



# WORLD BOWLING NEWSLETTER

2015-01-02 1(2)



**To all WTBA member federations**

## **Updated WTBA Statutes and Playing Rules**

WTBA Statutes and Playing rules effective 1 January 2015 are now available to download on Worldbowling website [www.worldbowling.org/regulations/](http://www.worldbowling.org/regulations/)

The only changes since last year are adjusted 4.11.3 a and a new 4.11.3 f.

## **Rule change effective 1 June 2015.**

As informed before WTBA Executive Board has also decided to change rule 11.12.2 to be effective 1 June 2015. We inform you about this change now so you can inform your players already now. Probably some of them need to adjust their bowling balls and we wanted to give them some time to adjust.

The new rule 11.12.2 will be as follows

*11.12.2 Holes or indentations for gripping purposes shall not exceed five and shall be limited to one for each finger and one for the thumb, all for the same hand. The player is not required to use all finger holes in any specific delivery, but they must be able to demonstrate, with the same hand, that each gripping hole can be simultaneously used for gripping purposes. Any thumb hole that is not used for gripping purposes during the delivery would be classified as a balance hole.*

Exception: WTBA approved tournaments in USA will follow this rule already from January 1, 2015, because USBC has decided to apply this change in the US from January 1.

## **2015 World Senior Championships**

2015 WSrC will be held at Sam's Town, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA 23 – 30 August 2015.

2015 WSrC Bulletin 1 has been sent out to all member federations today January 2, 2015.

You can find the Bulletin and all forms on [www.worldbowling.org/events/championships](http://www.worldbowling.org/events/championships)

## **WTBA Lane pattern**

The WTBA Lane pattern for 2015 are the same as in 2014. All patterns available on Worldbowling website [www.worldbowling.org/regulations/lane-patterns/](http://www.worldbowling.org/regulations/lane-patterns/)

## **Next WTBA Executive Board meeting**

Next WTBA Executive Board meeting will be held August 8 -9, 2015 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Member federations which want to submit proposals they wish to be considered by the WTBA Executive Board have to send the proposals to WTBA Secretary General latest July 8, 2015.



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## **Lausanne office**

In our continuing effort to strengthen our ties with the Olympic family of organizations, including the IOC, SportAccord, all of the Ifs recognized by the IOC, and WADA, the WTBA Executive Board approved the location of the World Bowling main office to Lausanne, Switzerland effective February 1, 2015. We will have Megan Tidbury, an Australian, staffing the office. She will act as our PR and Marketing Director. The existing offices, including FIQ Secretary-General office in Hong Kong, WTBA Secretary-General office in Stockholm, and President office in Arlington USA, will remain unchanged.

## **Olympic media shows interest for our sport**

We have the last year worked on the relations to Olympic media channels. Here is a list of articles the last weeks in Inside the Games and Around the Rings. In attached document an article in Sportcal today and a previous one.

*17 December, 2014*

[Bowling may be viewed as boring but the world governing body is eager to get it soaring](#)

*4 December, 2014*

[World Bowling Men's Championships open in Abu Dhabi](#)

*4 December, 2014*

[Commonwealth bowling in the Sunway Lagoon Shopping Centre, Seb Coe's manifesto - and the question of balance](#)

*12 December, 2014*

[Team and masters competitions to round off action packed World Bowling Men's Championships](#)

*13 December, 2014*

[South Korea claim team crown at World Bowling Men's Championships](#)

*14 December, 2014*

[South Korea reign supreme again at World Bowling Men's Championships](#)

*15 December, 2014*

[Former US Masters champion shows support for bowling's Olympic bid strategy](#)

*15 December, 2014*

[World Bowling to relocate from United States to Olympic capital Lausanne](#)

*16 December, 2014*

[Bowling President Encouraged by Adoption of Agenda 2020 Framework](#)

*18 December, 2014*

[Kuwait City, Las Vegas and Tokyo among cities chosen to host World Bowling Championships](#)

*Happy New Year*

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Ten Pin Bowling - 02 Jan 2015

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## Emboldened federation sees 2024 as 'realistic' target for Olympic bowling



By Simon Ward

World Bowling, the governing body for ten-pin bowling, believes that recent developments at the federation, including plans to relocate its headquarters to Lausanne, and at the International Olympic Committee will have boosted the chances of its sport featuring in the Olympic Games within the next decade.

Although bowling will undoubtedly face competition from various other non-Olympic sports, some of which enjoy a higher profile, as it seeks a place at the elite multi-sports games, its status has been strengthened by various reforms aimed at modernisation, according to World Bowling president Kevin Dornberger.

He claims that the 2024 Olympic Games are a "realistic" target, but cannot be more certain about the potential for success until the process for admitting new sports, under the IOC's own Agenda 2020 reform programme, has been clarified.

World Bowling announced last month that it will be moving its headquarters from Arlington in Texas, USA to Lausanne, the home of the IOC, early this year, in part to improve its relations with the Olympic movement.

The new office will initially comprise a marketing director, who has already been appointed, and the president plans to make regular trips from his US base to the Swiss city to meet with other leading sporting officials.

Dornberger told Sportcal: "From the standpoint of networking with the IOC, other federations and WADA [World Anti-Doping Agency], it's where we have to be."

He added: "There's no replacement for talking to people."

In terms of its Olympics ambitions, World Bowling has been encouraged by the approval by the IOC membership in December of the Agenda 2020 proposals, including a recommendation to

switch from a sport-based programme to an event-based programme at the games, meaning that the present cap of 28 sports at the summer Olympics could be lifted.

Dornberger said his governing body had found the IOC, under its new president Thomas Bach, who spearheaded the reform drive, to be "warm and open" and that the aforementioned recommendation was "a good thing for us and all the sports seeking to get in the Olympics."

World Bowling is a member of the Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations and the sport already features in other prominent multi-sports games, including the Asian Games, the Pan American Games and the World Games.

However, the Tokyo 2020 Olympics are seen as too soon for bowling, especially given that baseball-softball and squash, which just missed out on being added to the programme when wrestling was reinstated, are considered to be in pole position if extra sports are added.

There is also uncertainty over the process for deciding how events or disciplines of existing sports will be replaced in order to maintain the cap of 10,500 athletes and 310 events, meaning that Dornberger cannot be certain of the prospects in 2024.

He said: "Under the current timetable, we'd like to be on a shortlist [of potential new sports] this year, but we don't know if there's going to be a shortlist. I think 2024 is realistic. Under the previous system, that was going to be the target and now I don't think it will be any later than that."

The relocation to Lausanne is the latest in a series of developments at World Bowling aimed at raising the profile of the sport and bringing in new fans. These have included its rebranding from the World Tenpin Bowling Association, the introduction of a new scoring system and the launch of a new website and various social media channels.

However, Dornberger denied that the moves were a response to potential openings in the Olympics, saying: "As luck would have it, these things were on our agenda. I'm not a patient person. We're probably doing too much too soon some people might say, but we didn't do enough in the past. We were concentrating too much on the rules, and not on the presentation of the sport."

World Bowling has been advised on strategy redevelopment and the rebranding and relocation process by TSE Consulting, the international sports consultancy headquartered in Lausanne, and Dornberger also credits the company for helping improve the standard of international competitions, saying: "They brought us into the 21st century in terms of the manner in which we're hosting our events."

He added that this had helped to generate more interest, with World Championship events it awarded in December attracting up to six bidders each as opposed to three or four in the past.

World Bowling has held talks with other agencies over distributing its media and sponsorship rights, but these have been put on hold while it addresses other priorities, including possible inclusion in the Olympics.

Dornberger said: "We haven't gone further because of the announcement about the relocation and the other changes. Now, with what is happening about Agenda 2020, I don't want us to do anything until we know of what the process is and if we are going to be on a shortlist. We will wait until the smoke is clear."

However, the federation, which was previously centred on North America, has continued to strengthen its international footprint, notably in Asia.

Last month's World Men's Championship was held in Abu Dhabi, which will also stage this year's World's Women's Championship, in December, and other cities that have now been awarded events include Kuwait City (2017 World Championship), Hong Kong (2018 World Men's Championship) and Tokyo (2020 World Singles Championship).

Dornberger claimed that governments in Asia are very open to hosting bowling events, in contrast to those in Europe, where there is a lack of facilities for major championships.

He said: "We struggle placing events in Europe. There are not enough large bowling centres. There's one in Munich, which is one of the 10 best in the world and we'll be there in 2017 [for the World Seniors' Championship], but we can't ask the German federation to organise events all the time."

However, Dornberger believes that other European countries will come round to the appeal of such competitions, stating: "There will be a change in attitudes when they see the results and that they can bring in people who are not just bowling people."

He also insists that the sport has cast off a reputation for being US-centric, saying: "The good thing is that I'm not working on it, the other countries are. I've come from the World Men's Championship where the Koreans dominated, and we've seen the Japanese women dominate.

"There are now 15 countries in the world that are competitive with the USA and by 2020, I would hope there are 20 to 25."

**Ten Pin Bowling - 18 Dec 2014**

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## **World Bowling allocates future World Championships and prepares to relocate HQ to Lausanne**

World Bowling, the international governing body for ten-pin bowling, has decided the hosts for seven World Championship events between 2017 and 2020.

The competitions were awarded today at an executive board meeting in Abu Dhabi following the World Men's Championship held in the city.

The events and their respective host cities will be as follows:

2017 World Championship – Kuwait City, Kuwait

2017 World Seniors' Championship – Munich, Germany

2018 World Men's Championship – Hong Kong

2018 World Youth Championship – Detroit, USA

2019 World Women's Championship – South Point, Las Vegas, USA

2019 World Seniors' Championship – South Point, Las Vegas, USA

2020 World Singles' Championship – Tokyo, Japan

World Bowling president Kevin Dornberger said: "We are thrilled to see such a diverse range of cities interested in hosting our Championship events, we are pleased that we could accommodate for all the bidding cities and I believe this reflects on the global reach of our sport."

It has been a significant week for the federation as it has also announced that it is to move its headquarters from Arlington in Texas, USA to Lausanne in Switzerland early next year.

The relocation to a city which is home to over 50 international sports organisations, including the International Olympic Committee, is being seen as an attempt to boost the profile of World Bowling across the globe and aid any campaign for the sport to be added to the Olympic Games programme.

The move follows other recent initiatives undertaken at the federation, including a rebranding from the World Tenpin Bowling Association, the introduction of a new scoring system and the launch of a new website and various social media channels.

Dornberger said: "We feel that now is the right time to join the Olympic Capital. Being part of the unique sports community in Lausanne will offer us opportunities to exchange experiences and gain knowledge from other federations. I am looking forward to welcoming the sports community to the inauguration of our new office in early 2015