

MBA of A Standing Rules and Policies

As at February 28, 2026

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1. Membership

- 1.1. The Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta and its members shall support the aims of the Alberta 5 Pin Bowlers' Association, the Bowling Proprietors Association of Alberta, and any other local, provincial, or national association that acts in the best interest of 5 Pin bowling in Canada.
- 1.2. Master Bowlers Association of Alberta members must be at least 19 years of age by December 31 of the current bowling season.
- 1.3. New members must successfully complete the Community Sport Initiation Clinic for 5 pin bowling.
- 1.4. All members must be recommended/sponsored by a: proprietor/bowling center manager, an MBA of A Learning Facilitator, or a current member of the MBA of A Board of Directors each bowling season.
- 1.5. Members may be involved with the administration of the current Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta or Alberta 5 Pin Bowlers' Association in the areas of tournaments, score keeping etc.
- 1.6. Each member in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta. Members must be in attendance to vote.
- 1.7. Athletes in developmental and recreational sport shall be able to participate in the gender category in which they identify, without any need for disclosure of information or other requirements. The same policy of inclusion would apply to high performance athletes up until the point where they must comply with international federation rules (which may state differently and will likely be along the lines of the new IOC consensus). Therefore, bowlers of the MBAofA will only be asked to identify which "Participating Gender" division they will be competing in; not what gender they are. A bowler's "Participating Gender" must be declared before they bowl their first MBAofA

tournament of the current bowling season. Once a Participating Gender has been declared it cannot be switched until the beginning of the next season. The two Participating Gender divisions are: male or female.

2. Dress Code

The purpose of the Master Bowlers uniform is to provide our membership with a recognizable common banner, when used correctly, will enable you to represent our association in a professional, all-inclusive manner, while maintaining individual personal dress preferences.

The uniform is a reflection of our professionalism, integrity and respect for our sport, our association and ourselves and should be adorned accordingly.

- 2.1. The Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta (MBA of A) official **"Ceremonial"** uniform is the **"Traditional"** Masters blue shirt, worn with solid black-coloured bottoms. The following clothing items are **not acceptable**: Denims, rugby pants, sweatpants, cargo pants, cargo shorts.
- 2.2. The **"Traditional"** shirt has shoulder epaulets. Members can display the division they are competing in by wearing black epaulets or black slip-ons on their epaulets if they are competing in the Tournament division; blue epaulets or blue slip-ons on their epaulets if they are competing in the Teaching division; gold epaulets or gold slip-ons on their epaulets if they are competing in the Senior division.
- 2.3. **The "Ceremonial" uniform must be worn at the MBA of Canada nationals' opening and closing ceremonies** and any other tournament decided upon by the MBA of A Board. The "Ceremonial" uniform may be required at events when MBA of A members are engaged with YBC members.
- 2.4. The MBA of A official **"Casual"** uniform is an authorized golf shirt or selected authorized shirt I.E. Nationals shirt, worn with solid black-coloured bottoms. The following clothing items are **not acceptable**: Denims, rugby pants, sweatpants, cargo pants, cargo shorts.
- 2.5. T-shirts may be worn under the "Traditional" or Masters golf shirt. The T-shirt should be solid black, white or navy in colour. The T-Shirt must be short sleeved, not $\frac{3}{4}$ or full length sleeved. The bottom of the t-shirt must not hang out below the "Traditional" or golf shirt.
- 2.6. At the MBA of A qualifying tournaments members must wear either the **"Ceremonial"** or **"Casual"** uniform. Members not in a regulation uniform may be disqualified from the tournament. New members will be given a grace period for qualifying tournaments until their uniform arrives. A preferred uniform for new members is a solid blue, short sleeved, collared, golf shirt with solid black-coloured bottoms. The following clothing items are **not acceptable**: Denims, rugby pants, sweatpants, cargo pants, cargo shorts.
- 2.7. The only pins allowed to be attached to any official Masters Uniform shirt are Alberta Masters pins.
- 2.8. Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta uniforms must be clean and in good repair. Bowling shoes are considered part of the uniform and must be clean.

- 2.9. When a member is wearing a Master uniform, to maintain uniformity of our appearance, it is preferred that all clothing accessories be of solid colours such as black, grey, navy or white.

3. Conduct

- 3.1. Members shall observe all rules and regulations of the Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta in all Alberta 5 Pin Bowlers Association sanctioned tournaments.
- 3.2. The use of alcoholic beverages or drugs during an event is prohibited. Failure to comply shall result in immediate disqualification from the current tournament by the Tournament Director(s).
 - 3.2.1. **1st offence** – minimum suspension of two tournaments. This shall include the tournament in which the act was committed. Maximum suspension not to exceed one year from the date of the infraction.
 - 3.2.2. **2nd offence** – the Board of directors to rule on.
- 3.3. Conduct unbecoming a Master Bowler (**all divisions**) during an event (i.e.: swearing, kicking ball racks, hitting walls, giving the finger to the pins, lofting the ball down the lanes intentionally, etc.) will be handled in the following manner. One (1) warning will be given for the first offence. If a second offence occurs the bowler will be ejected from the event. Warnings and ejections may be issued by a Judge of Play, Zone Director, Tournament Director or a Proprietor.

If warnings must be issued to an individual at more than one (1) tournament, the Board at that time could issue a suspension from the remaining tournaments. As in all situations with suspension, the bowler would have the right to an appeal.
- 3.4. Failure to complete a frame, a game, or the tournament, except in the case of injury, illness, or extenuating circumstances (approved by the Tournament Director) without permission received from the Tournament Director(s), shall result in the Masters Bowler being suspended from that tournament and the next tournament. Discipline as per item 3.2.1
- 3.5. Any disputes between a Master Bowler and the Bowling Proprietors Association of Alberta or the Masters Association shall be settled by the right of appeal in writing to the Master Bowlers Association of Alberta by any parties.
- 3.6. Suspension or fining of a Master Bowler for conduct detrimental to the Master Bowlers Association of Alberta or the sport of 5 pin bowling can only result from a complaint in writing, and following a hearing conducted by the Master Bowlers Association of Alberta Board of Directors. All parties involved with the hearing shall be invited to the next meeting of the Board of Directors and any subsequent meetings, to discuss the case.
- 3.7. Any member suspended during a season shall be liable for any and all financial obligations as determined by the Tournament Director(s) of the tournament in which the suspension occurred. Failure to fulfill these obligations shall eliminate any possibility of re-instatement in the Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta.

4. Tournaments

- 4.1. MBA of A members competing in qualifying tournaments must be a member in good standing with the Alberta 5-Pin Bowlers' Association and the Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta.
- 4.2. To be eligible to compete at the MBAC Nationals, MBA of A members competing in qualifying tournaments must be a member in good standing with the Alberta 5-Pin Bowlers' Association and the Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta for the current bowling season and have completed a Community Sport Initiation clinic for 5 pin Bowling prior to Teaching or Senior Division provincials or Tournament Division tournament 3 of the current bowling season.
- 4.3. MBA of A members competing in tournaments must choose the division they are competing in for the season (and meet its eligibility requirements) before their first tournament of the season. The members will not be allowed to change divisions until the following season.
- 4.4. A Master bowler may be allowed to change Zones mid-way through the season because of relocation. All other reasons/requests for changing Zones mid-way through the season must meet Board approval.
- 4.5. To be eligible to be a National Coach, you must be a certified Level II coach with Competition Coach Upgrade or be a certified Introduction to Competition Coach; by the start of the 5th Tournament Division tournament or by the time the Teaching and Senior Division Provincial Tournament begins, whichever comes first.
- 4.6. In order to qualify as a participant for coaching at Nationals: you must be a paid up MBAofA member for the current season. If the participant competes in at least 3 tournaments that bowling season in any division, there will be no assessment fee. If 3 tournaments are not bowled, then the coach/applicant must pay the full assessment fee. The general basis for the assessment fee is calculated in this manner:
 - 4.6.1. The assessment is the sum of the Teaching/Senior Division tournament participation fee plus the cost of entering 3 Teaching/Senior Division tournaments and the cost of participating at provincials, less any fees already paid prior to coach selections.
- 4.7. All other rules are covered by the Canadian 5 pin Bowlers' Association's rule book.
- 4.8. All tournaments should be held in certified houses unless certified lanes are not available.
- 4.9. Master Bowlers who qualify for Provincial teams through the tournament structure are obligated to bowl for their provincial teams unless consent has been awarded by the MBA of A board of Directors. Failure to do so, without just cause, shall be dealt with by the Board of Directors.
- 4.10. During MBA of A tournament play, other than medically prescribed devices such as hearing aids, no electronic headsets of any kind are to be worn once the bowler is on the approach.
- 4.11. Bowlers arriving late will not be allowed to make up frames or games. They will start at the frame/game the others on their team are in.

5. Competing in the Tournament Division

- 5.1. Members must have a season ending league, or season ending MBA of A tournament average of 215 or higher for participating women's division and 230 or higher for the participating men's division.
- 5.2. There shall be a one season "period of grace" for those members of the Tournament Division who no longer meet the minimum average requirements. If after the "period of grace" they do not have an acceptable average, they cannot be accepted into the Tournament Division, but can join the Teaching Division, Senior Division (min 50 years of age), or maintain their basic membership in the Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta.
- 5.3. The tournament Division shall bowl on a total pinfall and points basis. The singles position is based on total points. The team positions are based on pinfall.

The maximum points allowed would be 125 for the Participating men's division bowlers and 75 for the Participating women's division bowlers. These total points are comprised from the best 4/6 tournament points plus the best 4/6 total pinfall.

In the Participating men's division, 25 points are given to the person with the highest pinfall in each tournament for a possible total of 100 after 4 tournaments. The person with the highest total pinfall from their best 4 tournaments will also be awarded 25 points. In the event of a tie in points, the bowler with the highest pinfall from their best 4 tournaments will be the single.

In the Participating women's division, 15 points are given to the person with the highest pinfall in each tournament for a possible total of 60 after 4 tournaments. The person with the highest total pinfall from their best 4 tournaments will also be awarded 15 points. In the event of a tie in points, the bowler with the highest pinfall from their best 4 tournaments will be the single.

The singles representative will be the Participating male division bowler and Participating female division bowler with highest total points. The team representatives will be comprised of the next 5 bowlers in the Participating men's division and Participating women's divisions with the best pinfall from their best 4 of 6 tournaments.

- 5.4. In the event of a tie when using pinfall to determine the 5th spot of the team, the winner will be declared by using the point system. The bowler with the highest point earned in any one of their best four tournaments will be the winner. If there is still a tie,

then the bowler with the highest point earned in the 5th and 6th tournaments will determine the winner.

6. Competing in the Teaching Division

- 6.1. The Teaching Division shall bowl on a pins over average basis in their tournaments. The average to be used shall be a rolling last 5 MBA of A tournaments' average. If the Master Bowler does not have 5 tournaments in Master's tournament play recorded, a composite of their highest league average combined with any MBA tournament play average will be used. If they have not competed in any MBA of A tournaments yet, they will use their highest league average in their first tournament. The rolling last 5 tournament average or composite average shall be used in National team qualifying Masters tournaments including Provincials. For the sake of calculating the rolling last 5 tournament average, MBA of A Provincials will be considered as 2 individual tournaments. (One on Saturday and one on Sunday). If a Teaching Division bowler has qualified for provincials after playing in 3 tournaments and they bowl the fourth tournament, the fourth tournament scores will not count towards their rolling last 5 tournament average, at provincials nor the next seasons. The bowler will still be eligible to win "Stars".
- 6.2. Teaching Division Tournament averages for any bowlers who have been out of the Masters for 3 or more years shall be a new composite average using their current league averages or if applicable see Rule 6.2.a.
- 6.2.a. Any Teaching Division bowler who doesn't belong to a league (and doesn't have a league average) **AND** is new to the MBA of Alberta or has been out of the MBAofA for 3 or more years, will build a tournament average from scratch. At their first Teaching Division tournament they will bowl to create an average and the result of that tournament will be a "0" zero. It won't be a plus or a minus. Their first tournament result will count towards their "best 3 of 4" tournaments in their attempt to qualify for provincials. At their second and subsequent tournaments they will use the average of their completed tournaments until they build the rolling 40 game tournament average.
- 6.3. In the event of a disability, the Master bowler may appeal to the Board for a re-evaluation of their tournament average.
- 6.4. The Teaching Division shall consist of eight (8) Zones – the North shall consist of zones 1-4; the South shall consist of zones 5-8. Competitors shall bowl up to four (4) tournaments of eight (8) games each. The best three (3) out of four (4) tournaments will be used to determine which members have attained a plus (+) score thereby qualifying them to advance to the Provincial round. The provincial round shall consist of

sixteen (16) games bowled in two (2) days. The top five (5) Participating women's division bowlers and top five (5) Participating men's division bowlers, pins over average, shall make up the Participating women's and men's teams to represent Alberta at the National Championships.

- 6.5. If because of injury or disability, a bowler finds it necessary to change their delivery to the opposite hand from their normal delivery, they shall be permitted to do so for the given tournament, however, they must use an average established for the hand with which they are bowling. For purposes of determining their average, rule 6.1 must be followed with respect to use of 5 tournaments in Masters tournaments or a composite average if 5 tournaments have not been played in Masters tournaments with the given hand. If the player does not have an established league average (minimum 12 games) for the given hand, they will not be eligible to bowl with that hand in the tournament. For purposes of qualifying for advancement to the Provincial round, the player must have a plus for their best 3 tournaments regardless of which hand was used in the qualifying tournaments. At the Provincial round, the player must bowl with their normal hand unless the injury or disability remains in effect. Regardless of which hand is used, the player must bowl with the same hand throughout the Provincial round, and they must use their established composite average for the hand that they are using.
- 6.6. For Provincials, tournament averages only shall be used. Bowlers who do not have a tournament average shall use a composite average (including highest league average).
- 6.7. If a bowler misses a game during a tournament, they will receive a games score of zero for each game missed. A score of 0 will count towards the bowler's 8 game tournament total score when calculating POA for the event. Regarding POA, the bowler will receive a 'negative' value of their tournament average for a missed game. I.E., a bowler with a 177 average is absent for game 1 of the tournament, they will receive a game score of 0 and will therefore receive a POA of minus 177 in game 1. If a bowler receives a game score of zero for a game the game is considered to have been played.
NOTE: The bowler's rolling last 5 MBA of A tournament average will only be changed by full games actually bowled. In this case the bowler's next rolling 5 MBA of A tournament average will be based on 39 games instead of the usual 40 games (5* 8 games).
- 6.8. If a bowler is late to start a game or has permission and leaves a game early, the partial game scores will count as is and will count towards the bowler's 8 game tournament total score when calculating POA. I.E. A bowler has a tournament average of 177. It is the 4th frame, and they request permission to leave the event for medical reasons and it is approved. If they leave and their score is 70, their POA for that game will be minus 107. This would also apply to a bowler arriving late for a game. If they were only on time to play a small handful of frames and finished with a score of 70, they would receive a POA of minus 107 for that game. **NOTE:** The bowler's rolling last 5 MBA of A tournament average will only be changed by full games actually bowled. In this case the bowler's next rolling 5 MBA of A tournament average will be based on 39 games instead of the usual 40 games (5* 8 games)

- 6.9. In the event of a tie in the teaching division provincial final positions: 1st and 2nd, or 5th and 6th or 6th and 7th, a one game roll-off will take place. The winner will be determined by the bowler who bowls the highest pins over average.

7. Competing in the Senior Division

- 7.1. Members must be 50 years of age, on or before September 1st of the current bowling season.
- 7.2. In the Senior Division, a Master must choose to bowl either scratch or pins over average. The average to be used in the POA side shall be a rolling last 5 MBA of A tournaments' average. If the Master Bowler does not have 5 tournaments in Master's tournament play recorded, a composite of their highest league average combined with any MBA tournament play average will be used. If they have not competed in any MBA of A tournaments yet, they will use their highest league average in their first tournament. The rolling last 5 tournament average or composite average shall be used in National team qualifying Masters tournaments including Provincials. For the sake of calculating the rolling last 5 tournament average, MBA of A Provincials will be considered as 2 individual tournaments. (One on Saturday and one on Sunday). If a Senior Division POA bowler has qualified for provincials after playing in 3 tournaments and they bowl the fourth tournament, the fourth tournament scores will not count towards their rolling last 5 tournament average, at provincials nor the next seasons The bowler will still be eligible to win "Stars".
- 7.2a. Any Senior Division POA bowler who doesn't belong to a league (and doesn't have a league average) **AND** is new to the MBA of Alberta or has been out of the MBAofA for 3 or more years, will build a tournament average from scratch for the POA side. At their first Senior Division tournament they will bowl to create an average and the result of that tournament will be a "0" zero. It won't be a plus or a minus. Their first tournament result will count towards their "best 3 of 4" tournaments in their attempt to qualify for provincials. At their second and subsequent tournaments they will use the average of their completed tournaments until they build the rolling 40 game tournament average.
- 7.3. Tournament averages for any bowlers who have been out of the Masters for 3 or more years shall start with a new composite average using their current highest league average.
- 7.4. In the event of a disability, the Master bowler may appeal to the Board for a re-evaluation of their tournament average.
- 7.5. The Senior Division shall consist of eight (8) Zones. They shall bowl four (4) tournaments of eight (8) games each. The best three (3) out of four (4) tournaments shall be used to determine the Senior Division members advancing to the Provincial finals. Each zone will advance all pins over average Masters who are a plus. The Scratch division is the top 50% of the Scratch bowlers in each zone plus the next 2 competitors

in the province with the highest 3 out of 4 qualifying scratch totals, who are not in the top 50%. Qualifying Masters from each zone shall advance to a provincial round.

Seniors advancing to the Provincial shall bowl based on their qualifying format; either POA or scratch. The Provincial round shall consist of sixteen (16) games bowled over two (2) days. The National team shall be made up of combined pins over average and scratch Seniors. The ratio of Pins over Average to Scratch members will be based on total participants in each division. The ratios being 0-20% - one (1) position available, >20% but <50% - two (2) positions available.

- 7.6. In the POA category if because of injury or disability, a bowler finds it necessary to change their delivery to the opposite hand from their normal delivery, they shall be permitted to do so for the given tournament, however, they must use an average established for the hand with which they are bowling. For purposes of determining their average, rule 7.2 must be followed with respect to use of 5 tournaments in Masters tournaments or a composite average if 5 tournaments have not been played in Masters tournaments with the given hand. If the player does not have an established league average (minimum 12 games) for the given hand, they will not be eligible to bowl with that hand in the tournament. For purposes of qualifying for advancement to the Provincial round, the player must have a plus for their best 3 tournaments regardless of which hand was used in the qualifying tournaments. At the Provincial round, the player must bowl with their normal hand unless the injury or disability remains in effect. Regardless of which hand is used, the player must bowl with the same hand throughout the Provincial round and they must use their established composite average for the hand that they are using.
- 7.7. For Provincials, tournament averages only shall be used. Bowlers who do not have a tournament average shall use a composite average (including league average).
- 7.8. In the POA side, if a bowler misses a game during a tournament, they will receive a score of zero for each game missed. A score of 0 will count towards the bowler's 8 game tournament total score when calculating POA for the event. Regarding POA, the bowler will receive a 'negative' value of their tournament average for a missed game. I.E., a bowler with a 177 average is absent for game 1 of the tournament, they will receive a game score of 0 and will therefore receive a POA of minus 177 in game 1. If a bowler receives a game score of zero for a game the game is considered to have been played. **NOTE:** The bowler's rolling last 5 MBA of A tournament average will only be changed by full games actually bowled. In this case the bowler's next rolling 5 MBA of A tournament average will be based on 39 games instead of the usual 40 games (5* 8 games)
- 7.9. In the POA side, if a bowler is late to start a game or has permission and leaves a game early, the partial game scores will count as is and will count towards the bowler's 8 game tournament total score when calculating POA. I.E. A bowler has a tournament average of 177. It is the 4th frame, and they request permission to leave the event for medical reasons and it is approved. If they leave and their score is 70, their POA for that game will be minus 107. This would also apply to a bowler arriving late for a game. If they were only on time to play a small handful of frames and finished with a score of

70, they would receive a POA of minus 107 for that game. **NOTE:** The bowler's rolling last 5 MBA of A tournament average will only be changed by full games actually bowled. In this case the bowler's next rolling 5 MBA of A tournament average will be based on 39 games instead of the usual 40 games (5* 8 games)

- 7.10. Ties in the POA Division. In the event of a tie for 1st place, the final qualifying spot, and the Alternate position, after the qualifying rounds within this division, a one game roll off will be bowled and the bowler with the highest pins over average score will get the spot.

Ties in the Scratch Division. In the event of a tie for 1st place, the final qualifying spot and the Alternate position, after the qualifying rounds within this division, a one game roll off will be bowled and the bowler with the highest scratch score will get the spot.

In the event of a pins over average tie between the POA and Scratch division winners after the qualifying rounds, a one game roll off will be bowled and the bowler with the highest pins over average score will earn the Singles title.

- 7.11. The Senior division team advancing to nationals must include one Participating Male bowler and one Participating Female bowler. In the event all 5 qualifiers are of the same Participating gender, the next highest qualifier of the opposite Participating gender will take the final qualifying position. This final position will come from either the Scratch division or the POA division depending on which division has the most qualifying positions available on the team. I.E. If the scratch side is sending 3 players and the POA side only 2 players and they are all competing as "Men", the highest-ranking competing "woman" from the scratch side will displace the 3rd place "man" from the scratch group to compose the team.

8. General

- 8.1. Any issue not covered by these rules will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis By the MBA of A board.
- 8.2. Board members may be an elected or appointed member of the current Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta or Alberta 5 Pin Bowlers' Association Board of Directors
- 8.3. The Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta and its members support and endorse the aims of The Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS).
- 8.4. The Master Bowlers' Association of Alberta supports and endorses the seven True Sport principles: Go For It, Play Fair, Respect Others, Keep it Fun, Stay Healthy, Include Everyone and Give Back.
- 8.5. The MBA of A encourages all members to understand and follow the guidelines of "Understanding the Rule of 2".

Harassment Policy/Procedure – March 18, 2006

A board of director or office personnel, upon receiving a written complaint, shall forward the complaint to the MBA President for investigation. Confidentiality is to be kept at all times to protect all parties.

The President may seek legal advice if they deem it necessary.

The President will then interview the accused and the complainant as soon as possible to determine if further investigation is required. The President may suspend the individual while they complete their investigation. This is appropriate when children/youth are involved. The President will then complete due diligence by interviewing all persons involved in the event.

Upon completing due diligence, the President may suspend the accused until the next Board of Directors Meeting. The suspension must be made verbally with a letter in writing to the individual. The President must also verbally inform the injured party of the action taken or not taken.

The President must then inform the board that all information heard must be kept in strict confidence to protect the individuals involved as well as the MBA of A.

The President will then present the facts, as he knows them, to the board of directors. A decision based on a majority vote will then decide if the accused is suspended and for how long. If youths are involved, a lifetime ban is appropriate.

The accused may appeal the decision as per the Conduct Section Item 5 of the Standing Rules and Policy.

The board's decision must then be communicated in written form by the President to the accused and verbally to the accuser. A copy of the letter(s) will be kept in the individual's file at the office of the MBA of A.

Effective the 2009-2010 season, the Master Bowlers' Association requires that Master Bowlers who are traveling with youth to our Master/YBC Tournaments or Master/Youth Tournaments have a police check done.

Youth is defined as aged 19 and under. A police check on file with the Alberta 5 Pin Bowlers' Association or Bowling Proprietor's Association of Alberta is sufficient.

The Bowling Proprietors of Alberta are responsible for ensuring the Master Bowlers who work with their youth bowlers in their centers have completed a screening process as determined by each proprietor.