



Tenpin Bowling New Zealand Inc. (TBNZ)

RULE BOOK

VERSION 1.20

Updated 26th of January 2026

[Chapter 1 - General Playing Rules](#)

[Chapter 2 - General](#)

[Chapter 3 - League Rules and Guidelines](#)

[Chapter 4 - Awards and Conditions](#)

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Please send any comments or questions related to these rules to TBNZ Inc.
CEO Email: ceo@tbnz.co.nz

MODIFICATION and REVISION RECORD

	Rule	Change	Date
1.00	All	Total revision	24-6-07
1.01	Rule 128	Rule added to provide a definition of Session of Games to help clarify when a ball may be cleaned and when its surface may be changed as in rules 601.4 and 601.7	21-01-10
1.02	Rule 514	Code of Ethics extended to apply to registered managers as well as registered coaches and national squad members.	02-03-10
1.02	Rule 716	Dress code is modified to require males to wear dress trousers and to permit the wearing of shorts of any length for females and the wearing of branded bowling shirts for all.	02-03-10
1.03	Rule 122	Average definition modified to include delivering of ball two (2) handed must be delivery the same way.	05-02-11
1.03	Rule 204	Membership group defining eligibility.	05-02-11
1.03	Rule 302.4	League Rules: teams joining the league after the first the league has started. Remove "the first"	25-05-11
1.03	Rule 211	Ball Delivery Definition "two handed"	30-05-11
1.03	Rule 601.7.1	Ball Cleaning	05-07-11
1.03	Rule 119	Foul Appeal. Re wording and clarification.	08-09-11
1.04	Rule 513	Ant-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination Policy	01-01-12
1.05	Rule 215	Smoking	31-12-14
1.05	Rule 212	Drinking Alcohol	31-12-14
1.06	Rule 101	Explanation and diagram	13-03-15
1.06	Rule 106	Error	13-03-15
1.07	Rule 402 a.	Conditions Governing Awards Added further clarification as to the intent of the conditions governing awards.	25-04-15
1.08	Word Change	Change from FIQ/WTBA to WB World Bowling	21-02-16
1.09	Various	General review/tidy up	03-10-16
1.10	Rule 601.13	Static Balance: Ball weights and hole drilling	28-01-19
1.11	Rule 716	Dress Code	13-08-19
1.12	Rule 402 a.	Conditions Governing Awards Added further clarification as to the intent of the conditions governing awards.	01-04-20
1.13	Rule 204.5	Grand Senior age change. Update	23-10-20
1.14	Various	Change from WB to IBF effective Nov 2020	31-12-21
1.14	Various	Realignment with WB/TBA Rules	31-12-21
1.14	Various	Removal of the word "sanctioned" and replaced with "certified"	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 101	Moved information referring to the delivery of a ball (points b & c) to Rule 108 Pinfall – Legal (now points c & d).	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 106	Change from Error to Open frame	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 108	Added information referring to the delivery of a ball previously listed in Rule 101 – Scoring the game	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 109	Pinfall – illegal - realignment with WB/TBA Rules	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 111	Other Pin actions – realignment with WB/TBA Rules	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 113	Bowling on wrong lane – realignment with WB/TBA Rules	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 122	Removal of average definition when delivering a ball conventionally or two-handed added in Feb 2011. Average is established based on the delivery side. See Rule 211	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 123	Prizes – realignment with TBA Rules.	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 125	Approaches – realignment with WB/TBA Rules.	31-12-21

1.14	Rule 127	Illegal Ball – realignment with WB/TBA Rules.	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 128	Definition of a Session effective 1-1-2022 in line with IBF altering the surface of a bowling ball	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 129	Participation Limited - added	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 130	Delivery using a Ramp - added	31-12-21
1.14	Chapter 2	Realignment of Numbering & Rules with TBA Rules.	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 211.1	Ball Delivery – Frequently asked questions - added	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 511	Altering the Surface of the ball – update to incorporate new definition of a session.	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 601	Realignment of Numbering due to addition of Approved Bowling Ball information.	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 601.2	Approved Bowling Balls link to USBC approved list added	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 601.5	Surface - update to incorporate new definition of a session.	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 601.5.1	Altering Surface – added	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 601.1.1	Altering Surface – Frequently asked questions - added	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 601.8	Cleaning – realignment with TBA Rules & update to incorporate new definition of a session	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 601.8	Cleaning – Frequently asked questions – added	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 601.13	Drilling Specifications – Holes – realignment with USBC/TBA Rules	31-12-21
1.14	Rule 716	Dress code – add skorts and confirmation of an acceptable length of skirts, skorts or dress shorts.	31-12-21
1.15	Rule 127	Updated to reference Rule 601 – Bowling Ball Specification rather than Chapter 6.	13-01-22
1.15	Chapter 6	Realignment of Numbering to remove Ball Surface from Rule 601.	13-01-22
1.15	Rule 601.12	Drilling Specifications – Holes – correction to include maximum depth.	13-01-22
1.15	Rule 601.13	Static Balance - Remove redundant reference to drilling of bowling balls over 10lb prior to 1 August 2020.	13-01-22
1.15	Rule 602	Surface renumbered to Rule 602 – Ball Surface, removes confusion between Rules 127 & 511.	13-01-22
1.15	Rule 602.1	Altering Ball Surface – renumbered and correction to wording to confirm “ <i>not allowed to alter the surface once competition has started</i> ”.	13-01-22
1.15	Rule 602.1	Altering Ball Surface – Frequently asked questions - renumbered	13-01-22
1.16	Rule 401	Updated to confirm a game can only be used once when applying for this award.	12-12-22
1.17	Rule 216	Electronic Devices – added	26-03-23
1.17	Rule 217	Re-number Rule 216 to Rule 217 to allow for inclusion of Electronic Devices rule (as above)	26-03-23
1.17	Rule 401	Added – Awards meeting eligibility criteria will be included in the Individual Honours list compiled by TBNZ	26-03-23
1.18	Rule 201 Rule 211.1	Changed membership year to 1 April to 31 March Ball Delivery – Frequently asked questions - added	24-08-23
1.19	Rule 128	Roll back session definition and ball resurfacing to 2021 version	13-01-25
1.20	Rule 128	Definition of a Session effective 1-1-2026 to limit the impact of Urethane balls	26-01-26
1.20	Rule 215	Updated to include vaping	26-01-26

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ACRONYMS OF OTHER BOWLING ORGANISATIONS

ABC	means American Bowling Congress
IBF	means International Bowling Federation
OBF	means Oceania Bowling Federation
TBA	means Tenpin Bowling Australia
USBC	means United States Bowling Congress
WIBC	means Women's International Bowling Congress
WB	means World Bowling

EXPLANATION OF CONTENT

The TBNZ Rule Book has been updated to reflect the current NZ bowling environment and the services that TBNZ now provides. With NZ bowlers now frequently bowling in tournaments in Australia, it is appropriate to try to make it easier for NZ bowlers to understand the significant requirements in both countries. The TBNZ Rule Book has been written to facilitate this by having a chapter structure similar to the TBA Rule Book. The TBNZ Rule Book also has very similar chapter content to the TBA Rule Book in the areas of main significance to tournament play. The following provides an explanation of the source of the content of each chapter in this TBNZ Rule Book.

Chapter 1, “General Playing Rules”, is generally the same as the TBA Chapter, but has minor changes to reflect the lack of state structure in NZ. It also has a couple of points of additional clarification.

Chapter 2, “General Rules”, is also like the TBA Chapter, but has changes to reflect the lack of a state structure in NZ.

Chapter 3, “League Rules and Guidelines”, has no similarity to the TBA Chapter, as the league situation in NZ is quite different to that of Australia. This TBNZ Chapter 3 also includes Guidelines that are contained in the TBA Chapter 9.

Chapter 4, “Awards and Conditions”, has no similarity to the TBA Chapter, as the awards offered in NZ are currently quite different to that of Australia.

Chapter 5, “Offences and Suggested Penalties”, is generally the same as the TBA Chapter, but has some changes to reflect the structure in NZ.

Chapter 6, “Equipment Specifications”, has been based on the WB rules (last published February 2019) since this is the body which determines Equipment Specifications throughout the world. The WB equivalents are Chapter 9 “Lane Specifications”, Chapter 10 “Pin Specifications”, and Chapter 11 “Ball Specifications”. The overall content of the TBNZ Chapter 6 is still very like the TBA Chapter 6 but the TBNZ chapter has expanded information that is available from the WB rules. Note World Bowling changed it's name in November 2020 to International Bowling Federation, but has not updated their website with the a Statutes and Playing Rules document. Therefore, references to WB will continue.

Chapter 7, “TBNZ Tournament Rules”, has no similarity to the TBA Chapter, as the situation in NZ is quite different to that of Australia.

Chapter 8. “Requirements and Rules for Certified Tournaments”, has no similarity to the TBA Chapter, as the situation in NZ is quite different to that of Australia.

Any member is encouraged to contact the TBNZ Assistant CEO if they wish to comment on or require clarification about any aspects of these Rules. See contact details on the front page.

CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL PLAYING RULES

As TBA Chapter 1 except for text which is written in Italics.

RULE 101 - SCORING THE GAME:

- a) A game of TBNZ Tenpin shall consist of ten frames. Each player shall bowl two balls in each of the first nine frames, except when they make a strike. A player who scores a strike or spare in the tenth frame shall deliver three balls. Except when a strike is scored, the number of pins knocked down by a player's first delivery is to be marked in the small square in the upper left-hand corner of that frame and the number of pins knocked down by the players second delivery is to be marked in the upper right-hand corner. If none of the standing pins are knocked down by the second delivery in the frame, the score sheet shall be marked with a (-). The count of the two deliveries in the frame shall be recorded immediately.

SCORE A GAME

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		
X		X		X		7	2	(8)	/	F	9	X		X		-	9	X	X	8
30		57		76		85		95		104		124		143		152		180		

RULE 102 - STRIKE:

A strike is recorded when the player completes a legal delivery and bowls down the full setup of ten pins on the first ball. It is designated by an (X) in the small square in the upper left-hand corner of the frame in which the complete set of ten pins is bowled down with the first ball. The count in each frame where a strike is bowled shall be left open until the player has completed two more deliveries. The maximum count on one strike when followed by a spare is 20.

RULE 103 - DOUBLE:

When a player bowls two strikes in succession legally delivered, they shall have scored a double. The count in the frame where the first strike was bowled shall be left open until the player has completed their next delivery. When all pins are down twice in succession the count for the first strike is 20 plus the number of pins knocked down with the first ball of the third frame following. The maximum count on a double, figuring a ninepin count on the first ball following the second strike is 29.

RULE 104 - TRIPLE OR TURKEY:

In scoring three successive strikes, the player shall be credited with 30 pins in the frame in which the first strike was bowled. Thus, in a game of ten full frames, a player must bowl 12 strikes in succession in order to bowl a game of 300.

RULE 105 - SPARE:

Any player who bowls down the remaining pins with a legally delivered second ball in any frame has scored a spare. A spare is designated by a (/) in the small square in the upper right-hand corner of the frame in which it is made. The number of pins knocked down after the first delivery before the player bowls for the spare should be marked by a small figure in the upper right corner of the frame. The count in such frame proper is left open until the player shall have bowled their first ball in the next frame following, when the number of pins knocked down by the first ball shall be added to the ten pins represented by their spare and the total shall be credited therein. When a spare is scored in the tenth frame, a third ball shall be bowled in that frame.

RULE 106 - OPEN FRAME:

When a player fails to bowl down all ten pins after having completed two deliveries in a frame, unless the pins left standing after the first ball constitute a split, it is called an open frame.

RULE 107 - SPLIT:

A split shall be a setup of pins remaining standing after the first ball has legally been delivered provided the head-pin is down, and:

- a) At least one pin is down between two or more pins, which remain standing, as for example, 7-9 or 3-10;
- b) At least one pin is down immediately ahead of two or more pins that remain standing, as for example, 5-6. A split may be designated by a bracket around the number of pins bowled over with the first ball, e.g. (7) or (8), or highlighted in a different colour.

RULE 108 - PINFALL - LEGAL:

- a) A ball is legally delivered when it leaves the bowler's possession and crosses the foul line into playing territory.
- b) Every ball delivered by the player shall count, unless declared a dead ball.
- c) A bowling ball must be delivered entirely by manual means and shall not incorporate any device either in the ball or affixed to it, which detaches at time of delivery, or is a moving part in the ball during delivery, except that any person who has had their hand or major portion thereof amputated may use special equipment to aid in grasping and delivering the ball providing the special equipment is in lieu of the amputee's hand.
- d) Where an artificial or medical aid is necessary for grasping and delivering the ball because of any other disability of

the hand or arm, permission to use the aid in certified competition may be granted by the TBNZ office under the following conditions:

- i. The aid does not incorporate a mechanical device with moving parts, which would impart a force impetus to the ball.
- ii. A description or drawing and model of aid are furnished to TBNZ.
- iii. A doctor's certificate describing the disability together with their recommendation that the aid should be used is furnished to TBNZ.

If permission is not granted, the claimant shall have the right of appeal to the TBNZ Board. Should permission be granted for the use of an artificial or medical aid, a special identification card (not a TBNZ membership card) will be issued to the applicant indicating that the aid may be used in certified competition providing the bowler has a current membership card and the use of the aid is specifically authorized by the league or tournament management.

Permission to use the device may be withdrawn at any time by TBNZ.

- e) Following a legal delivery, pins that are to be credited to a player, termed dead wood and to be removed before the next delivery shall include:
 - i. Pins which are knocked down or off the pin deck by the ball or another pin.
 - ii. Pins which are knocked down or off the pin deck by a pin rebounding from the side partition or rear cushion.
 - iii. Pins which are knocked down or off the pin deck by a pin rebounding from the sweep bar when it is at rest on the pin deck before sweeping dead wood from the pin deck.
 - iv. Pins that lean and touch the kickback or side partitions.
 - v. Pins which come in contact with or are pulled over by any pin string on a string machine.
- f) If when rolling at a full setup or in order to make a spare it is discovered immediately after the ball has been delivered that one or more pins are improperly set, although not missing, the ball and resulting pin fall shall be counted. It is each player's responsibility to determine if the setup is correct. They shall insist that any pins incorrectly set be re-spotted before delivering their ball, otherwise this implies that the setup is satisfactory. No change in the positions of any pins which are left standing can be made after a previous delivery in order to make a spare, unless the pin setter has moved or misplaced any pin after the previous delivery and prior to the bowling of the next ball.

RULE 109 - PINFALL - ILLEGAL:

When any of the following incidents occur, the ball counts as a ball rolled, but pins knocked down shall not count:

- a) When pins are knocked down or displaced by a ball, which leaves the lane before reaching the pins.
- b) When a ball rebounds from the rear cushion, pins knocked down by the rebounding ball. If there is any doubt as to which pins were knocked over by the rebounding ball, all pins must be re-spotted.
- c) When pins come in contact with the body, arms or legs of a pinsetter and rebound.
- d) A standing pin which falls upon removing dead wood.
- e) A pin is knocked down by a human pin setter or touched by mechanical pin setting equipment.
- f) If in delivering the ball a foul is committed.
- g) A delivery is made with dead wood on the lane or in the gutter and the ball contacts such dead wood before leaving the lane surface.
- h) Pins knocked down by a ball illegally delivered. ***As a point of clarification, all drilled holes must be used in every delivery. If the ball has a thumb hole drilled, it must be used in every delivery. If no thumb hole is drilled, a mark such as a plus sign (+) must be engraved in the palm area to show proper orientation to grip the ball.***

If illegal pinfall occurs and the player is entitled to additional deliveries in the frame, the pin or pins illegally knocked down must be re-spotted on the pin spot inscribed on the pin deck where they originally stood before delivery of the ball.

RULE 110 - DEAD BALL:

A ball shall be declared dead if any of the following occur:

- a) If after the player delivers their ball (and before the next delivery on the same lane), attention is immediately called to the fact that one or more pins were missing from the setup.
- b) A human pinsetter interferes with any standing pin before the ball reaches the pins.
- c) A human pinsetter removes or interferes with any downed pin before it stops rolling.
- d) When a player bowls on the wrong lane or out of turn. (Refer to Rule 113)
- e) When a player is physically interfered with by another bowler, spectator, moving object or by the pinsetter as the

ball is being delivered and before the delivery is completed. In such case, the player has the option to accept the resulting pinfall or have a dead ball declared.

- f) Any pin is moved or knocked down as a player delivers the ball but before the ball reaches the pins.
- g) A delivered ball comes in contact with any foreign obstacle, including Bumper Rails (excepting strings in a string machine Centre and Bumper Leagues or tournaments approved using Bumper Rails).

When a dead ball is called the delivery does not count. The pins standing when the dead ball occurred must be re-spotted and player allowed to re-bowl the delivery.

RULE 111 - OTHER PIN ACTIONS:

- a) When rolling at a full setup it is discovered immediately after the delivery that one or more pins are improperly set, although not missing, the ball and resulting pinfall will be counted. It is each player's responsibility to determine if the setup is correct. The player will insist that any pins incorrectly set be re-spotted before delivering his/her ball, otherwise the setup is deemed to be acceptable.
- b) Unless string machines are used, no change can be made in the position of any pins left standing after a delivery. That is, pins that are moved or misplaced by a mechanical pinsetter shall remain in the moved or misplaced position and shall not be corrected manually.
- c) Pins that are bowled off the lane, rebound and remain standing on the lane must be counted as standing pins.
- d) No pins may be conceded and only those actually knocked down or moved entirely off the playing surface of the lane as a result of the legal delivery of the ball by the player may be counted.
- e) Every frame must be completed at the time the player is bowling in their regular order.

RULE 112 - REPLACEMENT OF PINS:

Should a pin be broken or otherwise badly damaged during the game, it will be replaced at once by another as nearly uniform in weight and condition as possible with the set in use. The league or tournament officials in conjunction with the Centre Management will determine the replacement of such pins.

A broken pin does not change the score made by a bowler. The number of pins knocked down is counted, after which the broken pin is replaced.

RULE 113 - BOWLING ON WRONG LANE:

A ball shall be declared dead, and the player or players required to re-bowl on the correct lane if no more than a total of 4 individual frames have been bowled on a pair of lanes by the players for Singles, Doubles, Trios and Team. If more than four individual frames have been bowled on the wrong lane, that game will be completed without adjustment. Any succeeding game must be started on the correctly scheduled lane.

RULE 114 - BALL PRIVATE OWNERSHIP:

Bowling balls used in the game and marked by their owners are considered private and other participants in the game are prohibited from using the same, unless the owner consents to such use.

RULE 115 - FOUL - DEFINITION OF:

A foul is committed with no pinfall being credited to the player although the ball counts as a ball rolled, when a part of the bowler's person encroaches upon or goes beyond the foul line and touches any part of the lane, equipment or building during or after executing a legal delivery. A ball is in play and a foul may be called after a legal delivery has been made and until the same or another player is on the approach in position to make a succeeding delivery.

If the player commits a foul which is apparent to both captains or one or more members of each of the opposing teams competing in a league or tournament on the same pair of lanes where the foul is committed, or to the official scorer or a tournament official, and should the foul judge or umpire through negligence fail to see it committed or a TBNZ approved automatic foul detecting device fails to record it, a foul shall nevertheless be declared and so recorded. A foul is designated by a (F) on the score sheet.

NOTES:

- a) ***When foreign objects such as a pencil, finger insert etc., drops from a bowler's possession on or across the foul line and no part of the bowler's person touches on or across the foul line, no foul is committed. The bowler must call "Time out" by signaling the opposing team or foul judge before retrieving the fallen object.***
- b) ***A foul is not committed when the bowler enters the foul area but retains possession of the ball. The bowler should not be charged with a foul because they have not executed a legal delivery.***

RULE 116 - FOUL - COUNTS AS BALL BOWLED:

A foul ball shall be recorded as a ball bowled by the player, but any pins bowled down when a foul is committed shall not count. When the player fouls upon delivering the first ball of a frame, all pins knocked down must be re-spotted, and only those pins knocked down by the second ball may be counted. If the player bowls down all the pins with their second ball after fouling with the first, it shall be scored as a spare. A player who fouls when delivering their second ball of a frame shall be credited with only those pins bowled down with their first ball, provided no foul was committed when

the first ball was delivered.

When a player fouls during the delivery of his/her first ball in the tenth frame and bowls down all ten pins with their second ball (making a spare), he/she bowls a third ball and is credited with a spare plus the pins bowled down with the third ball. When a player fouls while delivering their third ball in the tenth frame, only those pins bowled down in delivering their first two balls shall be counted.

RULE 117 – FOUL - DELIBERATE:

When a player deliberately fouls to benefit by the calling of a foul, the player shall receive zero pin fall for that delivery and shall not be allowed any further deliveries in that frame. Such action may be regarded as an attempt to gain an unfair advantage (see [Rule 501](#)).

RULE 118 - FOUL - DETECTION:

League and tournament officials may adopt and use any TBNZ approved foul detecting device and where none is available a foul judge must be stationed so they have an unobstructed view of the foul line. League/Tournament Officials can appoint officials as foul judges.

RULE 119 - FOUL - APPEALS:

No appeal shall be allowed when a foul is called unless:

- a) It is proved that the automatic device is not operating properly.
- b) There is a preponderance of evidence that the player did not foul.

If the device becomes temporarily inoperative the following procedures shall be used in calling fouls:

- a) In tournament play, tournament management shall assign a human foul judge or arrange for the official scorers to call fouls.
- b) In league play, the opposing captains shall call fouls or designate someone to act as a foul judge.

Failure to have the automatic foul detecting device in operation or provide for foul line observance when it is inoperative shall disqualify scores bowled for TBNZ high score consideration.

RULE 120 - PROTESTS - PROVISIONAL BALL:

When a protest involving a foul or the legality of pin fall is entered and it cannot immediately be resolved between the two- team captains, a provisional ball or frame shall be bowled by the contestant.

If the protest occurs on the first delivery in a frame, the player shall complete their frame and then bowl another complete frame immediately, unless it involves a question of whether a bowler should receive credit for a strike or a lesser number of pins on their first delivery. In such event, the pin or pins that were protested as constituting illegal pin fall shall be re-spotted and the player required bowling another ball.

When the protest occurs on the second delivery, the player shall bowl a provisional ball against the same setup of pins that were standing at the time except when the protest involves a foul in which case no provisional ball shall be necessary.

A record of both scores for the frame in which the provisional delivery was made shall be maintained and the protest referred to the league's management committee or the tournament's management committee for decision. If unable to reach a decision, the local association or TBNZ can be asked for a decision upon submission of all the facts relating to the protest.

RULE 121 - NO UNREASONABLE DELAY:

The league or tournament officials shall allow no unreasonable delay in the progress of any game. Up to five minutes is allowable in the event of sickness or injury. Should any member or team participating in a league or tournament refuse to proceed with the game after being directed to do so by the proper authorities, such game or series shall be declared forfeited. No delays will be made for personal equipment failure. If the lanes are available, play shall proceed.

RULE 122 - AVERAGE - DEFINITION OF:

A bowling average is determined by dividing the total number of pins credited to a bowler by the number of games bowled in one league in a season.

When establishing an average in league play, a right-handed bowler must bowl right-handed at all times. Similarly, a left-handed bowler must bowl left-handed at all times. Penalty is the forfeiture of "The game".

No combination of scores bowled both right and left-handed shall be used in computing an average.

A new average must be established if the bowler finds it necessary to change their delivery from right to left-handed or vice-versa. See [Rule 211](#) regarding the definition of a right- or left-handed delivery.

In all cases, extra pins or fractions must be disregarded when using averages for handicapping or classification purposes. The extra pins shall be reduced to a percentage of a pin, only for the purpose of deciding individual position standings in a league.

RULE 123 - PRIZES - PROPRIETORS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES:

No tournaments or league can restrict the owner of the bowling establishment or his employees from qualifying for individual or all event prizes.

RULE 124 - PROTESTS - TIME LIMIT:

Protests involving eligibility, scoring or general playing rules in leagues and tournaments shall be governed as follows:

Leagues: Any protest affecting eligibility or general playing rules, which is alleged to have occurred in any round of play other than the final week, must be confirmed in writing to a responsible league official or TBNZ not later than 72 hours after the series in which the alleged infraction occurred. If no written protest is entered prior to the expiration of the 72-hour period, the series must stand as bowled. Protests resulting out of competition in the final week of a league's schedule must be filed within 48 hours of the concluding night of the schedule.

Tournaments: Any protests affecting eligibility or general playing rules must be lodged with a responsible tournament official before the tournament prize payments are made. Such protest has to be confirmed in writing to a responsible tournament official or TBNZ within 48 hours of the completion of the tournament.

Protests - Errors in scoring

Obvious Errors: errors in scoring or errors in any calculation in league or tournament play must be corrected by a responsible league or tournament official immediately upon discovery of such error.

Questionable Errors: The league's management committee or the tournament's management committee shall decide upon any questionable errors. Protests relating to questionable errors must be confirmed in writing to a responsible official or TBNZ as follows:

Tournaments: Within 48 hours of the completion of the tournament.

Leagues: Within 14 days after the series has been bowled in which the questionable error arose.

Each protest under this rule must be specific in itself and a protest under this rule shall not be construed to cover a previous or similar violation.

RULE 125 - APPROACHES MUST NOT BE DEFACED:

The application of any foreign substance on any part of the approach that detracts from the possibility of other players having normal conditions is prohibited.

The use of such substances as *easy slide*, talcum powder, pumice, rosin, etc., on shoes; the use of soft rubber soles and heels that rub off, and in any manner alter the normal conditions of the approach are strictly prohibited.

Note: TBNZ have included "easy slide" in the list of prohibited substances.

RULE 126 - AUTOMATIC SCORING DEVICES:

An automatic scoring device, which has been approved, may be used in certified league and tournament play.

This device shall provide a printed record of the score which can be audited frame by frame and otherwise comply with the scoring and playing rules of the game.

RULE 127 - ILLEGAL BALL – PENALTY:

If a ball in a player's possession is checked during or immediately following a session of games on the weighing equipment in that Centre and proved to be outside of the specifications defined in [Chapter 6 Rule 601 – Bowling Ball Specifications](#), or

The ball is outside of the requirements of Chapter 6 in reference to holes drilled for gripping purposes or any other requirements, then:

- a) The last session of games bowled in that tournament or league by that bowler will not be recognized.
- b) Refer to [Rule 128](#) for the definition of a session. Neither the game(s) nor the score shall be counted. If the game(s) were bowled as part of a team's event, the bowlers score shall not be counted in the teams total for that session of games.
- c) An illegal ball in the player's possession will be deemed to have been used in that session of games. Any records or awards achieved or presented prior to that session of continuous games will stand.

RULE 128 - SESSION OF GAMES – DEFINITION:

A session of games is defined as a block(s) of consecutive games where there is a defined start and/or end time i.e squads.

For example, in scenarios 1 - 5, the session of games concludes when all games are concluded.

- 1) 15 games in a singles match play final changing lanes every match.
- 2) 8 game qualifying, bowled in blocks of 2, changing lanes after each 2 games.
- 3) 3 games bowled in Squad 1 Doubles.
- 4) 6 games bowled in Squad 4 - Singles
- 5) In a league playing 3 games each week, each 3 game block is a session of games.

In scenario 6, a new session begins at the end of the advertised block.

- 6) Block 1 - 3 games - A number of five-person teams playing each other once, changing lanes every match.

RULE 129 – PARTICIPATION LIMITED:

A bowler participating in any accredited competition shall not do any of the following simultaneously:

- a) Pre bowl for a future match on any other lanes.
- b) Participate more than once in the line-up of a team.
- c) Compete in more than one accredited competition.

Contravening this rule will result in the bowler's loss of pinfall for all games used illegally.

RULE 130 – DELIVERY USING A RAMP:

When a ramp is to be used to aid in a delivery, the following shall apply:

- a) The bowler (or their carer if required) can place the ramp and line it up as long as it does not go past the foul line.
- b) The bowler (or their carer if required) can place the ball on the ramp.
- c) The bowler can adjust the ball on the ramp (or their carer if required, at the direction of the bowler. This direction can be made in whichever way the bowler uses to communicate).
- d) In addition, the carer can hold or steady the ramp while the bowler is pushing the ball off the ramp to stop the ramp from moving if required.
- e) The bowler must be the last one to touch the ball and must set the ball in motion.

CHAPTER 2 - GENERAL

As TBA Chapter 2 except for text which is written in Italics.

RULE 201 - MEMBERSHIP YEAR:

The TBNZ membership year runs from April 1st through to March 31st of the following year.

RULE 202 - CENTRE REGISTRATION:

TBNZ is supported by its “Participating Centre’s”. The current Participating Centres can be found on the TBNZ website.

Participating Centres are required to meet the agreed payments to TBNZ in a timely manner. A Participating Centre may be suspended if any fees or dues are outstanding by more than 90 days. An application must be made to TBNZ for the suspension to be lifted. The suspension will be lifted and notified on the TBNZ web site 30 days after all outstanding fees and dues have been paid.

RULE 203 - AFFILIATION:

Bowlers in Participating Centres as Rule 202 are automatically members of TBNZ. Other individuals may become members of TBNZ by applying on the TBNZ website.

RULE 204 - MEMBERSHIP GROUPS:

1. A Junior member is defined as one who has not reached the age of 18 on January 1st of the current year.
2. A Youth member is defined as one who is has not reached the age of 21 on January 1st of the current year.
3. A Senior member is defined as a bowler who must attain the age of 50 or above in the year of competition.
4. A Grand Senior member is defined as a bowler who must attain the age of 65 or above in the year of the competition.

An example of clarification, if a TBNZ tournament is by rule open to Junior bowlers only, a competitor must be under the age of 18 years on 1st January.

RULE 205 - MEMBERSHIP OF LICENCED ASSOCIATIONS:

TBNZ does not require, but permits, any member to belong to any local association where one exists.

RULE 206 – BOWLING ETIQUETTE:

Etiquette and sportsmanship are winning partners in any sport. In the game of tenpin, a code of etiquette has been established and has been accepted by bowlers everywhere. Bowlers must give consideration at all times to the rights of the other bowler:

1. Prepare to take your turn promptly on the lane. Remember, the player to your right has the right of way.
2. Take your time, but don't waste time by posing or waiting until everyone else is off the adjacent approaches.
3. Do not step on the approach until the previous bowler has left
4. Stay on your own approach at all times. “Riding” balls is permitted as long as the bowler does not move outside of one lane either side of the delivery lane.
5. Step back off the approach after making each delivery.
6. Do not use another player's ball without permission.
7. The approaches may not be exactly to your liking, but DON'T use *easy slide*, chalk, rosin or talcum powder etc. to condition them *or your shoes*. Your fellow bowlers may like the approaches as they are ***and you will be in violation of the RULE 125, regarding Defacing the Approaches.***
8. Do not use talcum powder, chalk, or rosin in the players' area.
9. Good bowling requires concentration. When players are ready to bowl, give them the courtesy of making their shot without any interference, as you will want the same courtesy when it is your turn to bowl.
10. ***Cheering on yourself or your teammates is permitted but moving towards another bowler to yell or gesture at them in an aggressive or intimidating manner is not permitted.***
11. Be ready to bowl but wait until the pin setting machine has completed its cycle and the sweep-bar is raised. Otherwise, you may damage the ball or machine.
12. Respect the equipment. Getting the ball out on the lane is good bowling, but “lofting” hurts your game and damages the lane.
13. Play the game to win but be a gracious loser if you are on the short end of the count when the game is over.

RULE 207 - MEMBER RECOGNITION:

TBA services will be available to all its members who are bowling in TBNZ certified leagues and tournaments.

RULE 208 - JUNIOR & YOUTH CODE OF CONDUCT:

The following conduct code shall be observed during certified league and tournament play so as to provide a good environment for TBNZ junior/youth members.

- a) No alcoholic beverages will be consumed by Junior/Youth members whilst they are engaged in TBNZ competitions.
- b) Junior TBNZ members shall refrain from smoking/vaping during the time any TBNZ competitions in which they are participating are in progress.

RULE 209 - SLOW BOWLING:

Players preparing to step on the approach and deliver the ball shall have the following rights and obligations:

- a) They may claim right of way only over a player moving to the approach or preparing to bowl on the lane immediately to the left.
- b) Players shall yield to a player moving to the approach or preparing to bowl on the lane immediately to the right.
- c) Players shall be ready to bowl when it is their turn and shall not delay the start of their approach or delivery if the lane immediately adjacent to them on both the right and the left are clear.
- d) From the time the bowler steps on to the approach, no more than 20 seconds is to elapse before the delivery of the ball.
- e) If a player does not observe the procedures outlined in a) through d) above, it may be construed as slow bowling. A player failing to observe these procedures shall be warned by a tournament official as follows:
 - i. A verbal warning for the first offence (no penalty).
 - ii. A Yellow card for the second offence (no penalty).
 - iii. A Red card for the third and each succeeding offence in any block of games. The penalty will be ZERO pinfall for the frame. A block of games is as defined in that particular competition and all remaining games of match play in a day.
- f) For the interpretation of and enforcement of this rule, the tournament official shall specifically monitor any player that gets more than four frames behind the leader in singles, doubles or master event, or more than two frames behind in teams of three or more, not counting the end pairs of lanes. In Baker format competition the same rule applies as for the singles event.
- g) Whenever there is any question concerning the enforcement of this rule the Tournament Director shall make the final decision.

RULE 210 - COACHING WHILST COMPETING:

A bowler participating in current line-up may be coached during competition, providing:

- a) the coaching is not carried out on the lanes, and
- b) the coaching does not cause any delays in the normal rotation of play
- c) Under no circumstances is a bowler participating in current line-up permitted to make any deliveries on “practice”, “warm up”, or any other lanes in the bowling centre other than the lanes the bowler is actually scheduled to play on at that time. Contravening this rule will result in the bowler’s loss of pinfall for that game.

RULE 211 - BALL DELIVERY DEFINITION:

If the ball is delivered on the right side of the body, two handed or conventionally, the delivery will be deemed to be a right-handed delivery regardless of whether any holes drilled for gripping purposes are used, or not. Similarly, if the ball is delivered on the left side of the body, two handed or conventionally, the delivery will be deemed to be a left-handed delivery regardless of whether any holes drilled for gripping purposes are used, or not.

RULE 211 – Frequently asked Questions

- Q:** If a bowler bowls the first ball down the right-hand side of the body using two hands, can he/she use only their right hand for spares?
- A:** Yes, since both deliveries are on the same side of the body, the bowler did not change delivery and therefore this is not a violation of any rules as long as each/any balls used are compliant with [Rule 601.12](#)
- Q:** Can a bowler bowl one handed for one shot then two handed for the second shot or vice versa? Is this allowed? If not is there a penalty?
- A:** It is permitted without penalty. Provided the bowler delivers the ball on the same side of the body, whether with one hand or two, the delivery is deemed to be legal as long as each/any balls used are compliant with [Rule 601.12](#)
- Q:** Can a bowler change the delivery side from left to right or vice versa during league or a tournament?
- A:** In a handicapped tournament or league this is not permitted. No combination of scores bowled both right and left-handed will be used in computing an average in a handicap competition. The penalty is forfeiture of a game.
- It is permitted without penalty in scratch events.

RULE 212 - DRINKING ALCOHOL:

- a) Players, Managers and their coach(es) must not consume alcohol or be under the influence of alcohol while in competition; (during the entire period of a squad or block of games including lane changes).
- b) In those instances where it is established that a player is in breach of this rule, he/she may be suspended by the Tournament Technical Committee from the tournament for the block of games then being played.
- c) If a coach or manager is caught consuming or to be under the influence of alcohol during a game,
 - i. The first penalty is suspension from the block of games where he/she violated the rule.
 - ii. In case of a second violation the penalty is suspension from the rest of the Championship.

RULE 213 - DISPUTES & RULE QUERIES:

This has been made appropriate for the NZ structure.

In the event of a dispute or rule query, the organisational body responsible for the people with the dispute or query should resolve the matter. If it cannot be resolved at that level, any local association affiliated to TBNZ should resolve the matter. If it can still not be resolved, the matter should be referred to TBNZ for resolution.

RULE 214 - DEFINITION OF A BOWLER WITH A DISABILITY:

A bowler with a Disability is a member of TBNZ and whose condition is recognised by one of the following National Sports Organisations for People with a Disability: -

NZ Special Olympics Foundation, Blind Sport NZ, Deaf Sports Federation of NZ, Paralympics N Z.

Please note: - TBNZ wishes to follow a policy of no exceptions related to participation. If you have a request to amend or extend the list of recognised organisations for people with a disability, please contact TBNZ as per the contact on the front page.

RULE 215 – SMOKING/VAPING AND USING TOBACCO PRODUCTS:

- 215.1 During championships smoking/vaping is not permitted in the bowling centre. However, it may be allowed in a closed area, provided it does not affect the environment in the player's and spectator's areas.
- 215.2 Players, managers and their coach(es) must not smoke/vape, use tobacco products or use any kind of synthetic cigarettes or e-cigarettes while in competition; (during the entire period of a squad or block of games including lane changes).
- 215.3 If a bowler is caught smoking/vaping during a game, he/she will have zero pinfall for the game currently being played. If a bowler is caught smoking/vaping in between games, he/she will have zero pinfall for the succeeding game.
- 215.4 For the second offence by the same player, the player will be excluded from the rest of the championship by the Tournament Technical Committee.
- 215.5 If a coach is caught smoking/vaping during a game,
 - a) The first penalty is suspension from the block of games where he/she violated the rule
 - b) In case of a second violation the penalty is suspension from the rest of the Championship

RULE 216 - ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Unless issued an exemption by TBNZ, no electronic earpieces, headphones or any other electronic device, excluding hearing aids, can be worn or used by bowlers whilst they are competing in a session of games (refer Rule 128). Any application for exemption must be lodged with TBNZ by email to admin@tbnz.co.nz and must be accompanied by a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner. Any exemption must be approved by TBNZ before the start of competitions. If approval has not been received or is declined, then the electronic device is not permitted to be worn.

RULE 216 – Frequently asked Questions

Q: My daughter is wearing headphones while bowling - is this allowed?

A: As stated in Rule 216, you will need to supply TBNZ with a medical certificate from a qualified practitioner advising of your daughter's condition that requires her wearing headphones **and** an approval has been issued. Should that not happen, she is prohibited from wearing headphones whilst bowling in any league or accredited competition.

RULE 217 - GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT:

GUIDELINES

This Code of Conduct will apply to all bowlers, coaches, administrators, and all other persons who are involved in any TBNZ certified tournament. ***It is strongly recommended that the intent of this Code of Conduct is also satisfied in any league that is bowling with a TBNZ sanction.***

CARD SYSTEM:

A White, Yellow and Red Card system will be applied to TBNZ to certified tournaments. Officials have the authority to issue warnings and/or cards for any breach of the Code of Conduct. If in the Officials opinion, an incident is considered to be a very serious breach of the code, then that person may issue a Red card immediately, without having first issued an official warning or Yellow card.

INFRACTIONS:

The actions that a penalty may be issued for include, but are not limited to the following:

1. EQUIPMENT ABUSE
2. PHYSICAL ABUSE
3. VERBAL ABUSE
4. OBSCENE GESTURES
5. CONTRAVENING THE TBNZ ANTI-DOPING POLICY
6. UNFAIR ADVANTAGE BY:
 - Deliberate Foul
 - Use of Abrasives
 - Sledging
 - Any Form of Cheating
7. FAILURE TO FOLLOW TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS DIRECTIVES

PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES:

These rules will be implemented as follows, with the action to be taken at the time of the alleged infraction:

First Infraction: A white card will be shown and the offender will be given an official verbal warning.

Second Infraction: A Yellow card will be shown.

Third Infraction: A Red card will be shown.

The penalty for the Third Infraction is disqualification for the remainder of the tournament bowling and a possible suspension from future TBNZ competitions. The ***tournament committee*** shall meet within 24 hours of the Red card being shown to discuss whether any further action needs to be taken as [Chapter 5, “OFFENCES and PENALTIES”](#). ***TBA enforces infractions in league, but TBNZ does not currently do so.***

CHAPTER 3 - LEAGUE RULES AND GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION:

These rules are **not** based on TBA Rules, as the NZ situation does not make this appropriate. If any member requires more descriptive rules about any aspects of league play they may benefit from reading the TBA Rule Book about the subject of interest.

Over the last few years there has been an increasing tendency for bowling centres to become more involved in running leagues. TBNZ supports this trend and has created a smaller set of league rules, which are compatible with the modern-day situation. The main focus of these TBNZ certified league rules is:

- To ensure that all games are bowled to comply with the TBNZ General Playing Rules of [CHAPTER 1](#),
- That a spirit of enjoyment and fair play is achieved by the appropriate application of the General Rules of [CHAPTER 2](#), and
- That all equipment used complies with the specifications of [CHAPTER 6](#).

To complement TBNZ league rules (RULE 301), TBNZ has created a set of guidelines ([Rule 302](#)) to assist all leagues, whether bowling centres are involved in their management, or not. These guidelines are intended to help leagues run smoothly and to try to avoid unnecessary conflict.

All members should note that TBNZ specifically does not underwrite any financial aspects of any league. TBNZ therefore encourages all players to ensure any league they play in has processes in place to ensure any player funds are protected from loss of any kind.

TBNZ will assist any certified league to resolve any matters related to the actual game of Tenpin such as interpretation of playing rules, equipment specifications, fair play, and good conduct. However, TBNZ is not positioned or responsible to resolve any financial matters any league may have. TBNZ therefore, wishes to remind all its members that they need to satisfy themselves that any financial matters arising in their leagues can be successfully resolved without TBNZ assistance.

RULE 301 - LEAGUE RULES:

301.1 Definition and Qualifications:

Any group of four or more teams of players OR four or more individual players who are all members of TBNZ and are participating in the sport of Tenpin according to a pre-arranged schedule may be defined as a TBNZ League, provided the league has a documented requirement for the league play to comply with the TBNZ General Playing Rules. In addition to this mandatory requirement, all TBNZ certified leagues are encouraged to remain familiar with and apply all the other TBNZ rules as far as they may be realistically enforced within the league.

301.2 Adherence to League Rules and TBNZ General Playing Rules:

All games of Tenpin, to be considered league play, must be bowled and conducted in strict compliance with rules established by the league and the General Playing Rules of TBNZ. Under no circumstances, will any award be acknowledged by TBNZ unless all the General Playing Rules have been adhered to at the time the criterion for the award was claimed to be achieved. This specifically includes all rules related to fouls and foul detection.

301.3 League Accreditation:

All leagues which take place in TBNZ certified centres and which comply with [Rule 301.1](#), Definitions and Qualifications are automatically accredited as TBNZ leagues and no notification is required to be given to TBNZ.

301.4 Playing in More Than One League:

Any person can play in any number of leagues in any number of bowling centres.

301.5 Sportsman-like Manner:

League players are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsman-like manner and must refrain from creating any action, which will in any way distract any league member's attention while bowling is in progress.

301.6 Discrimination:

TBNZ discourages any discrimination as it is usually considered to mean in general society.

301.7 Financial Aspects:

TBNZ specifically does not underwrite any matters related to the financial matters of any league. TBNZ will not be held responsible for any matters related to the financial dealings or any collections that may have been made in the name of the league.

RULE 302 - LEAGUE GUIDELINES:

302.1 League Management:

Each league should be administered by a management committee, which is responsible to ensure that the league has agreed rules, which are documented and available to be viewed by all league members. The bowling centre management

may be partially or totally involved in the management committee.

302.2 Financial Matters:

Irrespective of the make-up of the management committee, every individual league member should satisfy themselves that a process is in place to ensure any financial contributions they may make are secure.

302.3 Players Responsibility:

Each player should make themselves aware of the league rules before agreeing to bowl in any league. Once a player has agreed to participate in a league they should understand that they have accepted the league rules and should make every endeavor to comply with those rules at all times.

302.4 League Rules:

It is recommended each league should at least consider the following when determining the league rules:

- details of the management committee
- abide by TBNZ General Playing Rules (mandatory requirement for TBNZ league)
- number of games to be played
- dates and times of play
- use and calculation of any handicap system
- the determination of any points to be given
- the determination of league winners according to the points system used
- method to be used for absent players, such as blind scores
- constitution of a legal line-up
- method to be used for vacant positions
- the provision of any pre-bowling or post-bowling
- the provision of substitutes
- late arrivals
- tardy players
- teams joining the league after the league has started
- teams dropping out
- prize fund collection
- prizes to be distributed
- dispute procedure
- process and rules of changing the league rules

CHAPTER 4 - AWARDS AND CONDITIONS

These rules are **not** based on TBA Rules, as the current NZ situation does not make this appropriate.

RULE 401 - INDIVIDUAL 300 GAME & 800 THREE-GAME SERIES AWARDS:

TBNZ will provide an AWARD on the first occasion when any TBNZ member scores a perfect scratch game of 300 in a TBNZ certified league or tournament.

TBNZ will also provide an AWARD on the first occasion when any TBNZ member scores a scratch three-game series total of 800 or greater at a TBNZ certified league or tournament. When three or more games are bowled in a league or tournament, the high score award applies to any consecutive three games bowled in the same session, across any number of lanes or opponents. Note: the same game can't be used more than once when applying for this award.

All 298, 299, 300 games and 800 series awards that meet the eligibility criteria will be included in the Individual Honours list compiled by TBNZ. Awards bowled internationally will only be included if the member is representing New Zealand.

The AWARD will be by way of a plaque and notification on the TBNZ website. No costs will be incurred by the award winner for the provision of the award.

RULE 402 - CONDITIONS GOVERNING AWARDS:

The following are the requirements which must be met for eligibility for the TBNZ high score awards:

- a) The high score must have been bowled by a TBNZ member in good standing, in a league or tournament played under TBNZ rules, on TBNZ certified lanes. Centre team member trials will be recognised for awards.
- b) The lanes upon which the score was bowled must have been certified by the TBNZ for the current season prior to the bowling of the award score.
- c) A competent foul judge or an automatic foul detecting device approved by the TBNZ must have been employed during the full time the score was being bowled.
- d) Every provision of the TBNZ General Playing Rules must have been in effect by those conducting the league or tournament in which the high score was bowled.
- e) Notification of the high score must be given to the Centre Management as soon as it has been bowled. This notification must be given by the league secretary or tournament director.
- f) No more than seven (7) days may elapse before the Centre Management gives such notification to the TBNZ Administration Manager.
- g) In the case of a 298, 299, and 300 games or a 800 three-game series, the Centre Management or the duly authorised representative, must inspect and weigh the very pins used when the high score was bowled. This may involve pins on more than one pair of lanes for a high three-game series bowled.

Any bowling balls used when the high score game or high three-game series was achieved shall be certified for correct weight and balance by an authorised person, e.g. Centre Management or the authorised representative, or qualified bowling centre staff member.

The bowling balls and pins inspection and weighing must be done within 72 hours after the high score has been rolled. The Centre Management or their duly authorised representative must submit the approved form as supplied by TBNZ on their website within 14 days of the achievement of the high score or three game series.

CHAPTER 5 - OFFENCES AND SUGGESTED PENALTIES

As TBA Chapter 5 except made appropriate for structure within NZ. The main principle in these rules is that the TBNZ Executive determines penalties, etc. and the TBNZ Board is the point of appeal.

INTRODUCTION:

Any member of TBNZ who commits any of the following offences shall be liable to suspension from membership of TBNZ for such period as the TBNZ Executive thinks fit and approves. Any member suspended under any of the rules in this Chapter will:

- a) cease to be affiliated with TBNZ for the duration of the suspension unless an appeal is lodged,
- b) have the right of appeal to the TBNZ Board of Directors

If the suspension has resulted from a loss or misappropriation of funds, all NZ tenpin bowling associations that are affiliated with TBNZ will be advised of the suspension.

RULE 501 - ATTEMPTING TO GAIN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE:

Gaining or attempting to gain an unfair advantage by any means whatsoever during league or tournament play including (but without limiting the generality of this provision) the following:

- a. By tampering, directly or indirectly with lanes, bowling pins, bowling balls or other bowling equipment so that such lanes, pins, balls or other bowling equipment or any of them no longer meeting with TBNZ requirements or specifications.
- b. By misrepresenting their average in order to gain a greater handicap, to qualify for a lower classification in a league or tournament or to gain any similar unfair advantage.
- c. By establishing an average below their ability prima facie proof whereof shall arise where it appears that the bowler has repeatedly exceeded their league average in handicap or classified competition without re-submitting themselves for re-rating, re-handicapping or reclassification.
- d. by deliberately throwing their ball into the gutter.
- e. by deliberately committing a foul.

Suggested Penalty - For any of the above offences - loss of game or games in which the unfair advantage was gained or attempted including loss of prize money (if any) and suspension of membership for not less than 6 months (suggested) or suspension of membership or other penalty for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the TBNZ Executive.

RULE 502 - DEROGATORY CONDUCT:

- a. Conducting themselves in a manner derogatory or prejudicial to the best interests of the game of tenpin or to the objects of TBNZ. Including (but without limiting the generality of this provision) conduct prejudicial to the good order and discipline of TBNZ.
- b. Placing the game of tenpin in jeopardy of unfair criticism by the use of dishonest or disreputable tactics in connection with the game.

Suggested Penalty - Not less than 1 month suspension of membership, or suspension of membership, or other penalty for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the TBNZ Executive.

RULE 503 - DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZE MONEY:

Failure to distribute team prize money in accordance with an oral or written agreement.

Suggested Penalty - Not less than 3 months suspension of membership or suspension of membership or other penalty for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the TBNZ Executive.

RULE 504 - FAILURE TO MAKE PAYMENT TO OTHER AUTHORITIES:

Failing to pay fees due for participation in a TBNZ accredited league or tournament to the proper authority as and when the same become payable.

Suggested Penalty - Not less than 3 months suspension of membership or suspension of membership or other penalty for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the TBNZ Executive. Any person suspended will continue to be liable for any arrears of dues unpaid at the date of his/her suspension and for all other monies due by him/her to the proper authority. The suspension will remain in force until full restitution has been made,

RULE 505 - FAILURE TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO TBNZ:

Failing to pay fees, other than annual membership fees, due to TBNZ for any reason as and when the same become due and payable.

Suggested Penalty - Not less than 3 months suspension of membership or suspension of membership or other penalty for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the TBNZ Executive. Any person suspended will continue to be liable for any arrears of dues unpaid at the date of his/her suspension and for all other monies due by him to TBNZ. The suspension will remain in force until full restitution has been made,

RULE 506 - BOWLING UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME:

Bowling under a name dishonestly assumed including (but without limiting the generality thereof) bowling under the name of an entrant scheduled to bowl in an accredited league or tournament but unable to attend or suspended.

Suggested Penalty - Not less than 3 months suspension of membership or suspension of membership or other penalty for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the TBNZ Executive.

RULE 507 - FUND SHORTAGES:

Embezzling, stealing, absconding with or failing to account for any funds entrusted to him or her by TBNZ.

Suggested Penalty - Ineligibility for life to hold any TBNZ office and in addition suspension from membership for not less than 12 months or suspension of membership or other penalty for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the TBNZ Executive. Any person suspended will continue to be liable for any arrears of dues unpaid at the date of his/her suspension and for all other monies due by him to TBNZ and/or any associations/Registered bowling centre. The suspension will remain in force until full restitution has been made,

RULE 508 - DEFAULTING IN ATTENDANCE FOR LEAGUE PLAY:

TBNZ does not currently administer rules regarding attendance for league play. An exception to this situation is Rule 509.

RULE 509 - DEFAULTING IN ATTENDANCE FOR LEAGUE AND FAILURE TO PAY FEES:

All members are responsible to meet any agreements they have made to pay league fees independent of their attendance at league or not.

RULE 510 - KNOWINGLY PERMIT AN OFFENCE TO BE COMMITTED:

The members of any team who knowingly permit or suffer any member thereof to bowl while suspended or under a name dishonestly assumed, or assist or condone the breach of any of the Rules and Regulations of TBNZ shall be guilty of an offence and be liable to be dealt with in the same manner and to the same extent as if they and each of them were the individual member committing such offence.

Suggested Penalty – As per the specific rule that was violated.

RULE 511 - ALTERING THE SURFACE OF THE BALL:

[Rule 602](#) of Equipment Specifications prohibits the alteration of the balls surface by abrasives or polish during any session (see [Rule 128](#) for the definition of a session).

Suggested Penalty - All bowling balls so altered shall be removed from the lanes and from use in the competition and a warning issued to the player.

If it is shown that a player had prior knowledge, or *had such experience in bowling that the player might reasonably be expected to have prior knowledge*, that his or her actions would be a violation of this rule, the games in which the violation occurred are subject to forfeiture. In addition, the player is subject to removal from the event in progress. If tournament rules include reference to this TBNZ rule, a player is deemed to have had prior knowledge.

NOTE: Players are advised to consult the relevant WB rules relating to this rule, whenever they are bowling in an event where the WB rules might apply.

RULE 512 - TBNZ DRUG POLICY:

TBNZ has adopted an Anti-Doping Policy, which can be found on the TBNZ website.

Suggested Penalty – Any person found to be in breach of the TBNZ Anti-Drug Policy will be subject to the penalties defined in that Policy.

RULE 513 - ANTI-HARASSMENT AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:

TBNZ has adopted an Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination policy, which can be found on the TBNZ website.

Suggested Penalty – Any person found to be in breach of the TBNZ Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination Policy will be subject to the penalties defined in that Policy.

RULE 514 - CODE OF ETHICS:

TBNZ does not currently have a code of ethics that applies to all its members, but does have Code of Ethics in place for its registered coaches, managers and National Squad level athletes.

RULE 515 - BOWLING WHILE SUSPENDED:

Any bowler suspended for any offence defined in Chapter 5 who competes in any TBNZ accredited competition whilst still under suspension will be further penalized as follows:

Penalties

First Infraction: a further 2-year suspension will be applied, to be served in addition to the original suspension.

Second Infraction: the person will be banned for life from participating in any TBNZ accredited competition.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Any TBNZ member may make a complaint about any other member relating to the offences recorded in this document.

The complaint should be addressed to the TBNZ CEO.

EXECUTIVE PROCEDURES FOR SUSPENSION:

The Executive is required to act in a fair and consistent manner whenever it is considering the suspension of any member.

- a) In considering all recommendations for suspension, the Executive shall give such consideration as it deems necessary or desirable to the rules of evidence as the same are applicable in the courts, in so far as the same govern the admissibility or otherwise of all evidence given during the said proceedings but the Executive shall not be bound thereby in such consideration.
- b) The Executive shall have power to require additional evidence to be taken in any case where this appears to be necessary or desirable.
- c) The Executive shall be bound to observe in any such consideration the principle that the onus of proof in each case shall rest upon the complainant or complainants beyond reasonable doubt.

The decision of the Executive shall in all matters be announced as soon as reasonably practicable after such decision has been reached.

A written report of the Executive's evaluation and finding shall be submitted to the TBNZ Board.

APPEAL OF SUSPENSION:

Any suspended member has the right of appeal to the Board. Such appeal must be lodged with a member of the Board within 14 days of receiving the advice of the suspension from the Executive.

BOARD PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW OR APPEAL OF SUSPENSION:

The Board may initiate the review of any suspension of a TBNZ member, as it thinks fit.

The Board will consider any appeal that is lodged by a member within 14 days of the member being advised of any suspension of membership.

The Board is required to follow the same Procedures for Suspension a) b), and c) as the Executive when considering the appeal.

There shall be no appeal from the decision of consideration by the TBNZ Board and such decision shall be final and binding on all parties. The final decision of TBNZ shall in all matters be announced as soon as reasonably practicable after such decision has been reached.

REINSTATEMENT PROCEEDINGS:

Reinstatement will automatically take place at the conclusion of a member's suspension, providing that full restitution has been made in the case of fund shortages.

CHAPTER 6 - EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS.

As WB Chapters 9, 10, and 11, *with additions in Italics*

RULE 601 - BOWLING BALL SPECIFICATIONS:

601.1 Introduction:

The rules documented here are largely based on Chapter 9 of the WB rules. More detailed specifications and test procedures are available in the USBC Equipment Specifications Manual. Some of TBNZ rules have been further clarified after consulting USBC rules. These TBNZ rules are generally in agreement with the relevant TBA rules. However, TBNZ members are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure they are aware of any rules that may apply wherever they may bowl in the world. This is particularly and commonly relevant for bowlers who compete in TBA approved events.

601.2 Approved Bowling Balls:

Bowling balls must be identifiable as a ball on the Approved Ball List. Since all bowling balls manufactured prior to January 1991 have been previously approved, their acceptance is at the discretion of the tournament or league official.

Approved Balls are listed on the following link:

<https://www.bowl.com/approvedballlist/>

601.3 Markings:

Any bowling ball used in TBNZ approved competition must have the product name as well as the manufactures name and the ball serial number clearly visible at all times for identification purposes.

601.4 Material:

The ball shall be constructed without voids in its interior, and be of a non-metallic composition except for minute reflective metallic particles or flakes for decorative purposes, provided such particles or flakes are made a part of the ball at the time of manufacture and are evenly distributed in a uniform pattern under a transparent shell of at least 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) in thickness. This material shall be so distributed as not to have any effect on the balance of the ball and the total amount of such material shall not exceed 1/2 ounce (14 g) per ball.

The introduction of metal or any other substance which is not comparable to the original material used in manufacturing a bowling ball is prohibited. Likewise, altering a bowling ball in a way so as to increase its weight or cause it to be off balance outside the specifications is prohibited and the use of such a ball in TBNZ approved competition is forbidden.

No foreign material may be placed on the outer surface of the ball.

601.5 Weight and Size:

The new ball shall not have a circumference of more than 27.002 inches (685.8mm) or be less than 26.704 inches (678.3 mm). The corresponding diameters are 8.595 inches (218.3 mm) and 8.500 inches (215.9 mm) respectively.

The weight of the ball shall not exceed 16 pounds (7.25 kg.). There is no minimum weight.

601.6 Hardness:

The surface hardness of bowling balls shall not be less than 72 Durometer "D" at room temperature (20 - 25 degrees C).

The use of chemicals, solvents or other methods to change the hardness of the surface of the ball after it is manufactured is prohibited.

601.7 Cleaning:

A ball may be wiped with a clean cloth or towel at any time.

Approved cleaners may be used to clean the surface of the ball before or after a session of play (see Rule 128), provided:

- a) They do not affect the hardness of the ball.
- b) They are totally removed from the surface of the ball before delivery of the ball.
- c) They are not used during a session of continuous games.

Any ball that does not conform to any of these provisions may not be used in TBNZ competition.

Approved Ball cleaners are listed on the following link. In New Zealand competition, products listed on the link as "Approved Anytime" are only approved before or after a session of play:

http://usbcongress.http.internapcdn.net/usbcongress/bowl/equipandspecs/pdfs/Approved_cleaner_polish.pdf

Products shown on this link are totally prohibited at any time:

http://usbcongress.http.internapcdn.net/usbcongress/bowl/equipandspecs/pdfs/Non_approved_cleaner_polish.pdf

601.7 – Frequently asked Questions

Q: When may I alter the surface of my bowling ball?

A: You are permitted to sand, polish, or clean the surface of your bowling ball prior to the start of competition.

However, once tournament or league play begins, altering the surface of a bowling ball is strictly prohibited until the session is complete. This includes balls that have not yet been introduced into play.

601.8 Devices:

Movable devices shall be permitted, provided such devices are used for changing the finger span or the size of the holes, and are constructed so that it is locked in position during delivery and cannot be removed from the ball without destroying the device.

Removable devices shall be permitted provided

- Such devices are used to change the span, pitch, or size of the gripping holes.
- Are constructed of a non-metallic material.
- Are locked in position during delivery
- No device shall be employed to change the static balance of the ball
- No voids will be permitted under the device
- Density not to exceed 1.5 gm per cubic centimeter

601.9 Mechanical Aids:

A bowling ball must be delivered entirely by manual means and shall not incorporate any device either in the ball or affixed to it which is either detached at time of delivery or is a moving part in the ball during delivery, except that any person whose hand or major portion thereof has been amputated, may use special equipment to aid in grasping and delivering the ball providing the special equipment is in lieu of the amputee's hand.

601.10 Plugs and Designs:

Plugs may be inserted for the purpose of re-drilling the ball.

Designs may be imbedded in the ball for guides, observation or identification purposes provided such designs are flush with the outer surface of the ball.

In all cases there shall be no interior voids.

Plugs and designs must be made of materials similar to, although not exactly the same as, the original material out of which the ball was made, and shall otherwise comply with all other specifications for a bowling ball. Density is not to exceed 1.5 grams per cubic centimeter.

601.11 Manufacturers specifications:

The manufacturing specifications such as size, roundness, hardness, radius of gyration, coefficient of restitution, and coefficient of friction are stated in the USBC Equipment Specifications Manual.

601.12 Drilling Specifications - Holes:

The following limitations, as specified, shall govern the drilling of holes in the ball:

- Holes or indentations for gripping purposes shall not exceed five, and shall be limited to one for each finger and one for the thumb, all for the same hand.
- Shall not exceed 1-9/16 inch diameter and 4-1/2 inch deep, including holes required to install removeable devices.
- Must be used on every delivery
- Balls without a thumbhole must have a scribed or engraved cross-hair lines (+) near the centre of the palm to indicate the grip orientation. The ball must be delivered in the marked orientation (i.e. palm must cover the "+").
- No balance holes are allowed.
- No more than one vent hole to each finger and/or thumb hole not to exceed ¼ inch (6.4mm) in diameter. (Including the surface opening).
- One mill hole for inspection purposes not to exceed 5/8 inch (15.9 mm) in diameter and 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) in depth.

601.13 Static Balance:

The following tolerances shall be permissible in the balance of the bowling ball used in approved competition:

- a) Balls weighing more than 10 pounds (4.35 kg):
 - Not more than 3 ounces (85 grams) difference between any two halves of the ball.
 - A ball used without any gripping holes or indentations may not have more than 3 ounces (85 grams) of difference between any two halves of the ball.
 - A balance hole cannot be used with this system.

b) Ball weighing 8 pounds (3.63 kg) to 10 pounds (4.35 kg):

- Not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces (21 g) difference between top half of the ball (finger hole side) and the bottom half (side opposite the finger holes).
- Not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces (21 g) difference between the sides to the right and left of the finger holes or between the sides in front and back of the finger holes.
- A ball drilled without a thumb hole may not have more than $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces (21 g) difference between any two halves of the ball.
- A ball drilled without any finger holes or indentations may not have more than $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces (21 g) difference between any two halves of the ball.
- A ball used without any hole or indentations may not have more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an ounce (21 g) difference between any two halves of the ball.

c) Ball weighing less than 8 pounds (3.63 kg):

- Not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces (21 g) difference between the top half of the ball (finger hole side) and the bottom half (side opposite the finger holes).
- Not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces (21 g) difference between the sides to the right and left of the finger holes or between the sides in front and back of the finger holes.
- A ball drilled without a thumb hole may not have more than $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces (21 g) difference between any two halves of the ball.
- A ball drilled without any finger holes or indentations may not have more than $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces (21 g) difference between any two halves of the ball.
- A ball used without any hole or indentations may not have more than $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces (21 g) difference between any two halves of the ball.

601.14 Specifications Measured at WB Tournament Sites:

- 1) Gross Weight. Shall not exceed 16 pounds (7.25kg)
- 2) Holes or indentations for gripping purposes. Shall not exceed 5.
- 3) (Until 1st August 2020), one hole for balance purposes is allowed. Shall not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (31.8 mm) in diameter.
- 4) Vent holes to the finger and/or thumb are allowed. Shall not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6.4 mm) in diameter.
- 5) One mill hole for inspection purposes is allowed. Shall not exceed $\frac{5}{8}$ inch (15.9 mm) in diameter and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3.2 mm) in depth.
- 6) Static Balance. Shall be within the tolerances as specified above
- 7) Ball Hardness. Shall be as specified above.

602 BALL SURFACE:

The surface of the ball shall be free of all depressions or grooves of specific pattern, except for holes or indentations used for gripping the ball, identification lettering, and numbers and incidental chipping or marking caused by wear.

Engraved grooves are not considered to be grooves of specific pattern.

Except when in a bowling session (see [Rule 128](#)), it is permitted to alter the surface friction of the ball by sanding or polishing, providing the entire surface of the ball is sanded or polished evenly across the entire surface. Sanding means any form of abrasive.

It is prohibited to use any abrasives or polish on the ball during a session. Refer to [Rule 128](#) – Session of Games Definition.

602.1 Altering ball surface

While bowling in a TBNZ approved event, it is not allowed to alter the surface of a ball once competition has started. A bowling ball **cannot**:

- Have the surface altered by the use of any abrasive.
- Be cleaned with any liquid substance or cleaning agent.
- Have any foreign material on it including, but not limited to, powder, rosin, marker or paint.
- All bowling balls so altered or cleaned must be removed from the competition and penalised with zero pinfall in that game.

602.1 Frequently asked Questions

Q: When does competition start?

A: Competition starts once any bowler throws a ball for score in a league or tournament squad.

Q: When may I alter the surface of my bowling ball?

A: You are permitted to sand, polish, or clean the surface of your bowling ball prior to the start of competition. However, once tournament or league play begins, altering the surface of a bowling ball is strictly prohibited until the session is complete. This includes balls that have not yet been introduced into play.

Q: Can I clean my ball with an approved cleaner during practice?

A: Yes, you are permitted to sand, polish, or clean the surface of your bowling ball prior to the start of competition.

Q: Can I clean my ball with an approved cleaner between games in a squad?

A: No, you cannot clean your ball between games in a squad.

Q: Can I clean my ball with an approved cleaner between tournament squads?

A: You can clean your ball with an approved cleaner between squads.

Q: What type of towels are approved for use during the event?

A: Any dry towel or cloth that does not alter the surface of the bowling ball is allowed. This includes the use of dry shammys.

Q: If I used a towel with a liquid cleaner on it to clean my ball prior to the start of the competition, can I use that same towel to clean the ball during the competition?

A: No, another towel should be used. That same towel can only be used during the competition once the towel is dry.

Q: If I take a ball out of my bag that I have not bowled with, can I clean it with an approved cleaner?

A: No, approved cleaners cannot be used once competition has begun. This rule applies to balls from a bowler's bowling bag, locker or car, etc. We suggest you clean all your bowling balls prior to the start of competition.

Q: What happens if a bowler uses a cleaner, abrasive, or puts a foreign substance on the ball?

A: [Rule 602](#) of Equipment Specifications prohibits the alteration of the balls surface by abrasives or polish during any session (see [Rule 128](#) for the definition of a session).

Penalties apply – see [Rule 511](#) – Altering the surface of the bowling

Q: Can I pat my ball with rosin or powder if I wipe the ball before it is delivered?

A: No. Wiping the ball with a towel does not make the ball compliant to the rule. Patting a ball with a product is adding a foreign substance to the ball and cannot be done during competition. A product can only be applied to a bowler's hand and not leave residue on the surface of the ball.

Q: If my ball comes back with residue on it and I cannot clean it with my dry towel, rag or shammy, can I use an approved cleaner?

A: Yes, provided you get permission from a league officer or tournament official. If you clean your ball without prior permission, you may be asked to remove the ball from competition, and/or the games may be subject to forfeiture.;

Q: When I have permission to clean my ball, may I clean the entire ball?

A: Yes, you may clean the entire surface of a bowling ball

Q: Can a bowler use an abrasive, cleaner or polish on just the track or only just a portion of the track of the ball?

A: No. USBC specifications require that the entire surface of the ball be prepared in a uniform manner. Preparing the surface of a ball in any other manner would be a violation of Rule 511. The penalty for a violation of this rule can include disqualification, forfeiture, removal from the league, and/or suspension of TBNZ membership.

RULE 603 - LANE SPECIFICATIONS:

All lanes and associated equipment approved by TBNZ events must comply with the requirements of Clauses 1 through 9 of Chapter 9 of the WB Statutes and Playing Rules, effective as at 1 January 2019.

RULE 604 - PIN SPECIFICATIONS:

All pins used for TBNZ approved events must comply with the requirements of Chapter 10 of the WB Statutes and Playing Rules, effective as at 1 January 2019.

RULE 605 - LANE CONDITIONING:

TBNZ does not have mandatory lane conditioning requirements for all TBNZ approved events. However, TBNZ will have a lane conditioning policy publicized on its web site. This policy will be applied to TBNZ approved events as TBNZ decides.

CHAPTER 7 - TOURNAMENT RULES:

These rules are **not** based on TBA Rules, as the NZ situation does not make this appropriate. They apply to the TBNZ Nationals and any other TBNZ managed tournaments as it may decide and advise on the TBNZ website and/or tournament entry form.

RULE 701 - ELIGIBILITY:

Entries for these tournaments will be accepted from all TBNZ members who satisfy any specific tournament eligibility rules such as bowling average, or age, etc.

RULE 702 - ENTRIES:

Entries will close at the date advertised for each tournament.

RULE 703 – CERTIFIED ENTERING AVERAGES:

Bowlers entering these tournaments shall show their highest certified league or certified tournament average at the time when tournament entry is made. The average shown must be over a minimum of 21 games and must be the highest achieved average of any league or tournament, during the period 12 months prior to the time of the tournament entry.

A bowler who has bowled some certified games, but less than the minimum of 21 games, may apply to TBNZ for grading before submitting an entry. TBNZ will be the sole judge as to deciding on any grade used in any TBNZ tournament. If no application is made to TBNZ, the entering average shall automatically be as that for entry into Open grade.

Bowlers with no certified average must enter the tournament in the Open grade unless they can qualify for an alternative average as per Rule 704.

RULE 704 - UNCERTIFIED AVERAGES:

Where a tournament entrant usually bowls in a centre that does not have certified play and the entrant cannot satisfy the requirement of Rule 703, the entrant may apply to TBNZ for grading before submitting an entry. To receive an average on this basis the bowlers' complete bowling history for that calendar year would need to be provided to TBNZ. If no application is made to TBNZ, the entering average shall automatically be as that for entry into Open grade.

RULE 705 - REVIEW OF ENTERING AVERAGES:

The TBNZ or tournament committee may use discretion to review entering averages submitted and may re-grade any bowler or any entry.

RULE 706 - REPLACEMENTS - SUBSTITUTES:

All replacements or changes in an original entry must be reported to and approved by the Tournament Director at least 30 minutes before the scheduled bowling time. The average of any replacement or substitute must not change the grading of the original entry.

RULE 707 - CHECK-IN:

Team captains must check in 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time. Squads may commence earlier than the advertised time, provided all bowlers are present. In the Masters events only, check in will be 30 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time and if a bowler is absent at this time, he/she will be replaced by the next highest qualifier.

RULE 708 - LATE ENTRIES:

Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of TBNZ.

RULE 709 - TARDY PLAYERS:

Any bowler not ready to bowl at the scheduled starting time will not be permitted to catch up, but will commence at the frame being bowled.

RULE 710 - PRACTICE:

At the Start of a Session:

Unless TBNZ determines that a certain practice time period will apply, each bowler will be entitled to five minutes practice at the start of a new session.

After Delay in Play:

If play is halted during a session for a period of greater than 5 minutes, each bowler will be given the option of 2 balls "warm up" (not per lane) at the restart of play and prior to any scored frames. This does not apply to any wait at the end of any game prior to moving lanes. However, the Tournament Director may wish to provide for a warm-up to apply at this time, if he/she thinks unusual circumstances have occurred that may affect fair play. This decision will be at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.

After Moving Lanes for Breakdown:

If bowlers have to move to a new pair of lanes because of breakdown each bowler will be given the option of 2 balls practice per lane at the restart of play and prior to any scored frames.

RULE 711 - ALL EVENTS:

An All Events Champion will be declared for each grade. A bowler's score in Singles, Doubles, and Teams will count towards All Events score regardless of the grade in which the events are bowled. Bowlers may enter the All Events in

their own grade or any higher grade. (If the tournament is multiple entries the first series in that event shall count.)

RULE 712 - TIES:

Any ties with the exception of qualification for a Masters event will result in a shared title. Masters event ties for final qualifying placing will be settled by a one game play off. Masters event ties for the final winner will be settled by a one game play off.

RULE 713 - MASTERS EVENT:

The top number (as stated in the specific rules) of bowlers with the highest All Events pin fall shall contest the Masters. The bowlers will bowl a round robin against each other Masters Qualifier. Bonus points will be awarded at a rate of twenty (20) for a win, ten (10) for a draw and 5 for a loss with a pinfall of 200 or more.

RULE 714 - GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- a) Only participants, scorers, officials, and coaches will be allowed in the player's area.
- b) Smoking/vaping will not be permitted for the entire period of any bowling session.
- c) If powder must be used it must be kept in a container and must remain at the rear of the player area.
- d) Bowlers must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.

RULE 715 - NON-TOURNAMENT PLAY/PRACTICE:

Unless a specific tournament's rules state otherwise, a competitor may bowl at any time in the same centre as the tournament.

RULE 716 - DRESS CODE:

All competitors will be required to be suitably attired, with a clean and tidy standard of dress. This must include either a short sleeved collared bowling shirt or a branded bowling shirt. Males may wear dress trousers or dress shorts. Females may wear skirts, dress trousers, skorts or dress shorts. Track pants, cargo pants, stirrup pants, or any denim material are not permitted. The length of skirts, skorts or dress shorts must be below the bowler's fingertips when standing with their arms hanging naturally. If there are special circumstances that prevent this, approval will be required by the Tournament Committee.

RULE 717 - PRESENTATION CEREMONIES:

Presentations will be made at the times specified in the Tournament program, unless the Tournament Director gives adequate notice of any change.

RULE 718 - PROTESTS:

Protests must be in writing and handed to the tournament director within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the squad in which the infringement occurred. No verbal protests will be accepted.

RULE 719 - SPECIAL MATTERS:

The Tournament Committee will decide any matters, which arise and are not covered herein.

RULE 720 - DISCLAIMER:

The Tournament Officials, TBNZ, the Bowling Centre management and staff will not be held responsible for any injuries or loss of belongings during the tournament.

CHAPTER 8 - REQUIREMENTS AND RULES FOR CERTIFIED TOURNAMENTS

These rules are **not** based on TBA Rules, as the NZ situation does not make this appropriate.

RULE 801 - TOURNAMENT DEFINITION:

A bowling tournament is defined as a prearranged contest between teams, individuals, or a combination of both. A tournament can be sponsored by a centre, region, organisation, or one or more individuals. Teams shall be composed of the number of players fixed by the rules of the particular tournament in which competition is restricted. Any tournament consisting of at least four individual participants shall be eligible to apply for sanction with TBNZ.

RULE 802 - MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, DISPUTES - PROTESTS – RULES:

Each tournament must have a Managing Committee or Board of Directors, which must decide upon all disputes, complaints or protests relating to any claim, controversy or violation in the tournament involving any TBNZ or tournament rule. It shall have the authority to hear, and the power to decide proper appeals from the decision of the tournament secretary or any tournament official. The Committee or Board has the authority to adopt, enforce or revoke any of its own tournament rules as may be found necessary to the successful conduct of such tournament when not inconsistent with the rules of TBNZ, provided such rules are submitted to and approved by TBNZ prior to their publication on the tournament entry form or publicity material. The decision of the Committee or Board shall be final except where an appeal is made to the TBNZ for its further consideration.

RULE 803 - AUTHORITY OF TOURNAMENT SECRETARY (or DIRECTOR):

The Tournament Committee or Board should ensure a Tournament Secretary (or Director, whichever term is used) is appointed, who shall be the authorised representative of the Committee or Board, when either is not in session. The Secretary shall have supreme power as to the players who are to bowl in the tournament whether originally entered or those who bowl as authorised replacements or substitutes. If accepted, each player must bowl each event under their own full name, and then only at the time and date designated by the tournament secretary. The Tournament Secretary shall also have the power to decide upon any other matters pertaining to the operation of the tournament when not inconsistent with its own tournament rules or any provision of the TBNZ constitution, Rules and Regulations.

RULE 804 - AUTHORITY OF TEAM CAPTAIN:

The team captain is the team's representative in all matters pertaining to behaviour, legibility, line-up, and compliance with all tournament rules when entered in a tournament. They are responsible to the tournament secretary for the conduct of their team, and receive in trust any prize money the team may win, which all the team members are expected to share in accordance with the member's previous understanding.

The acceptance of the entry of a team by the secretary of a tournament constitutes an agreement by the team captain on behalf of the team to abide by all laws, playing rules and regulations prescribed by the Tournament Committee and TBNZ.

The captain or the authorised representative may, furthermore, authorise the replacement of those whose names are on the entry form and are unable to attend or compete in the tournament at the scheduled time. It is the captain who determines who may bowl on their team in the team event of any tournament. No team may remove the captain without their consent once the team is entered in the tournament provided they have violated no rules, and appears when scheduled to bowl. After the closing date of tournament entries, the team captain may remove a player whose name is shown on the entry form only upon the approval of the majority of the members of the team.

When the captain replaces a player originally entered in the team event, the captain shall give ample notification to the player being replaced. If the player to be removed has paid his or her own entry fee, it must be returned, except that any indebtedness may be withheld. When a captain requests a replacement in the two person and/or individual events it must be understood that the individual originally entered and whose name appears in the tournament schedule must agree to being replaced in these events, or should they fail to appear when scheduled, the captain or the appointee may make such replacement in order to realise fully on the amount paid for entry fees.

RULE 805 - TOURNAMENT SANCTIONS:

When a tournament other than any of those organised by TBNZ is conducted and members of TBNZ participate, a tournament sanction may be applied for at the option of the Tournament Management. Tournaments granted a sanction shall display the certificate in the establishments where the tournament event or events are scheduled and shall comply with all rules governing tournaments as set forth in the TBNZ Rule Book.

Such tournament and the teams and individuals competing therein must conduct and play all their games in strict compliance with the rules and regulations governing such games, as adopted by TBNZ.

RULE 806 - SANCTION APPLICATIONS – REQUIREMENTS:

The following requirements must be complied with when applying for TBNZ sanction:

- a) The lanes used for competition must have a current season TBNZ Regulation Bowling Lane Certificate posted in the establishment during all times when the tournament is underway.
- b) Centres are required to request a sanction number from the Tournament Manager. To obtain this the Centre must provide a copy of the tournament entry form for review. The request may be made by email.

- c) The entry form poster, and/or tournament rules must be submitted with the sanction application. (These items should be submitted in draft form as early as possible to enable TBNZ to counsel in the event of rule violations or discrepancies prior to the printing of promotional material).

RULE 807 - SANCTION REFUSAL:

TBNZ may refuse sanctioning of any tournament that does not comply with TBNZ rules or which in their opinion misrepresents in its advertising or otherwise the value of the prizes which are offered or guaranteed or the volume of prize payments offered to the participants.

RULE 808 - ELIGIBILITY:

To participate in a tournament granted a sanction by TBNZ, an entrant shall qualify under that tournament's rules. The tournament rules shall require all entrants to be current TBNZ members or to be current members of an overseas National Tenpin organisation with affiliation to TBNZ, such as Tenpin Bowling Australia (TBA).

RULE 809 - LANES MUST BE CERTIFIED:

All lanes and associated equipment used for a TBNZ certified tournament must be certified to comply with TBNZ Equipment [Rule 603](#) LANE SPECIFICATIONS

RULE 810 - PINS MUST BE APPROVED:

The bowling pins used for a TBNZ certified tournament competition must at all times comply TBNZ Equipment [Rule 604](#) – PIN SPECIFICATIONS

RULE 811 - FEES AND PRIZES:

a) Designation of:

The Tournament entry form must clearly show all entry fees and all prize monies. If any prize money is not guaranteed this should be clearly shown on the application form. In this case, other clarification should be provided to explain how prize money will be distributed.

b) Responsibility for Any Financial Matters:

TBNZ will consider the financial matters of any previous tournament held on the same premises, when evaluating any application to sanction a tournament. However, TBNZ does not underwrite any financial aspects of any tournament, whether it has a TBNZ sanction or not. TBNZ members are therefore required to satisfy themselves that any fees they may pay are secure and will be used for the purposes as described in the entry form.

The tournament officials are required to refund any fees to a team or individual entrant who refuses the dates assigned, prior to preparation of the tournament schedule. The tournament officials may refund, but have no obligation to refund, any fees after the schedule has been prepared.

c) Conditions Cannot Change:

The conditions under which entries are accepted cannot be changed or modified after the tournament starts. This includes entry fee charges and the rules governing the competition.

d) Free or Reduced Entries:

The Tournament Management may not provide or arrange to provide any kind of a free or reduced entry that is not fully advertised in the tournament program. When a free entry is made available, an amount equal to the prize fee must be placed in the tournament prize fund.

RULE 812 - DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZE FUNDS:

All prizes must be distributed as described in the tournament entry form.

RULE 813 - PRIZE PAYMENT AND REPORT:

Within thirty days after the completion of the tournament, the following post tournament requirements must be met:

- a) Distribute all prizes, except when TBNZ has authorised holding up payment pending settlement of any claim or protest that affects position standings.

RULE 814 - OFFICIAL PRIZE LIST:

The Tournament Secretary shall prepare the official prize list promptly following the closing date of entries. The prize list shall contain the number of prizes to be awarded in each event and the amount of each prize. The official prize list may be included in the official tournament schedule, but if shown separately, the Secretary shall file two copies of such official prize list with the Centre Management prior to the opening of the tournament and shall also post prior to the opening of the tournament a copy of the official prize list in the establishment where the tournament events will be conducted for the information of all contestants.

RULE 815 - ENTRY CLOSED IN ADVANCE OF TOURNAMENT:

When the date for closing of entries is in advance of the opening date of the tournament, it must be sufficiently in advance of the opening date to notify individual entrants and/or team captains of their scheduled time and date. All entries postmarked the first post office business day following the entry closing date shall be accepted. The tournament must prepare a schedule or post a complete list of entrants at the tournament site.

RULE 816 - ENTRY CLOSED PRIOR TO LAST SQUAD:

When the date for closing of entries is set prior to the time the last squad is scheduled, the Tournament Management shall post in a conspicuous place in the establishment a notice showing:

- a) Number of entries to date.
- b) Any change to published prizes.
- c) A complete list of all entrants to be kept current and indicating scores bowled by each entrant. This list shall be retained and available for inspection during the entire tournament and for thirty (30) days thereafter.
- d) A posted schedule kept current at all times
- e) The exact time of day the last squad is scheduled to start.

RULE 817 - AVERAGES:

RULE 703 CERTIFIED ENTERING AVERAGES will apply to individual averages in certified handicap tournaments unless otherwise specified in the tournament rules.

RULE 818 – MULTIPLE PARTICIPATION:

It shall be optional whether the entrants in a certified tournament may participate more than once in an event provided it is duly publicized in advance. The number of times participation will be permitted must be indicated.

RULE 819 - SCORERS:

The secretary of each certified tournament is required to appoint scorers to officially record any and all games bowled in the tournament.

After the official scorer and team captain or individual contestant has passed a score, it cannot be changed except where there is an obvious error in scoring or calculation. However, the Managing Committee of a tournament may, by rule, set a time limit for an appeal for any scoring errors.

No scorer shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any bet or wager on any game or series. If at any time the scorer shall be found to be so interested, is incompetent or interferes with tournament contestants, the tournament secretary may remove any such scorer.

RULE 820 - NOTIFICATION OF SCHEDULE:

Notification shall be given to the person filing entry in writing or by printed schedule as to the time and date scheduled. Notification by way of posted, faxed, email document, display in the local centre or display on TBNZ website shall suffice.

RULE 821 - SUBMITTING ENTRIES:

The receipt of an entry in writing and its acceptance in any tournament by the Secretary for one or more events shall regulate the number of players who shall participate. Substitutions and replacements may, however, be made in accordance with the provisions of [Rule 828](#) and [Rule 835](#). The entry form shall contain the names of the players entered and the necessary prize fees must be in the hands of the Tournament Secretary prior to the closing date of entries for the tournament.

RULE 822 - REPLACEMENTS – SUBSTITUTES:

No one may bowl in a certified tournament except those originally entered or such replacements that may be authorised by the captain of a team or the appointee. The team captain may make a replacement in the team event according to [Rule 804](#). If a duly entered and scheduled entrant is unable to bowl when scheduled in the two-person and individual events and will sign a replacement affidavit, a person qualified to bowl in the event under the tournament rules may be named to take their place. Such affidavit must be presented at the office of the Tournament Secretary at least thirty minutes prior to the time the entrant is scheduled.

If a replacement request is made too late to secure the affidavit prior to bowling the scheduled games in question, the Tournament Secretary may at their discretion furnish replacement affidavit blanks, and allow a replacement to be made in accordance with a team captain's authority.

A replacement may be made in the All Events providing the replacement is made before the original entrant or the replacement has bowled in the tournament. Substitute's scores will count towards All Events if it is the first event.

RULE 823 - TWO-PERSON TEAM - CHANGES IN LINE-UPS OR PAIRINGS:

If both entrants in the two-person event appear when scheduled, they must bowl as they have been entered on the original entry form. A change in the line-up or pairings of two-person teams, as reported on the official entry form, may be permitted if the request is filed with the Secretary of the tournament or designated members of their staff at least 24 hours prior to the time the players involved in the change are scheduled to bowl in the two-person event.

If a replacement is needed on each of two Doubles Teams, the two entrants present may be teamed together.

RULE 824 - ENTRY IN BOTH SINGLES AND DOUBLES:

If a tournament Managing Committee elects to conduct both a two-person and individual event, it may by rule make entry in both of these events a requirement to qualify for participation in either, providing the rule is printed on the entry form.

RULE 825 - TARDY PLAYERS:

Bowling shall begin in accordance with a previously arranged schedule. Any player or team arriving late shall begin play with the score count beginning with the frame then being bowled.

If a team refuses to start because a full line-up is not present, they shall forfeit all games, which they decline to bowl at the discretion of the Tournament Secretary.

No blind scores shall be permitted and a bowler must bowl with, (on the same lanes), and at the same time their team bowls. A bowler, who misses one frame or more by not being present and ready to bowl when it is their turn, shall not be credited with any pins for any frames missed.

RULE 826 - BOWLING ALONE:

When players entered in the team, two-person or individual event of a tournament are scheduled alone on a pair of lanes they must nevertheless bowl any and all games to be bowled as though they were actually contested. Each entrant must have completed their frame on one lane before the player bowling as leadoff shall commence their next frame on the adjoining lane.

This rule shall apply to all team tournaments except those, which by rule schedule each team alone on a pair of lanes and permit the members to follow each other immediately in order on the alternate lanes.

In singles tournaments a minimum of two entries shall constitute a squad and these entries must bowl on the same pair of lanes. If a bowler competes alone as a squad, their score shall be disqualified.

RULE 827 - PACERS:

A tournament may, by rule, permit pacers to equalize the number of players bowling on a pair of lanes thereby maintaining competitive conditions. Scores bowled by a pacer shall not count in determining position standings. No person who has paced shall be permitted subsequently to enter or compete in the tournament unless the tournament rules permit multiple participation.

RULE 828 - SUBSTITUTIONS DURING GAME OR SERIES:

After a game has started, no changes shall be made in the order of the players during such game, except that the captains may replace any of their players by another qualified substitute at any time. When a substitution is made during a game (as a result of a serious injury), the score of such game shall be credited to the starting player.

A player once removed from a game cannot return to bowl in the same game.

Scores bowled through the effort of more than one individual player shall not qualify for any TBNZ or tournament individual high score awards nor shall the score be included in the All Events totals.

In doubles events substitutes may be permitted but a player once removed cannot return to the line-up for the balance of that event. No substitutions may be made in a singles event except that in elimination or match game tournaments where two or more series or blocks of games are bowled.

Substitutions may be permitted at the discretion of the Tournament Management. The player removed may not return for the balance of that event.

RULE 829 - TWO LANES REQUIRED:

Two lanes immediately adjoining each other shall be used in each game of tournament play. The bowling of ten complete frames on the pair of lanes on which the game was started shall constitute an official game.

RULE 830 - INTERRUPTED GAME OR SERIES:

The tournament officials may authorise the completion of a game and series on another pair of certified lanes when equipment failure on the starting lanes would delay the normal progress of the series. An interrupted game and series, which cannot be completed on the same date, must be resumed from the point of interruption.

RULE 831 - TOURNAMENT SERIES:

In tournament play, the first game of a series shall be started on the lane on which the team or individual is scheduled. Succeeding games shall be started on the lane on which the team or individual has finished the preceding game unless each complete game is bowled on a different pair of lanes.

RULE 832 - ORDER OF BOWLING:

The members of the contesting teams, two-person and individual entrants shall successively and in regular order bowl one frame on one lane, and for the next frame alternate and use the other lane, so alternating each frame until five frames are bowled on each lane to complete the game.

RULE 833 - SCHEDULING OF DOUBLES:

Normally, one only doubles team is scheduled on each lane and both members of the team start on the same lane. This order of bowling may be changed, however, when a tournament schedules three doubles teams on a pair of lanes as a part of its normal scheduling pattern.

In that case, the leadoff bowler of each team will start on one lane and the anchor bowler on the alternate lane. Players will alternate lanes after each frame. Succeeding games shall be started on the lane on which a player finished the preceding game unless each complete game is bowled on a different pair of lanes.

RULE 834 - TIED SCORES:

In case of a tie for the team, two-person, individual or all events championship in a tournament, it shall be optional with the Managing Committee to have a play-off or declare co-champions.

In the event co-champions are declared the cash prizes for the positions affected are to be equally divided and the tournament committee required to supply such additional medals or other awards it makes to champions, which are emblematic of co-championships, from a fund other than the prize fund.

RULE 835 - TIES - DUPLICATION OF TEAM PERSONNEL:

When and if multiple participation is permitted in a tournament and one or more bowlers are members of the team tied for the championship, the following procedure shall apply in conducting the play-offs for the championship:

- a) If two teams are tied, and the same person or persons are duplicated on both teams, co-champions may be declared. If there is no duplication of personnel on the teams tied for the championship it shall be optional to have a play-off or declare co-champions.
- b) If more than two teams are tied for the championship and there is a duplication of personnel on any of the teams involved, there shall be no play-off and co-champions shall be declared. If there is no duplication of personnel on the teams tied for the championship it shall be optional to have a play-off or declare co-champions.

RULE 836 - BOWLER'S EQUIPMENT:

Each five-person team must have at least three bowling balls to use in bowling scheduled games, each two-person team must have at least two bowling balls to use in bowling scheduled games, and each individual must have a bowling ball available for their exclusive use to bowl their scheduled individual event games. Should this be overlooked and proper number of balls are not provided, the contestants will lose their place on the schedule and will be scheduled at the discretion of the Secretary of the tournament and at such time as not to interfere with the regular schedule of the tournament.

RULE 837 - APPEAL OR PROTEST:

An appeal or protest regarding the decision of the foul judge, scorer, tournament official or Managing Committee may be made to the TBNZ CEO and decided by TBNZ Executive, with a right of appeal to the Board. They shall render a decision thereon as soon as possible after submission, upon having notified the Secretary of such tournament regarding the appeal or protest. Such appeal or protest shall in all cases be made in writing, and be signed by the party making the appeal or making the protest and the grounds of appeal or protest shall be briefly stated. The decision of TBNZ shall be final and binding upon all entrants and officials of such tournament.

RULE 838 - CHANGE OF POSITION:

No entrants shall change their position in any team line-up after they have been checked into the lanes to bowl. If a change in the line-up is desired, it must be made at the office of the Tournament Secretary at least thirty minutes prior to the time said entrant is scheduled to bowl.