

## **Regulations for participation in international events**

### **Game director commission**

To create clarity about who can represent Swiss Bowls at international events, specific regulations are necessary. A Swiss Bowls game directors' committee (Spiko) is set up to draw up official participation conditions and qualification criteria, which decides on these regulations and criteria.

This Spiko is currently made up of the following:

- Beat Matti (BC Gstaad) - Spiko President
- Tom Schneider (BC Thun)
- Esther Gamper (BC Uzwil)

Decisions can be made by simple majority, also possible via circular resolution (email survey).

### **Principle for qualifications for international events**

If possible, the qualification should take place on the WB-compliant facility closest to us - currently in Les Ranchisses.

If not possible (if the space in Ranchisses is not available or if there are short-term event postponements), the games must be played on the courses in Switzerland that best match the event facilities (condition, length and width), and in the future also on new WB-compliant Swiss facilities. In principle, the qualifications for outdoor events should also be held outdoors. Qualifications for indoor and junior world championships can also be held in Swiss halls.

The qualification games are generally held for international events in the following year, and for outdoor events every other year. Depending on registrations, eliminations for the mixed pairs European Championships can also be played two years in advance, so that in the years with team European Championships, no additional outdoor qualifications must be held.

For team events, if there are not enough participants, the necessary games for the remaining places can be played in Switzerland among interested parties who were unable to take part in the official qualification. A decision on the format and venue must be made democratically among those involved, or if no agreement is reached, by decision of the SB-Spiko.

So that Swiss citizens living abroad also have the opportunity to qualify, the eliminations should be carried out in as concentrated a manner as possible (place and time).

### **Champion of Switzerland/ Champion of Champions**

Here, only the respective champion (men and women) of the country can take part. To separate this from participation in the Swiss championships and to ensure annual representation of Swiss Bowls, the "Champion of Switzerland" is played. All players licensed by Swiss Bowls can take part in this qualification. However, if they win the qualification, they also undertake to represent Switzerland at the CoC.

Conditions of participation: Active member of a Swiss Bowls club

**Qualification:** Determined by the Swiss Bowls Spiko. In principle, the champion (men and women) should be decided in a (possibly double) round robin. Depending on the number of participants, the Spiko decides on one of the following variants (1st to 3rd priority), whereby the 1st priority is always the aim:

1. Among all registered participants; or
2. Only one participant per club according to internal qualifications; or
3. Percentage of participants, cross-club preliminary rounds.

The qualification takes place in the season (minus 1 year) before the CoC and each participant is obliged to take part in the CoC in the following year.

## **World Bowls Indoor Championship**

Since 2023, participation has been based on a qualification program, each year in the previous year. All members of the Swiss Bowls Clubs can register. In principle, participation should be played out in a (possibly double) round robin. Depending on the number of participants, the Spiko decides on one of the following variants (1st to 3rd priority), whereby the 1st priority is always the aim:

1. Among all registered participants; or
2. Percentage of participants, cross-club preliminary rounds, or
3. Only one participant per club, with an equal number of interested parties, according to internal qualifications.

The winner of the qualification can take part in the WBIC. If a player who has not yet registered cannot take part, the 2nd placed player takes his/her place - if necessary, the other participants according to the ranking list.

## **European Championship**

Participation takes place according to a qualification program, which takes place in the previous year. All members of the Swiss Bowls Clubs can register. Depending on the number of registrations and those eligible to start, the Swiss Bowls Spiko creates a qualification program. The first-placed players in the qualification can take part in the next European Championship.

- The aim is for Swiss Bowls to be as strongly represented as possible in all disciplines.
- The first-placed players in the qualification can choose which of the possible disciplines and positions they would like to play, followed by the following in the order of ranking.
- If there are not enough interested parties in a qualification, Swiss Bowls can also nominate others, e.g. international Swiss Bowls members, who did not have the opportunity to take part in the qualification. However, priority is always given to those who also took part in the qualification.
- The players must be prepared to play the qualifications according to the qualification program, to place themselves unconditionally in the team constellations and also to keep time free as a possible substitute player for the European Championship.
- After Bowls Europe, a replacement cannot be guaranteed a game and a player can only play if another player is injured or cannot take part for another valid reason. Depending on the team constellation, the players themselves are responsible for any replacement.
- All participants are aware of the time and financial commitments (no guaranteed compensation) for taking part in training and international competitions.
- Swiss Bowls can issue mandatory regulations (e.g. training camp / early arrival for the European Championships), which participants accept with their registration.

- Only individual players, not entire existing teams, can qualify; as an exception, only complete pairs can take part in qualifications for the Mixed Pairs European Championships.

## **World Bowls Championships**

Currently, WB stipulates that the 12 best placed from the last WBC qualify for the WBC and that other participants can qualify via the "Continental Games" - for us, the European Championships.

If this is implemented in this way, no separate qualification will be necessary for the WBC.

However, if direct registration for the WBC should also be possible in the future, the same regulations apply as for the European Championships.

## **Mode for international qualifications**

The mode can be adjusted by Spiko before each event, after prior notice, according to the participants.

Mode: Double Round Robin

Order of ranking: points, shot difference, number of shots, number of ends, direct encounters.

Events are held according to the currently valid Swiss Bowls regulations.

2 sets of 7 ends with tiebreak best of 3 Ends in the event of a tie (set win = 2 points, tied set = 1 point each, win on points or tiebreak = + 1 point).

Only the additional point from a tiebreak is included in the score, no shots/ends.

Games not played = 0 points, shots, ends each (or forfeit, in the event of a disagreement, Swiss Bowls Spiko decides).

## **Prevention; withdrawal of registrations; costs incurred if no suitable replacement is possible (or permitted) at short notice**

This section is valid for all international tournaments and championships mentioned above and those registered by Swiss Bowls.

For these events, a declaration of commitment must be signed when registering, accepting the points formulated in these regulations. If a participant who has already registered is unable to take part, this is only possible for reasons that are also covered by appropriate assistance insurance (i.e. death, accident, confirmed illness, etc.).

If none of these reasons apply, the registered participant must cover the costs and reputational damage of Swiss Bowls up to a maximum of CHF 1,500. If this sum (and the fines to international associations) is not transferred to Swiss Bowls, the player will be banned from all events organized by Swiss Bowls (Swiss championships and all qualifications for international events) for a period of 4 years.

In addition, the offending participant must pay the fines to the international associations. For AC 2019, World Bowls has set the following penalties for teams withdrawing after the official registration has been submitted:

- 1) World Bowls will impose a penalty of GBP 500 per discipline on the National Association if they withdraw from the event before the deadline for detailed entries.
- 2) World Bowls will impose a penalty of GBP 1,000 per discipline on the National Association if they withdraw from the event after the deadline for detailed entries.

3) World Bowls will impose a penalty of GBP 2,500 per discipline on the National Association if they do not show up at the event.

4) World Bowls reserves the right to exclude National Associations penalized under 2) and 3) from qualifying for the next World Championships.

Swiss Bowls is authorized to charge all participants up to CHF 1,000 prior to qualifying matches to cover expenses and as a down payment on the expected costs. If Swiss Bowls members are unable to participate for acceptable reasons mentioned above, the amount will be refunded.

The amount will also be refunded to players who do not qualify and cannot participate in the event as a substitute after the event.

## Other international events

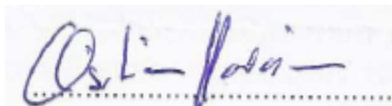
For other international events and if registration is made via Swiss Bowls, the Spiko of Swiss Bowls defines the qualification conditions on a case-by-case basis.

For "open tournaments", where anyone can register themselves, the "first in, first served" principle applies.

Gstaad, 25.10.2024

Release of Swiss Bowls after circular resolution of 29.09.2024

The President:



Christian Haldimann

Technical director:



Beat Matti