

ONTARIO OPEN 5 PIN CHAMPIONSHIPS

For Ontario's Elite Bowlers!!!

Entry Fee: Contact Your Local Association
Begins: November 1, 2026

A scratch score tournament designed for your high average bowlers. Competitors bowl a total of twenty (20) games to determine the eighteen (18) men and ladies who will represent their Zones at the Provincial Championships.

The top nine (9) men and the top nine (9) ladies will qualify to make the men's, ladies', and mixed teams from your Zone. These teams will advance to the Provincial Championships that will take place over the Easter weekend.

At the Provincial Championships the best bowlers across Ontario will compete in a match play format using scratch scores. This competition will determine Provincial Champions in each division (Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Teams), as well as a Men's and Ladies' Single Champions.

These individuals will advance to the National Championships to determine the best bowlers in Canada.

ONTARIO OPEN 5 PIN CHAMPIONSHIPS

F O R M A T

The Ontario Open 5 Pin Championships consists of three (3) steps:

- **ZONE FINALS**
- **PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

GENERAL RULES

1. Open to all bowlers and coaches **19 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER** as of **DECEMBER 31 OF THE CURRENT BOWLING SEASON**, and must be a member in good standing of the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association.
2. Entry deadline to be set by each Zone Association.
3.
 - a) Entry fee to be decided by each Zone Association.
 - b) All Zones must pay the designated assessment for this event.
 - c) **All bowlers and coaches participating in the Provincial Championships must pay an additional assessment fee of \$50.00.**
 - d) **All bowlers and coaches participating in the National Championships must pay a National Open assessment fee of \$200.00.**
4. All bowlers wishing to qualify for both the Regular Open and Senior Open must declare, prior to the start of the tournament, their intent and pay the prevailing entry fee, prior to throwing the first ball.
5. **REPLACEMENT OF A BOWLER POLICY:**

 Replacement of a bowler, once qualified for the Zone Contingent, shall not be permitted unless the reason is submitted in writing on the Tournament Withdrawal Form and signed by said bowler. Under extenuating circumstances, the Provincial Tournament Committee may waive the required Tournament Withdrawal Form from the bowler however; the reason(s) for withdrawal must be verified in writing by the Zone.
6. Any bowler who withdraws, for any reason, before the next level of competition as in Rule 5 above, is subject to automatic suspension from this event by the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association and forfeits the right to return to competition in this event for the balance of the tournament.
7. Replacement of a bowler on any team may only be made with the approval of the Provincial Tournament Committee. (See Rule #5 above). The bowler being replaced shall not be permitted to compete in the Open event for the balance of the tournament.
8. The replacement bowler(s) for each Zone shall be the runner-up (man or lady) from the Zone finals. If a bowler is unable to compete in the Provincial Championships on either the Men's, Ladies or Mixed team, the "replacement bowler" will fill the vacant spot. There will be no "move-ups" from the existing team bowlers. (See Provincial Rule #10)

9. If the replacement bowler takes on a coaching position, they will forfeit the right to be the replacement bowler for their Zone Contingent.
10. If a replacement bowler is unable to compete at the Provincial Championships, a Zone may designate an **"EMERGENCY SPARE"**. The name of the emergency spare (one man and one lady) must be submitted to the Tournament Committee in writing at a coaches' meeting, or the team goes without for the remainder of the competition. Emergency spares must have entered the Zone finals and must be in a shirt of their Zone colour and identification.
11. A replacement bowler or emergency spare cannot be included in the team's starting line-up for the bowler's **FIRST GAME ONLY**. If the team advances to the National Championships, the replacement bowler or emergency spare shall be deemed to be an original qualifier.
12. When replacement of more than one bowler is approved on any team under General Rules 5 through 11 above, the **FIRST** approved substitute(s) shall be deemed to be an original qualifier.
13. The Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association Tournament Committee reserves the right to complete the field, and all decisions by the Committee shall be final.
14. The Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association Tournament Committee may, if deemed necessary, run a Wild Card Tournament to eliminate the need for BYES at the Provincial Championships.
15. Personal bowling balls may be used if facilities permit. House balls must be used if the bowler's personal bowling balls have not been returned (no delay of game). **Two (2) personal bowling balls per competitor will be allowed on the rack at a time.** Personal bowling balls may be randomly inspected at any time during the tournament or on completion of the tournament. The use of personal bowling balls is at the bowler's own risk. The proprietor shall not be liable for any damage to personal bowling balls. Personal bowling balls shall be 4 3/4" to 5" in diameter, and 3 lbs. 4 ozs. to 3 lbs. 12 ozs. in weight, and must have distinguished markings with identifying letters or symbols for ball registration and identification. Should a question arise regarding the legality of a ball, the Tournament Director has the final say. Appeals/complaints regarding personal bowling balls may be made to the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association Tournament Committee.
16. All coaches are required to abide by the rules of the Coaching Policy and Coaches' Instructions.
17. Assistant coaches must be **COMMUNITY COACH TRAINED OR HIGHER** on or before **DECEMBER 31 OF THE CURRENT BOWLING SEASON**, and must be a member in good standing of the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association. In the event the coach is unable to participate, the assistant coach will be deemed to be the emergency replacement, providing they are **COMPETITIVE COACH CERTIFIED**.
18. All Canadian 5 Pin Bowlers' Association rules shall apply in all rounds.
19. In the case of any dispute, or interpretation of any rule, the decision of the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association Tournament Committee shall be final.
20. Each Zone Association must scan and submit the entry form for every bowler that entered the tournament by email to **entries@o5pba.ca** no later than **FEBRUARY 1, 2027**.

21. No mechanical noisemakers will be allowed in any round of the event.

ZONE FINALS

1. The Zone finals shall consist of twenty (20) games bowled between **NOVEMBER 1, 2026** and **JANUARY 24, 2027** in centres designated by the Local Zone Association. **To qualify for the Open, a bowler must bowl one (1) game to be eligible.**
2. a) All bowlers may bowl in the Zone of their **"PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE"**.

DEFINITION OF PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE:

As a guide, Principal Residence shall be the residence individuals use for taxation purposes, driver's licence, etc. Bowlers with more than one residence, such as commuters or individuals living away from home for employment reasons, must contact the Provincial Office for a ruling.

- b)
 - i) Bowlers/coaches who only compete in regular league play as registered members of an O5PBA sanctioned or affiliated league, in the Zone of their principal residence, and individuals who do not compete in an O5PBA sanctioned or affiliated league, must enter the Open in the Zone of their principal residence.
 - ii) **Bowlers/coaches will be eligible to compete in the Open in the Zone of their choice, if they have a rolling average in that Zone, with a minimum of fifty (50) games over three (3) years, as published in the Zone Average Book and on the O5PBA website every year. That average will be based on fifty (50) games over regular league play and/or O5 tournament play within that zone.**

A COACH WHO IS NOT ACTIVELY BOWLING AT ALL (NOT AN O5 MEMBER FROM ANY LEAGUE) WILL BE EXEMPT FROM THE 50-GAME ROLLING AVERAGE CRITERIA, SO THEY CAN COACH IN A NON-RESIDENT ZONE.

DEFINITION OF LEAGUES:

SANCTIONED – A league will be registered and sanctioned providing that 75% of the participating bowlers purchase a membership card.

AFFILIATED – A league will be affiliated providing that at least ten (10) bowlers from the league purchase a membership card. Included with those bowlers must be the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the league.

- c) All qualifiers to the Zone Contingent shall have their residence verified by the Zone Association Tournament Director.
- d) The penalty for bowling in the wrong Zone is an automatic suspension from the event.
- e) All decisions may be appealed. Requests to have suspensions lifted must be made in writing to the Provincial Board of Directors.

3. Other factors that may affect residency rules are as follows:

- a) Any bowler/coach who has changed their principal residence in the past two (2) years has the option of bowling in the Zone into which they moved to, or of bowling in the Zone they have moved from within the Province, for the **2026-2027 SEASON ONLY**.

The following year, the bowler must bowl in the Zone in which they reside, except as in Rule 2 b) above.

- b) If the boundaries of a Zone or Zones are changed by the O5PBA, all bowlers affected by the change may continue to bowl in the Zone in which they were residing, prior to the boundary change, for a maximum of one (1) year. However, if they choose to bowl in the new Zone in which they now reside, prior to the conclusion of the one (1) year grace period, they may do so. By doing this they will forfeit all rights to return to bowl in their old/original Zone, except as in Rule 2 b) above.
 - c) If a Zone is "Split" to create two new Zones, bowlers must bowl in the Zone of their principal residence, except as in Rule 2 b) above.
4. The top nine (9) men and the top nine (9) ladies, based on total pinfall, at the completion of the Zone finals, shall qualify for the Provincial Championships.
5. The top three (3) men and the top three (3) ladies will be recognized as the Singles Competitors for the Provincial Championships.
6. The next three (3) men and three (3) ladies, along with the singles competitors, shall make up the Men's and Ladies' teams.
7. The next three (3) men and three (3) ladies shall make up the Mixed Team.
8. In the event that a Zone Association cannot field a full contingent for the Provincial Championships as noted above, the following will apply:
- a) Three (3) to four (4) entries will field Singles Competitors only
 - b) Five (5) entries will field a Men's or Ladies' Team (with no spare)
 - c) Six (6) entries will field three (3) Singles Competitors plus a Men's or Ladies' Team
 - d) Seven (7) entries will field three (3) Singles Competitors, plus a Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Team, with no spares on all teams
 - e) Eight (8) entries will field three (3) Singles Competitors, plus a Men's, Ladies' Team and Mixed Team (with no Mixed team spare)
 - f) For any other combination of entries, please contact the Provincial Office for a ruling.
9. In the event of a tie for any qualifying position, a one (1) game roll-off shall be held to determine the final placing.
10. Coaches shall be selected by each team (**Men's, Ladies' and Mixed**) at the completion of the Zone finals. All coaches must be **COMPETITIVE COACH CERTIFIED** on or before **DECEMBER 31 OF THE CURRENT BOWLING SEASON**, and must be a member in good standing of the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association. Rule 2 b) above may also be applied to choice of coaches. If a team cannot decide on a coach from within their Zone, the selection

will be done based on the new guidelines in the Coaching Selection under Open Championships.

11. In an emergency situation, the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association Tournament Committee may exercise the right to "fill the field".

KEY DATES

Zone Finals.....**November 1, 2026-January 24, 2027**
(TWENTY (20) GAMES)

Provincial Championships**March 24-27, 2027**

National Championships.....**June 1-5, 2027**