



## BOWLS USA

### 2023 US OPEN

#### CONDITIONS OF PLAY

All games will be played in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark, Fourth Edition

#### **CONTROLLING BODY:**

Bowls USA

Each venue will have an assigned Tournament Director Each venue will have an assigned Disputes/Appeals Committee

#### **DATE STAMP ON BOWLS:**

Bowls USA approves the use of all sets of matched bowls which have a clearly visible ALBA, IBB, WBB or WB stamp. Date and serial number must be legible; however, any date is acceptable.

#### **VENUES:**

The following clubs will be used during the US Open.

Casta del Sol  
24351 Via Albeniz  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692 949-916-8076

Laguna Beach  
455 Cliff Drive  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651  
949-494-1811

Laguna Woods  
Moulton Parkway, Gate 12  
Laguna Woods, CA 92654  
949-951-3027

Long Beach  
1100 Federation Drive  
Long Beach, CA 900803  
562-433-9063

Newport Harbor  
1550 Crown Drive  
Corona del Mar, CA 92625  
949-640-1022

Santa Ana  
510 East Memory Lane  
Santa Ana, CA 92711  
714-639-3577

The Groves  
5200 Irvine Boulevard  
Irvine, CA 92620 (No phone  
number)

**DATES:**

Men's Singles -

Qualifying Rounds: Sunday, October 8 and Monday, October 9 Finals: Tuesday,  
October 10

Men's Pairs -

Qualifying Rounds: Wednesday, October 11  
Finals: Thursday, October 12

Men's Fours -

Qualifying Rounds: Friday, October 13  
Finals: Saturday, October 14

Women's Fours -

Qualifying Rounds: Sunday, October 8  
Finals: Monday, October 9

Women's Pairs -

Qualifying Rounds: Tuesday, October 10  
Finals: Wednesday, October 11

Women's Singles -

Qualifying Rounds: Thursday, October 12 and Friday, October 13 Finals: Saturday,  
October 14

**ENTRY CONDITIONS:**

Must be a member of Bowls USA or of a Member National Authority of World Bowls.

**BLIND DRAW:**

Draw to be posted ten (10) days after entries close. All efforts will be made to prevent entrants from the same country, region, division, and/or club playing against each other in the qualifying rounds.

**TRIAL ENDS:**

Fours: Two bowls each direction each game

Pairs: Two bowls each direction each game

Singles: Four (or two) bowls each direction each game

Trial ends are not mandatory; one or both teams or the players in singles may elect not to take trial ends.

**TIME LIMITS:**

*Qualifying rounds:* All games have a 2 hour and 15 minute time limit. Trial ends are included within the time limits.

*Finals:* All games have a 2 hour and 15 minute time limit

Note: Gold medal game in the Championship flight only:

Fours: No time limit, 16 ends

Pairs: No time limit, 18 ends

Singles: No time limit, 21 shots

**STARTING TIMES:**

Unless otherwise specified, each day's announcements will be at 7:15 a.m. and play will begin promptly at 7:30 a.m. Play will begin with a signal from the venue's Tournament Director. No games may start before the signal given by the Tournament Director. Players will be notified approximately 15 minutes before the end of the time limit. Any end in progress when the final signal is given must be completed.

Game 1: 7:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Game 2: 10:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Lunch: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Game 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Game 4: 4:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**NO PRACTICE BEFORE TRIAL ENDS:**

Practice immediately prior to each day's play is prohibited.

**MUST PLAY:**

Qualifying rounds: All matches must be completed. Ties stand.

Final rounds: Any match in the final rounds may be forfeited at any time, and there must be no further play in a match if it becomes impossible for a player or team to win.

**FORMAT:**

Qualifying Rounds: Four games a day

*Fours: Two bowls per player, 14 ends*

*Pairs: Three bowls per player, 16 ends*

*Singles: Four: bowls, 18 shots*

Finals:

*Fours: Two bowls per player, 14 ends*

*Pairs: Three bowls per player, 16 ends*

*Singles: Four bowls per player, 18 shots*

Note: Gold medal singles match, 21 shots

## **RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS:**

*Prior to the start of each end, the following players will take their position at the mat end of the rink of play:*

Fours: the leads and the seconds

(The thirds, however, may elect to take their position either at the mat end or alongside the skip at the head)

Pairs: the leads

Singles: both players

*After delivering their first bowl, players will only be allowed to walk up to the head under the following circumstances:*

Fours:

The leads, after the second player on their team has delivered their second bowl

The seconds, after delivery of their second bowl

The thirds, after delivery of their second bowl

The skips, after delivery of each of their bowls

Pairs:

The leads, after delivery of their last bowl

The skips, after delivery of their second and third bowls

Singles:

The opponents, after delivery of their third and fourth bowls

In exceptional and limited circumstances, a Singles player can ask the marker for permission to walk up to the head, or a skip can ask that a player walks up to the head earlier than described above.

When a player at the head walks up to the mat to deliver their first bowl, their direct opponent can remain at the head until that bowl has come to rest before walking up to the mat to deliver their own first bowl.

If a player does not meet the terms of the above restrictions, law 13 will apply.

## **RE-SPOTTING:**

If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or if the jack is declared dead pursuant to law 38, the jack must be re-spotted at the 2-meter mark as outlined in law 56.5. If that position is occupied by a bowl, the jack must be placed between the bowl and the mat line without touching the bowl.

## **SCORING:**

### ***Qualifying Rounds:***

Three (3) game points will be awarded for each game won One (1) game point will be awarded for each game tied Maximum plus points:

Fours - 11 points

Pairs - 13 points

Singles - in excess of 18 shots shall not count

The player or team with the greatest number of game points after all matches have been played is the winner of that qualifying round. If game points are equal, the following tiebreaker will be used:

- 1) Plus points
- 2) Head-to-head
- 3) Shot percentage
- 4) Shots against

## 5) Coin toss

If a game is forfeited or is a bye game, the player or team will be awarded three (3) game points and a net total of shots that is equal to the average net total of shots scored by the winners of all other games played in the same round, rounded to one decimal point.

### **Finals:**

#### *Championship Flight:*

Losers of the first game drop into Second Flight *Second Flight*  
and all other lower flights: Single elimination (knockout)

**Note: If there are more than eight (8) undefeated teams or singles players upon completion of the Qualifying Rounds, the Championship Flight will be expanded to 16 teams or singles players.**

### **DELAYING (SLOW) PLAY:**

Players must play without undue delay and in a way which does not prevent their opponents from being able to complete the required number of ends within the time limit decided by the Controlling Body. A skip or coach may make an appeal to an umpire and/or the Controlling Body that due to the actions of their opponents, their team is being prevented from playing all of their bowls within the time decided for the game. If the umpire and/or Controlling Body determines this to be the case, then they will warn the offending team, its skip and its coach if there is one. If the offending team is deemed to be delaying play a second time, the offending team will forfeit the game.

### **ALTERATIONS TO THE FORMAT & LENGTH OF GAMES:**

The Controlling Body reserves the right to alter the format, times of play and greens to suit local unforeseen circumstances, giving as much notice as practical.

Where a program is interrupted or cannot be completed due to inclement weather or local conditions, the Controlling Body may amend the format and length of games to achieve a result or postpone the event where an outcome cannot be achieved.

### **PRACTICE:**

All venues will have published practice times available during the week prior to the start of the event. The practice schedule will be published on the US Open website and in the US Open program.

### **SUBSTITUTES:**

Substitutes must be approved by the U.S. Open Tournament Director and/or the event club's Tournament Director. They may not have played in the same event, nor may they skip. Bowls USA does not provide substitutes. Teams are responsible to find their own substitute and are responsible for sharing entry fee expenses and distribution of their prize money, if any, amongst their team if a substitute is used.

### **LATE ARRIVALS:**

A penalty of one point and one end played will be assessed for each ten minutes after the official start time if a player is late in being ready to deliver their bowl. A late arrival time of 30 minutes or more will result in forfeiture of that game. Tournament officials at the venue may waive this rule in extenuating circumstances.

### **DRESS CODE:**

Bowls USA requires the following at all times for men and women:

**Clothing:** Players and teams may wear white, colored or patterned shirts with sleeves and collars, which match. It is preferred that teams wear the same color of bottom attire.

**Footwear:** Players, umpires, and markers must wear flat-soled (heel-less) footwear when they are on the green. If sandals are worn, they must have a backstrap built into the sandal.

The Tournament Director and/or Controlling Body reserves the right to disallow any specific shoe. Umpires must use their best judgment and not unduly eliminate members from play. Medical footwear may be worn with the approval of the Tournament Director.

Penalties: If the Controlling Body finds that a player is in violation of the Dress Code, the player shall receive a warning. A second offense may result in the loss of a game.

NOTE: No player shall be approached before the day's first match, during a game, or between games about their attire. Rather, the offending player will be notified by the Tournament Director and/or the Controlling Body at the end of play for that day, advised of the specific issue, and a request shall be made to the player to wear appropriate attire for the rest of the tournament.

Advertising is permitted in accordance with Bowls USA Rules and Regulations.

**PRIZES/AWARDS:**

Cash awards shall be given to the Championship flight (four places) and all other flights (two places).

Winners in the Championship flight (four places) shall receive, at a minimum, a certificate designating the event, flight, and place. At the discretion of the Host Division, a medal may be awarded in lieu of a certificate.

Winners and runners-up in all other flights shall receive a certificate designating the event, flight, and place.

**CELL PHONES AND/OR SOUND-EMITTING DEVICES:**

The use of personal electronic and communication devices will not be permitted during a match except with the express prior permission of the Controlling Body. Violations will be considered a violation of rink possession and may result in forfeiture. Law 41.7 is not superseded.

**PHOTOGRAPHY VIA STILL CAMERA OR MOBILE DEVICE:**

Players are not allowed to take pictures while they're playing a game on the rink of play.

**SMOKING:**

Smoking or vaping is prohibited on any green. Designated smoking/vaping areas, if any, will be identified during morning announcements.

**ALCOHOL:**

Alcoholic beverages are not to be consumed by players before or during a match, nor in between matches or at lunch.