

BOWLING SPORT INFORMATION GUIDE

Bowling

Combining finesse and precision, bowling challenges players to knock down pins with consistency and accuracy. It's a social yet competitive sport where every frame counts.

Competition dates

The bowling competition will be conducted in accordance with the regulations of the International Bowling Federation (IBF), the World Tenpin Bowling Association and any specific guidelines issued by the International Masters Games Association (IMGA).

The provisional Bowling competition schedule for Open Masters Games Abu Dhabi 2026 (OMGAD2026) is as follows:

Date	February 9 Monday	February 10 Tuesday	February 11 Wednesday	February 12 Thursday	February 13 Friday	February 14 Saturday
Singles						
Doubles						
Mixed Doubles						

All dates and times are subject to change, pending final entries received. A detailed schedule by event for each discipline will be developed throughout 2025.

Competition venue: Khalifa International Bowling Centre, Zayed Sports City, Abu Dhabi

 Pin Location

Player Structure

The competition will include Singles, Doubles, and Mixed Doubles events, divided by age categories and gender. Each athlete may enter one Singles event and partner in one Doubles and/or one Mixed Doubles event.

The following age categories will be applied in Open Masters Games Abu Dhabi 2026:

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Singles (M/F)	35+, 45+, 55+, 65+, 75+, 85+, 95+
Doubles (M/F)	
Mixed Doubles	
Para Singles (M/F)	35+, 55+
Para Doubles (M/F)	
Para Mixed Doubles	

In line with the sport-specific rules, an athlete must compete in their designated age group, with their age determined as of 31 December 2026. For example, if you turn 40 by 31 December 2026, you would compete in the 40-44 age category.

If there are insufficient entries in an age category, categories may be combined in order to conduct a viable competition. The awarding of medals will not be affected, that is, individuals will still be awarded medals in the age category in which they originally entered.

Competition Format

The bowling competition will follow a two-phase format: **Qualification Rounds** and **Finals**.

Qualification Rounds

All registered athletes will compete in the qualifying stage, where each participant will bowl a set number of games—typically six. The total cumulative pinfall from these games will determine the preliminary rankings. Performances in the qualifying rounds are critical, as only the top-ranked athletes from each age and gender category will advance to the final stage.

Finals

The top athletes—usually the top 4, 6, or 8 depending on the number of entries—will progress to the finals in their respective categories. The finals may consist of an additional series of games, with pinfall from these rounds alone determining the final rankings. Qualification scores will not carry over to the finals unless otherwise specified in the competition briefing.

In some categories, finals may also adopt a step-ladder or knockout format, based on final entry numbers and the decision of the Bowling Committee

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Scoring

The competition will use **total pinfall** as the primary method for ranking participants. Each athlete's total number of pins knocked down across their games will be recorded and used to determine their standings in both qualification and finals.

In the event of a tie for a medal position, a **one-game roll-off** will be conducted to determine the final placement. If a tie persists after the roll-off, further tie-breaking procedures, such as sudden-death bowling (frame by frame), may be used at the discretion of the tournament officials.

Participants are expected to bring and use their **own personal bowling equipment** during the competition. This typically includes:

- Bowling shoes: Non-marking, sport-specific shoes are required.
- Rosin bags, wrist supports, gloves, or braces: If used, these must meet safety regulations and not interfere with play.

All personal equipment must conform to the technical requirements of international bowling standards. Athletes are responsible for the maintenance and condition of their gear. Organisers reserve the right to inspect equipment for compliance and safety. Use of unauthorised or unsafe equipment may lead to disqualification.

All athletes participating in the OMGAD2026 bowling competition are required to wear appropriate sportswear that reflects the spirit of fair play and professionalism. The following uniform guidelines apply:

- Shirts: Collared or bowling-specific shirts must be worn. Sleeveless tops, tank tops, or tops with offensive graphics or messages are not permitted.
- Trousers or skirts: Athletes may wear tailored sports trousers, skirts, or skorts. Denim jeans, shorts above mid-thigh, or excessively loose or torn clothing are not allowed.
- Uniforms must be free of any political messages, personal slogans, or imagery that could be deemed inappropriate or disruptive to the spirit of the competition.

Technical Delegate

The Technical Delegate endorsed by IBF will be announced in Version 2 of the Guide. The Technical Delegate will oversee the implementation of all sport specific rules and requirements at the Games.

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This guide will be updated Version 2 by 1 September 2025. Important additional information will be available at that time. In the meantime, please address all inquiries to: sports@omgad2026.ae

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