



The Greater Sydney Tenpin Bowling Association Ltd

Trading as **TENPIN SYDNEY**

ABN 36 001 821 147



THE INTER-DISTRICT TOURNAMENT 2026 RULES

1. THE INTER-DISTRICT COMMITTEE

- The Inter-District committee supervises the running of the Inter-District Tournament.
- The Inter-District committee reserves the right to not accept an entry from any team or tenpin bowling centre that they deem to be unsuitable and not in the best interests of the inter-district competition.
- The Inter-District rules and regulations are subject to change or amendment at the discretion of the Inter-District Chairperson in consultation with the committee.
- The Inter-District Chairperson may appoint additional members to the committee as needed.

1.1. The committee positions are:

- **THE CHAIRPERSON** - Appointed at the AGM of Tenpin Sydney
- **THE DIVISION SECRETARY** - Appointed by the Chairperson.
- **THE INTER-DISTRICT TREASURER** - Appointed by the Chairperson.
- **THE INTER-DISTRICT CO-ORDINATOR** - Appointed by the Chairperson.

1.2. Its functions are to:

- 1.2.1.** Call for team nominations to determine the line-up for all divisions (Inter-District Co-Ordinator)
- 1.2.2.** Prepare the centre schedule, lane draw and rules for each season, along with the preparation and presentation of a suitable statement. (Inter-District Co-Ordinator)
- 1.2.3.** Maintain the necessary records during the season and issue a detailed weekly standing sheet for each division, including a list of all bowlers' individual bowlers' averages and games bowled. This should include a list of roving reserves with each of their averages and games bowled, along with their contact details to allow them to be accessible to teams as reserves. (Division Secretary)
- 1.2.4.** Prepare and present to each team a detailed prize list for each division. (Inter-district Treasurer)
- 1.2.5.** Conduct fundraising activities as it sees fit. (Inter-district Treasurer)
- 1.2.6.** Arrange and supervise the end of season presentation dinner. (Inter-district Treasurer).
- 1.2.7.** Conduct committee meetings as or when required, to consider any matter which is placed before it. (Inter-district Chairperson)

2. DIVISION SUB-COMMITTEE

- 2.1.** A sub-committee can be called from time to time as required, at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- 2.2.** At no time will sub-committee members have the right to vote at these meetings.

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3. TEAM CAPTAIN DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1. Ensure all team members hold a current TBA membership by the start of the fifth week of the Inter-District season.**
- 3.2. Register all bowlers with the division secretary, either as team members, or roving reserves prior to bowling.**
- 3.3. Ensure all relevant fees are paid for each match.**
- 3.4. Ensure that all team members have signed the Code of Conduct by the completion of the day's bowling and that these are handed to the Divisional secretary. A signed Code of Conduct is valid for one year.**
- 3.5. Ensure that all team members are aware of all Inter-District rules.**
- 3.6. In the event that a Team Captain or Team member fails to sign the score sheet the following will apply:**
 - 3.6.1. The Divisional Secretary to sign the score sheet on their behalf, after verifying that the scores are correct. This also applies to any bowler's game missing on the score sheet.**
- 3.7. Maintain team and individual record sheets.**
- 3.8. Ensure that each team member who bowls on the day wears their team's bowling shirt.**
- 3.9. The team captain will ensure that all prize money won by their team, is divided correctly and in accordance with written or verbal agreements.**

Disputes over such allocation should be immediately directed to a member of the Inter-District committee who will advise the Inter-District secretary for assistance in a resolution.

4. PLAYING RULES

- 4.1. TBA League, Tournament and general playing rules apply to any playing situations not adequately covered by these rules.**
- 4.2. No bowler can be registered in more than one division, as a team member at the same time.**
- 4.3. Roving reserves will be permitted; however, they must be registered prior to bowling on any given day.**
- 4.4. Should a player wish to transfer from one team to another or to the roving reserve list, they must apply to the division secretary within 24 hours of that day's bowling in writing, together with the approval of the Inter-District committee. This rule extends to bowlers who resign from one team and who wish to join another team. Once a bowler leaves a team for any reason, they cannot bowl for that team again as a team member or as a reserve bowler.**
- 4.5. Should a bowler wish to change divisions, they must apply to the Inter-District committee within seven (7) days' notice in writing. Should this be approved, the committee will notify the bowler in writing, stating the date the player is eligible to commence bowling in the new division.**
- 4.6. Where a team cannot field a full line-up, that team may arrange for a roving reserve or, failing that, may ask, the division secretary to call for roving reserves and/or players from the concourse. A roving reserve can only be used if their entering average does not raise the teams entering average above the division cut-off.**

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- 4.7. The team must have a legal line-up of at least one (1) registered team bowlers on any given day, otherwise they will forfeit.
 - 4.8. It is the responsibility of a team using a bowler for the first time, either as a team player or roving reserve, to ensure that a registration form is completed and lodged with the division secretary with proof of their average prior to that day's play. Also, that the "Code of Conduct" is signed or the scores of the new bowler may not be counted. The Division Secretary has 14 days after the day's bowling to verify their averages.
 - 4.9. Players and or teams may not bowl on their scheduled lanes from two (2) hours prior to the start of scheduled practice. For the purpose of this rule, scheduled practice is five (5) minutes prior to start of scheduled play (11.00am and or 2:00 pm).
 - 4.10. Prior to bowling, the team on the even numbered lane will post their line-up first by 11.00am or 2:00 pm. The line-up must remain unchanged throughout the three (3) game series, except that the team captain may replace a player, after informing the opposing team captain of his/her intention of doing so, this must take place before the start of the next game. Players, once replaced, cannot return to play again during that match.
 - 4.11. Players proper names must be entered into the computer scoring system, commonly used short forms of given names are acceptable, e.g. Bob" for "Robert" or "Betty" for "Elizabeth". Players full and correct names must be used on the official score sheet.
 - 4.12. Players and scorers will be the only persons allowed in the playing area. Children must remain outside the players area at all times. Any object which may be considered a nuisance to players, including the use of mobile phones, must be removed from the player's area.
 - 4.13. Players must not hold up the progress of play by being absent from the playing area, when it is their turn to bowl, with the exception of the committee or sub-committee carrying out their duties.
 - 4.14. There will be no smoking during the game. Smoking will be permitted at the completion of each game only. Smokers must be back in the playing area for their next turn, otherwise they will forfeit that frame. Players must not hold up any game while waiting for a smoker to return. This rule will be strictly enforced.
 - 4.15. All team players and roving reserves must sign and returned back to their divisional secretary their copy of the Inter-District Code of Conduct by the end of play of their first day bowling.
 - 4.16. The method by which the champion team in each division will be determined, in the event of a tie, on points between two (2) or more teams for 1st place at the conclusion of the Inter-District schedule, will be by means of a normal match schedule. 1st place will be decided by a one (1) game play off in the normal manner until the tie is broken. Should a tie occur for any other position, the prize money for the tied position will be added together and divided equally between those teams.
 - 4.17. Matches will be played on Saturdays at 11.00am and or 2:00 pm as per the agreements with the centre.
 - 4.18. Injured players may be replaced at any time, the replacement player must commence scoring from the frame current and the injured player's score must be deleted.

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5. GENERAL CONDUCT

- 5.1. Players are expected to conduct themselves in a sporting, professional and competitive manner and must refrain from creating any undue noise or disturbance, which may in any way distract other players while bowling is in progress, other than to support their own team by cheering and clapping.
- 5.2. Consumption of alcohol will not be permitted before play inside the centre in or out of team uniform or in the car park that belongs to or surrounds the centre being played at on the day. If you wish to consume alcohol this may be done after completion of bowling on that day. There is to be no alcohol or drugs consumed while bowling is in progress. Any member, who is, in the opinion of the division secretary, visibly under the influence of alcohol or drugs, will not be allowed to bowl on that day. A report will be forwarded to the Inter-District committee for any further action and further to the board of Tenpin Sydney for mention and consideration at its next meeting.
- 5.3. Foul language on the lanes, or in the playing area, at an audible level, will not be tolerated. Excessive audible foul or offensive language in or around the playing area during any match, will not be tolerated. A warning will be given at the time of the offensive, through the team captain; a suspension may follow for any further offence.
- 5.4. Any player found guilty of abuse of machinery or equipment in any bowling centre during a match, may be disqualified immediately.
- 5.5. Any player found guilty of excessive verbal abuse towards centre staff, may be disqualified immediately and will be cited to appear before the Inter-District committee for any additional action that is determined necessary.
- 5.6. Physical abuse or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated and will be dealt with by immediate disqualification and cited to appear before the Inter-District committee for any further action deemed necessary.

Any legal action in respect to physical abuse is outside the authority of this committee.

Where a player is disqualified, the player team will not be permitted to replace the disqualified player in their line-up.

6. LEGAL LINE-UP

- 6.1. Roving reserves are to be considered part of a team's line-up, provided that at least one (1) registered team bowler is present and bowling on the day.

7. FORFEITS and BYES

- 7.1. Any team not having a full team of three (3) (minimum one (1) registered team members) at the start of play must enter their line-up first regardless of the lane on which they are scheduled to bowl. When a team or individual is bowling against a bye or forfeit, they must bowl their entering average less nineteen (19) pins for their point

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8. BLIND SCORES

- 8.1. There will be no blind scores in Inter-District matches.

9. TARDY PLAYERS

- 9.1. Tardy players may bowl from the first frame in game one, with their score to count, providing they are in the player's area ready to bowl, before the game has progressed beyond the third (3) frame or ten minutes from the time the first ball of the match is bowled, whichever comes first.
- 9.2. Players arriving after the above guidelines may bowl the remainder of the game with the scores to count, from the frame currently in progress at the time they are in the player's area ready to bowl.

10. PRE-BOWLED and DEFERRED MATCHES

- 10.1. Pre-bowled and deferred matches are allowed in circumstances which are acceptable to the Inter-District committee and must be requested in writing, at least four (4) weeks prior to the original date of the match where possible and must be agreed to by the opposing team captain.
- 10.2. In an emergency situation, a deferred match may be granted by the Inter-District committee outside these guidelines, however, the opposing team captain must agree to the deferred match.
- 10.3. Pre-bowled and deferred matches must be bowled in the originally scheduled centre.
- 10.4. All deferred matches must be bowled within 4 weeks of the originally scheduled date and before the end of each round.

Note: Where the season includes positional rounds, pre-bowled and deferred matches must be bowled before the next positional round, (except for the last round), this is so the standings are up to date before the positional round is to be bowled. There will be no deferred matches allowed during the last seven (7) weeks of I.D.

- 10.5. Matches scheduled during the last seven (7) weeks may be pre-bowled before the final six (6) weeks.

11. SPLIT ROUNDS

- 11.1. From time to time, nominations will be received from centres that have fewer lanes than can accommodate any one entire division. Unless special arrangements can be made, this would result in a split round for the scheduled dates at those centres.

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12. FEES

- 12.1. Fees for 2026 will be \$45.00 per bowler each bowling week.
- 12.2. Team captains are to ensure that prize fund, secretary's, and social fees, for each team of three (3) bowlers, is paid on each day of bowling, whether or not the team fields a full line-up.
- 12.3. Any team which owes fees will be ineligible to bowl in the following weeks until all fees owing are paid in full and will forfeit all points for any matches not bowled. When a team is deemed ineligible to bowl a match under this rule, the bowling team will bowl against a forfeit.

13. PRIZE FUND and PAYOUT

- 13.1. The relevant prize fund structure for each division for 2026 will be detailed on a separate schedule.

14. DRESS RULES

- 14.1. **ALL PLAYERS MUST BE NEAT AND PRESENTABLY DRESSED AT ALL TIMES.** Happy pants, track pants, and shorts, bike pants, skintight shorts or trousers, cargo pants or shorts, stubbies, hats, caps or football gear, ARE NOT PERMITTED.
- 14.2. Men: Must wear a Collared (Industry or Traditional) team bowling shirt, with Black or Dark Navy Trousers, Black or Dark Navy Dress Jeans or $\frac{3}{4}$ Black or Dark Navy Shorts and socks.
- 14.3. Women: Must wear a Collared (Industry or Traditional) team bowling shirt, with Black or Dark Navy Skirt, presentable Black or Dark Navy Dress Jeans or Slacks, or Black or Dark Navy $\frac{3}{4}$ Dress Shorts
- 14.4. Dress is subject to the approval of the Inter-District Committee.
- 14.5. Team bowling shirts must have a collar (Industry or Traditional) and must be the same basic style or as approved by the ID committee. Bowlers may request for permission to wear a contrasting skirt or pants.
- 14.6. For the first four (4) bowling weeks of the season of Inter-District, all players have an exemption from the requirement to wear a team bowling shirt but must wear a suitable shirt with a collar. After this time has elapsed, players not wearing the required team bowling shirt must seek permission in writing from the Inter-District committee to bowl on any given day. If permission in writing is granted, the said bowler must wear a suitable bowling shirt with a collar (Industry or Traditional).
- 14.7. Roving reserves, or bowlers from the concourse, must wear a bowling shirt with a collar (Industry or Traditional) and must seek approval of dress from the division secretary, prior to bowling
- 14.8. Any player found to be in violation of these rules, will be issued with a warning through their team captain, or in the case of roving reserves, the captain of the team they are bowling for. If the violation is repeated a second or subsequent time, the player will not be allowed to bowl, unless the matter is rectified immediately. Any games bowled by such a player without the dress violation being rectified, will not count.

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15. TEAM ROSTERS

- 15.1. Team rosters will be a minimum of three (3) registered players and a maximum of six (6) registered players. There are no team reserves (DIV A only).
- 15.2. Note: In special circumstances e.g., where a team has lost a player and is in the process of finding a replacement player, the committee may allow a team's roster to temporarily fall below the minimum number of bowlers.
- 15.3. If a bowler wishes to leave a team and go on the roving reserve list or bowl for another team, they must apply in writing to the ID committee.
- 15.4. No bowlers may be added to a Team's registered line up in the last 7 weeks of competition.

16. ROVING RESERVES

- 16.1. Teams using a roving reserve must ensure that the team's average on the day does not exceed the division cut-off for the three (3) players bowling.
- 16.2. Registered roving reserves may bowl in any division of Inter-District subject to the above conditions. Roving reserve bowlers must not have an average in any team in ID that will break the Divisional cut. Division A 630 and Division B 570
- 16.3. In the final 7 weeks of competition, in order to use a roving reserve, they must have bowled a minimum of six (6) games prior to the final 7 weeks to be eligible.
- 16.4. Roving reserves are to be governed by the Inter-District Tournament Rules.

17. VIOLATIONS

- 17.1. Any games bowled in violation of these rules, unless otherwise stated, may lose any or all points gained by the offending player (whether team member or roving reserve) or team in any game in which the player has bowled.
- 17.2. The Inter-District committee may additionally suspend the player from bowling in Inter-District for a period of up to six (6) weeks.
- 17.3. Any player receiving a warning, suspension or loss of points in relation to these rules, will receive confirmation in writing along with the team captain, within seven (7) days. A copy will also be kept by the committee for future reference.

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18. APPEALS and PROTESTS

18.1. An appeal must be confirmed in writing, addressed to and received by the Inter-District committee within seventy-two (72) hours of the games being bowled (for a protest) or the decision being made (in the case of an appeal).

19. TEAM NOMINATIONS

19.1. The closing date for nominations for the 2027 season of Inter-District will be Saturday – August 29, 2026

19.2. Late entries will be accepted where there is a bye situation, or to compliment the division concerned and will be evaluated by the Inter-District committee.

19.3. Nomination forms will be available from each division secretary, or via the Inter-District website, <https://interdistrict.com.au> or the Inter-District Chairman on 0418 267 710 at least four (4) weeks prior to the closing date stated above.

20. ENTERING AVERAGES

If a bowler has played a minimum of eighteen (18) games as a registered team member (or as a roving reserve) in Inter-District or any other recognised travelling league or tournament (Bowl Sydney or SupaLeague) during the 2025 season, then that average will be used to qualify them for the 2026 season.

- 20.1** If a bowler did not play the minimum of eighteen (18) games in Inter-District during the 2025 season as a registered team member, then their highest current league or tournament average, regardless of affiliation, over a minimum of eighteen (18) games must be used as their entering average, including any league or tournament that has been completed over the preceding three (3) months.
- 20.2** If a bowler did not play the minimum of eighteen (18) games in Inter-District during the 2025 season and does not have a current league or tournament average over eighteen (18) games as provided for in this rule, a written submission must be made to the Inter-District committee, for a determination of that persons entering average for the 2026 season.
- 20.3** Bowlers, who have no league or tournament average during the last three (3) years or more, must apply to the Inter-District committee in writing for an entering average. If the Inter-District committee is unable for any reasons, to establish in its opinion a fair and reasonable entering average for that person, they will not be permitted to register for Inter-District for the 2026 season.

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20.4 Teams may enter the division of their choice, however, at no time can the total team average exceed the cut-off for their division at the commencement of any scheduled match.

20.4 a Should a team be discovered to be exceeding the divisional cut off after all three (3) bowlers have delivered their first ball in any game all points from the first game will be lost. The team may continue to bowl the next game providing that:

A. They drop one bowler so that the remaining bowlers do not exceed the divisional cut off.

Or

B. They replace one bowler with another so that the combined averages do not exceed the divisional cut off.

20.5 Maximum team average cut-off for the 2026 season: Division A 630. Division B 570.

20.6 Once the division cut-off has been established, at no time can the maximum team averages (BASED ON ENTERING AVERAGE) go above the division cut-off on any given bowling day. Cut-off date for averages for the 2026 season will be 31st August 2025 over a minimum of 18 games.

20.7 Cut-off date for averages for the 2027 season will be at the completion of the 2026 Inter-District season or that of the other travel leagues or tournaments recognised over a minimum of 18 games. For bowlers who do not bowl in any of the travel leagues or tournaments, their highest league average as at 30th November 2026, including any league or tournament that has been completed over the preceding three (3) months over a minimum of 18 games.

20.8 Team Nomination forms must have a minimum of three (3) bowlers listed to be accepted for nomination.

20.9 Teams can have a maximum of six (6) registered players on their team roster.

20.10 Division B will be a handicap Division using 100% of 210 handicap system

21 SPORTSPERSON of the YEAR

21.1 Each week, every team member bowling, has the right to vote for any player in the opposing team, who bowls during the match on the day and whom they consider is the most sporting of that team on the day.

21.2 Players cannot vote for members of their own team.

21.3 The player receiving the most votes in each division during the year, will be declared Sportsperson of the Year.

21.4 Teams who bowl a bye or a forfeit do not vote that week.

22 HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME and SERIES

22.1 For a man to be eligible for either of these awards, they must have bowled at least 2/3rds of the scheduled games for the season. Ladies must have bowled 50% plus 3 games to be eligible. All bowlers must be a registered team member, at the time the said award was achieved. A roving reserve is not eligible to receive these awards.

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23 All-Stars Award

- 23.1** This is open to all bowlers and is based on the 6 bowlers bowling on each pair of lanes each week and is calculated by most pins over average for series.
- 23.2** The bowler with the most over average on series on each pair is awarded points as follows:
- Highest pins over average (3points)
 - 2nd highest pins over average (2points)
 - 3rd highest pins over average (1point)
- 23.3** In the event of a draw on most over average, this will be decided by the most over average game.
- 23.4** All points will be tallied and the bowler with the most points at the end of the season will be announced as the All-Star winner.

24 ID MASTER'S TOURNAMENT

- 24.1** Only registered team members are eligible qualify for the Master's Tournament. Bowlers must have bowled 50% plus 3 games of the current ID season.
- 24.2** This will be held the week after the final week of the Inter-District season at a centre to be determined. Div A commences at 11am, Div B commences at 2pm.
- 24.3** Top 12 Average bowlers in Div A will qualify for the Tournament.
- 24.4** Top 12 Average bowlers in Div B will qualify for the Tournament with Handicap to be added to their scratch scores to determine the winner.
- 24.5** Tournament format:
- This is to be discussed and confirmed by the ID committee.
- 24.6** Prizes for each division:
- Champion – Medal, shirt and \$500.00
 - Runner Up - \$150.00
 - High Game - \$100.00

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