

ONTARIO SENIOR OPEN 5 PIN CHAMPIONSHIPS

For Bowlers 50 Years of Age and Over

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

A scratch score tournament designed for bowlers fifty (50) years of age and over. Competitors will bowl a total of ten (10) games in conjunction with the Open Qualifying Round in their Zone to determine the six (6) men and ladies who will represent their Zone at the Provincial Championships.

The top three (3) men and the top three (3) ladies, based on total pinfall at the completion of the Zone Finals, shall make up the Senior Mixed Team from their Zone. These teams will advance to the Provincial Championships that will take place May 13-15, 2027 in Collingwood, Ontario.

At the Provincial Championships a match play format using scratch scores shall be used to determine the Senior Mixed Team Champions, as well as a Men's and Ladies' Single Champions.

ONTARIO SENIOR OPEN 5 PIN CHAMPIONSHIPS

F O R M A T

The Ontario Senior Open 5 Pin Championships consists of two (2) steps:

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

GENERAL RULES

1. Open to all bowlers **50 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.
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 - a) Entry fee to be decided by each Zone Association.
 - b) All participating Zones (**minimum of six (6)**) 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 \$30.00.**
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 Senior 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.
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 teams starting line-up for the bowlers **FIRST GAME ONLY**.
12. When replacement of more than one bowler is approved under General Rules 5 through 11 above, the **FIRST** approved substitution(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 **COMMUNITY COACH TRAINED OR HIGHER**.
18. All Canadian 5 Pin Bowlers' Association rules shall apply in all rounds.
19. In 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 ten (10) games bowled in conjunction with the Open Qualifying Round in your Zone between **NOVEMBER 1, 2026** and **JANUARY 24, 2027** in centres designated by the Local Zone Association. **To qualify for the Senior 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:

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 Senior Open in the Zone of their principal residence.
- ii) **Bowlers/coaches will be eligible to compete in the Senior Open in the Zone of their choice, if they have a rolling average in that Zone, with a minimum of thirty (30) 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 thirty (30) 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 30-GAME ROLLING AVERAGE CRITERIA, SO THEY CAN COACH IN A NON-RESIDENT ZONE.
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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:

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 three (3) men and the top three (3) ladies based on total pinfall at the completion of the Zone finals, shall make up the Senior Mixed Team and will advance to the Provincial Championships.
6. In the event of a tie for the last qualifying position, a one (1) game roll-off shall be held to determine the final placing.
7. A coach shall be selected by the team at the completion of the Zone finals. All coaches and assistant coaches must be a minimum **COMMUNITY COACH TRAINED** 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 Senior Open Championships.
8. 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**
(TEN (10) GAMES)

Provincial Championships**May 13-15, 2027**