

Special Olympics Montana 2019-20 Bowling Rules

- When submitting scores for registration, the scores should be a minimum of a 3 game average. This includes singles average, doubles team average, and teams' average.
- ***For any questions on equipment modifications that may or may not be allowed, contact the Special Olympics Montana Sports Department.***

Individual

- Singles will bowl 2 games.
- Single bowlers will bowl in a straight average system which is used to determine ability for divisioning.
- Bowlers can compete in one of the following events:
 - Singles
 - If an athlete receives assistance of any kind, besides stability assistance, they will be disqualified and receive a participation ribbon.
 - Singles Ramp Unassisted
 - Athlete aims ramp into position unassisted
 - Athlete may receive assistance lifting ball onto ramp.
 - Athlete pushes ball down ramp toward target.
 - A bowler may be allowed to bowl up to five frames consecutively.
 - Athlete may reset the ramp unassisted after each roll.
 - Singles Ramp Assisted
 - An assistant may aim the ramp towards the pins, but must at all times have his/her back to the pins and aim based on directions (either verbally or by physical cues) from the athlete.
 - A bowler may bowl up to five frames consecutively depending on varying circumstances day-of competition.
 - Athlete may receive assistance lifting the ball onto the ramp.
 - Athlete must have or make a reasonable effort to have at least one hand on the ball as it is being delivered.
 - After the first roll, assistants may reset the ramp, so that the ramp is pointing down the center of the lane. From there, the assistant will await cues from the athlete on ramp direction and placement.

Doubles (Traditional & Unified)

- Doubles will use the Baker System format.
- Doubles will bowl **4** games.
- **Scoring:** Instead of each player having his/her own score, the combined effort of the team constitutes a game.
- In the **Baker System**, doubles partners take turns bowling frames within one game (as opposed to two bowlers bowling separate games). Each bowler bowls one frame at a time, regardless of the number of pins on the lane (i.e. if Player A throws a strike, he/she completes the frame and then Partner B bowls the next frame).

Bowler rotation for Doubles

Frame	Bowler
1	A
2	B
3	A
4	B
5	A
6	B
7	A
8	B
9	A
10	B

- Between games, doubles pairs *may* change up their bowling order; meaning the athlete that bowled first in one game, would bowl second in the next game. This is optional, but is permissible. Doubles pairs *may not* change up their order mid-game.
- Athletes in doubles must practice in accordance with the Baker System.
- Score entered on state-level registration form should be the doubles score (not an individual score) of three games completed by the pair.
- If a bowler bowls a strike, he/she is done for that frame. Bowler B would bowl the next frame. For example, if Sara bowls a strike in frame 1, she is done for that frame. Jessica bowls frame 2 since frames are alternated for each bowler. *If the bowler of the tenth frame rolls a strike or spare after their first two rolls, they also roll the third ball of the frame.
- Doubles competition **will not use the league format**. All doubles will play in “Open Bowling Format,” meaning doubles will bowl on the same lane for all games.

- For divisioning in doubles, divisions will be separated based on athlete need. There will be traditional doubles divisions and ramp doubles divisions. If a pair consists of any number of ramp bowlers, that pair will be placed in a ramp doubles division, if quality competition exists. If a team consists of only non-ramp bowlers, it will be placed in a non-ramp doubles division. Divisions may be combined dependent on amount of quality competition.

Team (Traditional & Unified)

- Team will use the Baker System format.
- A team **must** register with 5 bowlers. Teams can drop to 4 only if a bowler scratches on the day of competition.
- If a team falls below 4 bowlers, the team will be disqualified.
- Teams will bowl **5** games.
- Scoring: Instead of each player having his/her own score, the combined effort of the team constitutes a game.
- Score entered on state-level registration form should be the team score (not an individual score) of three games completed by the team.
- In the Baker System, team members take turns bowling frames within one game (as opposed to five bowlers bowling separate games). Each bowler bowls one frame at a time, regardless of the number of pins on the lane. (i.e. if Player A throws a strike, he/she completes the frame, and then Player B bowls the next frame, and so on).
- Athletes competing in teams must practice in accordance with the Baker System and submit scores as a team.
- Team competition **will not use the league format**. All teams will play in “Open Bowling Format,” meaning all players of one team will bowl on the same lane for all games.

Bowler Rotation for Teams

4 person team

Frame	Bowler
1	A
2	B
3	C
4	D
5	A
6	B
7	C
8	D
9	A
10	B

5 person team

Frame	Bowler
1	A
2	B
3	C
4	D
5	E
6	A
7	B
8	C
9	D
10	E

- The above are examples of how teams should bowl rotationally.
- Teams *may not* change up their bowling order at any time.
- For divisioning in team, divisions will be separated based on athlete need. There will be traditional team divisions and ramp team divisions. If a team consists of any number of ramp bowlers, that team will be placed in a ramp team division, if quality competition exists. If a team consists of only non-ramp bowlers, it will be placed in a non-ramp team division. Divisions may be combined dependent on amount of quality competition.

Special Notices

- Foul lights will be on during competition.
- Any team arriving late will begin play with the score to count from the frame then being bowled. A zero will be given for all prior frames.
- A bowler may compete in up to 2 events.
- Ramp bowling
 - If a delegation has ramp bowlers, it is expected the delegation provide their own ramp. Each alley has ramps to use, but in the event the alley's ramps are few or damaged, delegations need to be prepared.
- "Powdering" of shoes is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.

SOI official rule book:

<http://media.specialolympics.org/resources/sports-essentials/sport-rules/Bowling-Sports-Rules.pdf>