

NATIONAL DISABILITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



This document has been written to answer the frequently asked questions received through the feedback process that was recently undertaken. It is important to remember that common sense will be used at all times. This should be used when looking holistically at the Championships. We are looking forward to increasing the options and participation opportunities and choice for all members of the community with a disability.

A lot of work has been going to ensure the Championships continue to grow and provide the best possible experience for bowlers with a disability. A unified approach will see changes that not everyone will initially accept. There has been a lot of comprises from both TBA and the Australian Disabilities Tenpin Inc. to ensure the success of a unified championship.

Entry forms and registration information will be available in early January and will distributed to State affiliated bodies.

1. *What are the requirements for the Disability Support Pension?*

Information around the eligibility for members of the community to gain a Disability Support Pension (DSP) are quite clear. As of October 2012, requirements for a DSP are:

- Must be over 16 years of age and under pension age
- Must be an Australian citizen and reside in Australia
- Must be permanently blind or have been assessed as having a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment.

Not all people with a disability are eligible to receive the DSP. There are a number of factors around financial, workforce employment and assets that form part of the eligibility process. For more information around the Disability Support Pension please visit www.humanservices.gov.au

Individual circumstances surrounding the receiving of the Disability Support Pension is not the responsibility of Tenpin Bowling Australia. This is the responsibility of the Department of Human Services and other Federal and State based Government agencies.

If you believe fraudulent activity has occurred in people gaining a disability support pension that breaches the guidelines mentioned above you are encouraged to contact the Australian Government Department of Human Services on 132 717.

- Children under the age of 16 who are recipients of the Child Disability Allowance (through the Department of Human Services) can use this as accepted evidence.

2. How many forms of evidence do I need to show if I am questioned?

If the need arises and you are asked for evidence of your disability, then only one type of evidence will need to be shown. This can be either a valid disability support pension card, a letter from a professional, previous classification from Tenpin Bowling Australia or partner National Disability Sports Organisation (NDSO) including Blind Sports Australia, Deaf Sports Australia and AUSRAPID.

It is the responsibility of the State Organisation that the team represents to ensure that all participants have suitable evidence before arriving at the championship.

Please Note: Currently Special Olympics Membership is not on the list of accepted evidence. At the moment there is no official agreement between TBA and Special Olympics that allows this to occur. Discussions are ongoing to allow this to happen. It is anticipated that members of Special Olympics groups will already be in receipt of alternate forms of evidence.

3. Will visual observation be used to confirm disability?

For specific types of disabilities, the tournament director will be able to make visual observations to confirm disability. These groups can include amputees, cochlear implants and paraplegia. Common sense is the key.

4. I don't have an average when I enter the championship. What do I do?

The tournament director will allocate an average to bowlers who don't have an average prior to the commencement of the championship. There is no change from previous championships to this process.

5. How will the "teams" format work?

The teams event in the championships will be 3 man teams. This will be reviewed at the end of the tournament and may change in future years. This change will affect the participants who have previously attended the TBA National Disability Championships.

6. What changes will there be to the State Team Events?

Both championships contain a one day interstate 5 man team event and it is our intention to keep these event formats as similar as possible. Every State and Territory will be invited to field one team consisting of up to 8 bowlers in both the handicap event, The Cole Cup Challenge, and a scratch event (yet to be named). The Cole Cup Challenge will be open to all bowlers with a disability regardless of average using a handicap of 100% of 200. The scratch division will also contain up to 8 bowlers and is targeted towards bowlers with an average of 140 or higher. No handicap will apply in this event. Please note that bowlers can elect to choose which event they wish to enter, regardless of their average. However as both tournaments will be conducted concurrently, a bowler can only compete in one event. Further details on specific tournament rules for both events will be posted on the TBA website.

7. Is there a restriction on how many entries a bowler can make?

- a.) A bowler can bowl in any number of “Singles” Events
- b.) A bowler can bowl in any number of “Doubles” Events, but must bowl with a different partner each time
- c.) A bowler can bowl in any number of “Teams” Events, but must bowl with a different line up in each team. In other words two can bowl together in two teams, but the third member must be a different bowler in each team.
- d.) An all events entry will consist of the **highest** score achieved by a bowler in singles, doubles and teams.

8. How does grading work?

Bowlers will be graded based on their average. A bowler must use the highest league average in any organised play over a minimum of 18 games as at December 31, 2012. If a bowler uses special equipment to aid in delivering the ball, averages must be established using that equipment.

Australian Disability Championships Grading Table:

GRADE	SINGLES & ALL EVENTS		DOUBLES	TEAMS 3 PEOPLE
	MALE	*FEMALE		
OPEN	180 & over	*170 & over	350 & above	525 & above
CLASSIC	160-179	*150-169	310-349	465-524
A	140-159	130-149	270-309	405-464
B	120-139	110-129	230-269	345-404
C	100-119	90-109	190-229	285-344
D	80-99	70-89	150-189	225-284
E	79 & below	69 & below	149 & below	224 & below

Please Note: All fields marked with an * (Open and Classic Female) should only be used as a guide. This information is still to be determined and will be provided in the tournament entry pack.

9. *Are bowlers segregated based on their type of disability?*

No. All bowlers will compete against all bowlers in their grade regardless of disability. There is no change to how this has operated in previous years.

In conjunction with TBA several partner National Disability Sport Organisations (NDSO) operate National Championships. These organisations include Blind Sports Australia and Deaf Sports Australia. Special Olympics also various competitions specific for participants with intellectual disabilities.

This structure is well received by the members of the disability community and is a recognised practice of the wider sports industry. It provides people with a disability the best possible opportunities and choice regarding participation.