakeholders. These documents are supported by non-mandatory guidelines.

The **Sport Ireland 2022 newly introduced Anti-Doping Digital Wallet Card** can be found on our website. In the Anti-Doping Update for the AGM 2023, the ITBA Anti-Doping Officer again stressed:

*"It is imperative that all bowlers familiarise themselves with its contents. The Digital Wallet Card is designed as a brief overview and a lot more information on all aspects of Anti-Doping can be found on the Sport Ireland website – [www.sportireland.ie/antidoping](http://www.sportireland.ie/antidoping)." This includes links to "Report Doping" (link also on ITBA website), "Supplement Policy" and "Check your Medication" link to [www.eirpharm.com](http://www.eirpharm.com) if in any doubt about any medication you are taking. If your medication is prohibited and no alternative permitted treatment can be used, the Digital Wallet Card also spells out how to apply for a TUE (Therapeutic-Use-Exemption)."*

The Sport Ireland "REPORT DOPING" intelligence programme is a vital part of the Anti-Doping programme and seeks to collect any information that will assist in the detection, deterrence, enforcement or prevention of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV). ADRVs include use and attempted use of prohibited substances in sport, but also extend to administration of a prohibited substance, possession, and trafficking in prohibited substances. Those who are most at risk of an ADRV are competitive athletes and support personnel (including Coaches) involved with competitive athletes. In the Anti-Doping Update for the AGM 2023, the ITBA Anti-Doping Officer highlighted:

*I would particularly remind bowlers participating in European Bowling Federation (EBF) or International Bowling Federation (IBF) events that before the travel they should check that any medication being taken is not on the Prohibited List as published by WADA – see [www.wada-ama.org/en](http://www.wada-ama.org/en) ."*

An **"Athlete Support Person"** who participates as **coach, trainer, manager, team staff, official, medical or paramedical personnel** in a *Competition* or activity authorised or organised by the IBF or EBF or one of its member organisations (including the ITBA) agrees to be bound by:

- (i) anti-doping rules including complying with drug testing requests and
- (ii) *anti-doping organisation* results management authority in conformity with the *Code* as a condition of such participation.

In summary, bowlers (and "Athlete Support Persons") should remember, that under the Code, they are strictly liable whenever a prohibited substance is found in their body. This means that a violation occurs, whether or not a bowler intentionally, knowingly or unknowingly, used a prohibited substance or was negligent or otherwise at fault.

So, let's continue to be fully aware of our responsibilities and let's continue to keep Irish Tenpin Bowling drug free.