

Australian Junior National Tenpin Bowling Championships

A survival guide for first time bowlers and their parents/guardians

What are championships?

A Championship is a competition between bowlers of similar average, competing in their own Grades. If your bowler normally bowls games around 120, he/she will only bowl against others that also normally bowl games around 120. For the Australian Junior National Tenpin Bowling Championships, your bowler's average is the one they were bowling at the end of November the previous year. Of course, your bowler may have improved since then, but perhaps, so will many of the others he/she will be bowling against. In most championships, boys compete against boys and girls compete against girls. This of course does not apply to mixed teams and mixed doubles.

What is an average?

The average is the score your bowler bowls over a certain number of games. E.g. if your bowler bowls 3 games and scores 120, 135, 115, the average is calculated by adding $120+135+115=370$. The total is then divided by 3 (the number of games played). Therefore, the average for the above 3 games is 123.3 (we round down to 123, as decimal places are ignored)

Why did I need to 'book the squads' so far in advance?

This is a National event. There are many bowlers (usually several hundred in all) coming from all over Australia (and sometimes New Zealand) to compete. It takes many hours of planning and preparation and often, squads do get booked out. After all, there are only so many that can bowl at the one time. In most cases, for singles and doubles, there will be no more than 2 bowlers to a lane.

What is a squad?

A squad is a series of 3 games bowled one after the other. There are 3 compulsory squads for those that want to qualify for the Cups or the Masters. The bowler must bowl at least 1 singles, 1 doubles and 1 team event. By doing all three, your bowler will be completing the 'All Events'.

What are Cups and Masters?

These events are for the 'best of the best' in that 'average' group. Usually only the top 24 girls and top 24 boys in the Cups and 40 in the Masters who complete an All Events will be eligible to compete in the Masters. You should be very proud of your bowler if they reach this stage. All Finalists will be presented with a Medallion. There are 3 separate events,

- Restricted Cup for boys whose average is 169 and under and for girls whose average is 159 and under
- Classic Cup for boys whose average is 189 and under and for girls whose average is 179 and under
- Masters for any bowler of any average (even those who always bowl perfect 300 games)

How does the bowler qualify for the Cups or Masters?

Prior to the commencement of their first singles or doubles squad, you must notify the representatives in the tournament room that the bowler wishes to qualify for Cups or Masters in that squad. They will need to pay an additional \$10.00 every time they wish to qualify. They may qualify for more than one event. E.g if your bowler's average is 158, they may ask to qualify for both Restricted and Classic. This will be \$10.00 for each. That is - \$20.00. You can pay to qualify in all singles and doubles events, or just one, or two or not at all. The decision is up to the bowler (and of course the person providing the funds!)

I've paid a large sum of money already – is there anything else I need to pay for at the Nationals?

There may be some merchandise for sale at the Nationals – but usually not everyday. You can also purchase 'Nationals' shirts. With both the merchandise and the shirts, you may need to order these and wait for them to be delivered to your home. Please check when you place an order when you can expect to receive the item

There is usually a professional photographer at the Nationals. You will need to book a time to have photos taken. Once the photos are taken, the photographer will advise the time you can view them and the cost for each photo. Remember to ask if there is a package deal. Photos are a nice keepsake of the Nationals, but of course are not compulsory.

The only other additional costs are for extra squads, Cups or Masters qualifying and Cups or Masters entry (if your bowler qualifies)

What to do leading up to the Nationals:

The bowler

- Get plenty of sleep and eat well (lots of fruit and vegetables). If you have the time and funds, get in a few extra practice games, but don't overdo it. Too much bowling prior to Nationals may make you tired.
- You can (but do not have to) clean your bowling balls. It is amazing how dirty they become. A clean bowling ball usually works better. Do this a week or two before the Nationals and bowl with it clean in your normal league so you can see the difference. Your ball may work differently (usually better) than what you may be used to. If you are unsure how to clean your bowling balls, ask at the pro shop or some of the more experienced bowlers in your local bowling centre.

Parents/Guardians

- keep the bowler in their normal routine as much as possible. E.g. – if they have daily chores – insist they still do these, this will help keep the nerves at bay.
- Organise your shopping to include plenty of choices of fruit and vegetables.
- A few days before, think about what you may need at the Nationals. Some of the things that more experienced parents/guardians take are the following:
 - o A few pens. Your bowler will need a pen to write down their scores on the score sheet. You may also like to write down their scores
 - o Paper – so you can write down the bowler's scores
 - o Calculator – your bowler will need to add up their scores (you may need to as well)

- Water. It is important that your bowler drinks plenty while they are bowling. It is easy to become dehydrated while bowling, especially at Nationals where they may bowl 9 or more games in one day
- Fruit – keep this simple. Grapes, cut up watermelon, rockmelon, etc are good choices. If your bowler likes apples and/or pears, these are good, but do not cut them until they want them. Apples and pears go brown and your bowler may not eat them.
- Toothpicks – **NEVER** let your bowler pick up fruit with their bowling hand. This will make their ball sticky. Stab the fruit with the toothpicks and have them ready for your bowler.
- Knife, small chopping board and a plastic container to put the cut fruit in.
- Lollies. These should wait until later in the day when your bowler may need a quick energy boost. Any sooner than after lunch (at least during squads) and your bowler may 'slow down' later in the day.
- Energy drinks/soft drinks. If your bowler likes these, have a few ready in a cooler bag.
- Something for lunch – or money to buy something. There is **NO LUNCH BREAK** at any championships (there is no time for one). If you are buying something from the bowl, remember there could be a lot of people there. Be savvy and order hamburgers, etc at the beginning of the 3rd game. It will most likely be ready by the time your bowler finishes that squad. If you wait until they are finished, it may not be ready until they are starting their next squad.
- Something to eat and drink for yourself. You can't look after your bowler if **you** are hungry and dehydrated!
- Enthusiasm, patience and a sense of humour. Your bowler could be physically and mentally drained by the end of the day (you may be too). Avoid arguing with them, it will not change the result and only bring further tension and stress into an already stressful time. If you stay calm, they will eventually settle down. (Of course, don't let them get away with outright rudeness).
- Something warm to wear. While the bowlers get quite hot bowling, the air conditioning can sometimes be too cool for those not bowling
- A cushion. Some of the temporary grandstands that are erected for the spectators can be very hard after a few hours. A cushion makes the seating more comfortable.
- Disposable containers. Because the bowlers move from lane to lane, they may not remember to take their fruit/drink/loilies with them. Ensure the container is disposable. If it becomes lost, it won't matter.

What to do on the day:

Bowlers

- Get dressed in a bowling shirt and black bottoms (long trousers). Girls are permitted to wear skirts or shorts
- Put your bowling balls in the car! I know this is stating the obvious, but more than one bowler has arrived at a championship only to find the bowling balls are not in the car.
- Stay calm. You will bowl the best you can that day. Don't pressure yourself to try for a personal best. If it is meant to happen, it will happen
- If you take your mobile and/or ipod, leave it with your parent/guardian when you go to check in. Unfortunately, some things do get stolen from bowling bags, even when they are on the lane.
- Let your parent/guardian know if you want to qualify for the Masters. They will need to give you \$10.00 to pay when you check in

- Be at the bowl at least 45 minutes before your squad is due to start. Check in is usually called 30 minutes before the start time. The extra 15 minutes will give you some social time
- When you change into your bowling shoes, put your 'normal' shoes inside your bowling bag. That way you will know where they are when you finish bowling.
- When on the lanes, if ANYTHING goes wrong, put your hand in the air. A lane Marshall will come to you and report or correct the problem. **DO NOT CHANGE ANY SCORE YOURSELF**
- **Check your score sheet has your name and correct grade for the squad you are bowling. If you have paid for a Cup or Masters qualifying, ensure this is marked on the score sheet as well (usually with a red star stamp). If there is anything wrong on the score sheet alert a lane official BEFORE you start to bowl**
- When you finish bowling the third game, ensure you have packed away **ALL YOUR BOWLING GEAR**. If you leave anything on the lane it may not be there when you come back.

Parents/Guardians

- **You are not permitted on the lanes. Your bowler must come to you if they want anything. If you need to get their attention, go as close as possible to the edge of the lane and call out softly to them when no one on the lane is about to bowl. This is very important and part of the 'parent etiquette'**
- Even though you have many things to take, pack so you can be portable. Your bowler will be bowling on different lanes for each squad. You need to be able to move quickly with little fuss after each squad. (A back pack is very handy)
- You may not be able to sit close to where your bowler is bowling. Make sure they know where you are in case they need food and/or drink.
- Get to the bowl as early as possible. If there are a number in your group, find a spot where you can leave eskys, etc and take it in turns to 'mind' everyone's gear. This is also good if your bowlers do have a break between squads and/or if the lanes are being oiled. They will have somewhere to sit down and eat their lunch.
- Have \$10.00 notes ready for Masters qualifying. It is best to give the bowler the correct money, that way they don't need to worry about giving you change.
- After your bowler checks in, ask them to let you know ASAP which lane they are bowling on for that squad. Immediately go to that lane and sit there. If you do not move quickly, you may not get a seat.
- At the end of the squad, your bowler will need to hand the score sheet to a lane Marshall or take it to the tournament room. Remind them about this. If they do not hand in the score sheet, their score cannot be recorded.
- If you are buying something from the bowl, remember there could be a lot of people there. Be savvy and order hamburgers, etc at the beginning of the 3rd game. It will most likely be ready by the time your bowler finishes that squad. If you wait until they are finished, it may not be ready until they are starting their next squad.

Once all the scores for that squad are tallied, a written notice will be put somewhere in the bowl with the current scores for each grade and All Events (the All Events grade is taken from the bowler's Entering Average). This will show you where your bowler is positioned. If your bowler wishes to be placed higher, they will need to bowl again. This is only possible if there are spaces available. You will need to pay \$30.00 for them to bowl again. There is also a sheet which shows the Cups and Masters qualifying lists. Where your bowler is positioned on the list will give you an idea of whether or not you need to pay further qualifying. Discuss this with your bowler and others who may be more experienced.

The final placing of your bowler for the Singles, Doubles and Team squads and All Events, will not be known until after the last squad of the Nationals. You will be notified by either TBA or the 'Manager' of your 'team'. Winnings, including medals, could take several weeks to reach you, so be patient

- The final list of bowlers for the Cups/Masters will be posted on a board at the bowl, usually within 30 minutes after the last qualifying squad for that particular event. If you are unsure if your bowler is in the final, ask an official and they will assist you. If your bowler qualifies at numbers 25,26,27 for Cups or 41,42,43 for Masters they are still required to be ready to check in for the Cups or Masters and be dressed to bowl (and of course, have their bowling gear with them). If a qualifying bowler is late, your bowler MAY be required to take their place.

What to do if you need to bowl in the Cups or Masters

The Bowler

- Be VERY PROUD of yourself. You can now say you are among the top bowlers in your grade in Australia!!!!
- Go home, have a decent meal and get to bed early.
- Get everything ready for the next day. The Cups start early with check in at 8:30 am at the alternate centre and the Masters check in at 2:30pm at the main bowl. You don't want to feel rushed and you don't want to be late. The same dress rules apply for Cups and Masters as for the rest of the championships – i.e. bowling shirt and black bottoms
- Set your alarm clock for about 1.5 – 2 hours before you need to leave for the bowl. This will give you time for a shower, decent breakfast and not be rushed
- Get to the bowl at least 30 minutes prior to check in. Again, you don't want to feel rushed. If you are not there when check in closes, you do not bowl!!
- Ask your parent/guardian for the money for Cups/Masters about 10 - 20 minutes before check in closes. You will need to pay this when you check in.
- Relax. When check in is called, you will need to go into the tournament room. Check in closes at precisely the time (this is usually taken from the Telstra clock) as advertised on the entry form.
- The tournament director will give you instructions on the format of the Cups/Masters. There are various formats, so listen carefully. If you do not understand COMPLETELY, ask for the format to be explained again.

- When you are told your lane, tell your parent/guardian the lane you will begin on and go to that lane immediately with your bowling gear. If you need anything (food, drinks, etc), tell your parent/guardian and they will bring it to you.
- When you are bowling, if ANYTHING goes wrong, put your hand up and tell a lane official.
- Once you have finished bowling on a particular lane, you are not allowed to move to the next lane until you have been advised.

The Parents/Guardians

- Be very proud of your bowler. They have achieved something great in their bowling career
- The night before, ensure your bowler has a good meal and gets to bed early.
- Set the alarm clock for about 1.5 - 2 hours before you need to leave for the bowl. This way no one will need to rush
- Get to the bowl at least 15 minutes before check in. 30 minutes is better so you can get a seat.
- Ensure you have the money for the relevant Cup or the Masters. You don't want to need to go to the ATM on the way to the bowl
- About 10 minutes before check in, find your bowler (by now he/she will have created many friends and will be off socialising). Give your bowler the money for Cups/Masters. They will need to pay this at check in. Ensure he/she stays close to the tournament room and that he has his bowling balls ready.
- Ensure you have food and drink for your bowler. For Restricted and Classic, the maximum number of games is usually 8. For Masters, this can be up to 18 games.
- Pack to be portable. For the Cups, your bowler will bowl 2 games on one pair of lanes and then move to another pair of lanes for the next 2 games, etc until all 8 games are completed. For open Masters, this is a little different.
- Have a pen handy, just in case your bowler needs one to mark the score sheet. At some championships, he/she will need to hand in the score sheet after every 2 games.
- Relax. If your bowler sees you are relaxed, then hopefully this will 'rub off'.
- At the end of every 2 games, the scores will be tallied. A 'standing sheet' will be printed and handed out to each pair of lanes (sometimes these are also handed out among the spectators). Also there will a projector showing the scores. You will be able to see where your bowler is situated.
- At the end of the 8 games for Restricted and Classic, there will be a short delay while they tally the scores. The person with the highest pinfall over the 8 games will be declared the winner – (plus handicap for the Restricted Cup). A short presentation ceremony will take place. The top 3 will be given a prize. Even if you bowler is placed last, please stay for the presentation. It is always a highlight of the Nationals.

What happens after the Nationals?

The Masters is the last event of the Australian Junior National Tenpin Bowling Championships. This is always a great even to watch if you have the time to stay.

All the squads placings and Cups /Masters placings will be added to the Australian Junior Nationals page on the TBA website. <http://www.tenpinevents.org.au>. This will updated daily.

If your bowler has been placed in the top three of any squads, they will be given a medal and sometimes money. This will be sent to your team manager or direct to you or your home centre if you do not have a team manager. This can take several weeks to receive, so please be patient.

There are many other championships throughout the year in which your bowler can compete. Please check with your team manger or bowling centre manager and they will advise you of what is coming up.

We hope you enjoy the

Australian Junior National Tenpin Bowling Championships

SCORE SHEET

Example

Name	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Total
Fred	122	135	169	426
Barney	134	136	138	408
Total	256	271	307	834

Doubles

Name	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Total
Total				

Singles

Name	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Total
Total				

Teams

Name	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Total
Total				

Singles

Name	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Total
Total				

Singles

Name	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Total
Total				

Originally written by Sharon Hewitt and Debby Hicks, NSW

TBA expresses their gratitude and thanks to those two ladies for the creation of the original.