

AMERICAN ZONE RANKING 2007 GENERAL RULES

In order to improve the processing and the results related to the ranking of the American Zone for 2007, we have made some adjustments to the actual general rules, as follows:

Article 1: Regions

The American Zone geographically will be divided into 5 regions to determine the ranking as per 2007:

- A. North Region: Canada and United States of America
- B. Central American Region: México – Guatemala – Honduras – El Salvador – Nicaragua – Costa Rica.
- C. Caribbean Region: US Virgen Islands – Bahamas – Bermuda – Dominican Republic – Puerto Rico – Cuba – Aruba – the Netherlands Antilles.
- D. South Region 1: Panama – Colombia – Venezuela – Ecuador – Perú.
- E. South Region 2: Brazil – Uruguay – Argentina – Chile – Paraguay – Bolivia.

Article 2: Coordination

A General Coordinator will be in charge of the American Zone Ranking 2007, and will be appointed – after preliminary consultations – by the President of the American Zone.

One Regional Coordinator for each of the five regions will assist the General Coordinator.

The President of the Zone will appoint the five Regional Coordinators, after previous consultation with the General Coordinator and the Presidium Members, in order to find the most suitable persons for these functions.

Article 3: Duties of the Coordinators

The General Coordinator:

The General Coordinator of the American Zone Ranking will report to the President of the Zone, and will perform the following duties:

- a. See to it that the American Zone Ranking follows the new established rules, for this purpose.
- b. Supervise the work done by the Regional Coordinators.
- c. Verify the information received from the Coordinators on Tournaments or Events, which should be certified as Ranking and report his final recommendation to the President of the Zone.
- d. Compile and administrate the Sport- and Economic results, assuring that they represent and reflect the real situation in general.
- e. Hand the results to the President of the Zone, with his recommendations and conclusions regarding the results.
- f. Whichever other function that guarantees a good development of the American Zone Ranking.

The Regional Coordinators:

The Regional Coordinators will report to the General Coordinator, and they will perform the following duties:

- a. Express their recommendation to the General Coordinator, regarding Open Tournaments which are considered to be certified as a Ranking Tournament.
- b. In consultation with the General Coordinator, define the Tournaments and Events, which will be considered as a ranking event for his region. After having consulted the General Coordinator, publish a list of events valid as ranking for the region. This list of events will also form part of the general rules for ranking 2007.
- c. Responsible to collect certification charges of the Tournaments, inscription fees of the participants, and transfer all collected funds together with the corresponding information to the General Coordinator.

- d. Compile the results and ranking points of all the Events (Confederations, Federations, Associations, and Tournaments) and forward this information to the General Coordinator, within the established terms and specifications stated in this regulation.
- e. See to it that the official events for ranking show a good development and that the results reflect the reality and truth, and
- f. Whichever function which contribute to a well functioning of the ranking and therefore good results of his own region.

Collaboration

The Presidents of the Affiliated Countries to the Zone should collaborate directly with the General and Regional Coordinators with the following aspects:

- a. Inform on the seriousness and stability of the Invitational Tournaments, which request to be certified as Ranking Tournaments.
- b. Present their recommendation together with the request of the Organizers or Owners of the Tournaments of his country, to certify these tournaments as Ranking Tournaments.
- c. See to it that the development of the Events of their own Federation or Association is good, and that results reported to the Regional Coordinator are correct and show the truth.
- d. Collaborate in verifying the number of participants, the collection of the fees contributed by the players, and that the organizers comply with all the duties related to the Certification and
- e. Send the sport – and financial results of the Ranking Events in his country to the Regional Coordinator, with the guarantee that they reflect correctness and truth.

Article 4: Events

The Events and Tournaments which can be considered for the development of Zone Ranking are:

- a. National Championships or special designated events by the Federations or Associations, members of the Zone,
- b. The Official Championships of the WTBA, CONCECABOL, CONCABA, COBOISCA, and South America Bowling Confederation - CSB.
- c. Invitational Tournaments, which previously have been recommended by the Regional Coordinators and certified by the Zone.

Article 5: Certification

All the Events which are considered as a Ranking Event must be Certified previously by the Zone.

The procedure to certify the Events is as follows:

National Events

The President of the National Federations or Associations who wishes the results of the National Championships or a special designated Event, to be a ranking event, must contact the respective Regional Coordinator and pay the corresponding fees. The certification is thereafter automatically.

Invitational Tournaments

The Organizers or Owners of the Invitational Tournaments, who want to have their tournament certified, must send the request and the corresponding certification fee to the Regional Coordinator, through the Presidents of the Federations or Associations in his country, who on his turn will forward the request and his recommendation to the Regional Coordinator and a copy to the General Coordinator. The collected fees can be transferred directly to the General Coordinator to avoid double bank transfer charges, and a copy of the transfer order to the Regional Coordinator. All this of course after having verified all important aspects for correctness.

The General Coordinator will forward this request and his recommendation to the President of the Zone, who will issue the corresponding Certification.

Article 6: Calendar of Events

The certified events for the Ranking will start as of January 2007, and must finish at the latest November 30th of the current year.

In case a Federation or Association cannot finish her National Championships before November 30th, she should choose a special event of her activities, which will then be considered to generate ranking points. The President involved will contact the Regional Coordinator hereon, in order to have this event published in the official events of the Zone. The corresponding payments rights are unchanged.

Article 7: Participation

All Bowlers who like to participate in the Final of the American Zone Ranking 2007 must participate in his/her National Championships, unless the respective National Federation exempts the player with valid reasons.

The procedures and criteria to select the bowlers to represent his respective Region, the evaluation of the ranking points earned and put them in sequence are as follows:

1. Should have participated in the National Championships + (2) Ranking Events or three (3) Ranking Events.
2. Should have participated in the National Championships + (1) Ranking Event or two (2) Ranking Events.
3. Should have participated in the National Championships or one (1) Ranking Event.

In case of a tie in cases 2 and 3, we will follow the established tie-breaking procedures as described in this manual, without taking the type of event into account.(see article 14)

All bowlers who like to gain ranking points in all the invitational ranking events, MUST receive authorization in writing from his/her National Federation or Association addressed to the Tournament Organizer and a copy of the authorization letter to the Regional Coordinator.

A bowler coming from a country in which due to extraordinary circumstances could not participate in his/her National Championships, can gain ranking points in other Ranking Events, provided he/she has received the authorization from his/her Federation or Association.

Bowlers that have participated in more than three Ranking Events during the current year, only the ranking points earned in the National Championships or National Event and the two best results from the other Ranking Events, or up to three Ranking Events in which he/she participated will be taken into account, provided he/she complied with the established rules in the previous paragraph.

Article 8: Punctuation

- **Participants: All individuals that are competing in the Tournament.**
- **Ranking Points: Points Awarded to the entire field of participants even though they did not sign up to receive points.**

Punctuation of the Events which are valid for ranking.

A) 200 points will be awarded to the winner of the **National Championships or the Special Designated Event, or the Events organized by the Confederations, the WTBA and the WTBA American Zone.**

The winners of the following positions will receive the points according to the following table:

The first place will be awarded with 200 points; Up to 200 participants on the final result report will receive ranking points according to a predefined deduction factor.

In case we have more than 200 participants, each participant finishing on a lower position than 200, will receive one (1) ranking point for his/ her participation.

In case we have less than 200 participants the points will be distributed dividing 200 by the number of participants, to get the deducting factor. If the result has a fraction of .50 or higher, then the deducting factor will be rounded to the next higher number. Otherwise the fraction will be neglected.

Example 1: if we have 48 participants we divide 200 by 48 = 4.17. In this case the deducting factor is 4. The participant who finished on the first place in the tournament will get 200 points; the rest of participants will get points as follow: the second place 196, the third place 192 and so on.

Example 2: if we have 80 participants we divide 200 by 80 = 2.5; in this case the deducting factor is 3. The participant who finished on the first place in the tournament will get 200 points; the rest of participants will get points as follow: the second place 197, the third place 194 and so on.

B) Ranking points in **other Ranking Events** will be awarded according to the following table:

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- 1 Events with 1 – 25 participants, the winner will receive 150 points. All remaining participants will receive points after having applied the deduction factor.
- 2 Events with 26 – 75 participants, the winner will receive 200 points. All remaining participants will receive points after having applied the deduction factor.
- 3 Events with 76 – 150 participants, the winner will receive 250 points. All remaining participants will receive points after having applied the deduction factor.
- 4 Events with 151 – 300 participants, the winner will receive 300 points. The top 200 participants will receive points after having applied the deduction factor.
- 5 Events with 301 – 600 participants, the winner will receive 350 points. The top 250 participants will receive points after having applied the deduction factor.
- 6 Events with more than 600 participants, the winner will receive 400 points. The top 300 participants will receive points after having applied the deduction factor.

We will always take the exact number of participants in each table into account, in order to calculate the deduction factor, provided the exact number of participants does not surpass the number of participants that will receive points.

Regarding the fraction of points we follow the same procedures as stated in article 8A.

In ALL the Events (both 8A and 8B), whereby the male and female compete in the same pool, we first separate the male participants from the female participants and will sort each of the All Events Report by position in order to calculate their respective points.

For example: In a specific Ranking Event we have in total 80 participants competing in one pool, whereby 25 females are participating and 55 males. We first separate the all event list by gender.

For the 25 females we apply table 8-B1 and for the 55 males we apply table 8-B2

Note: We award ranking points to ALL participants as described in article 8-B. Thereafter we select the participants that subscribed for ranking 2007 with their corresponding points awarded.

In Events whereby players of different Regions are participating, The Regional Coordinator will have to send a copy of the results to the other Coordinators involved and the General Coordinator, including the ranking points gained.

The bowlers who participate in more than 3 ranking events, only the three events with best ranking points will be computed. The rule stated in article 7 will be strictly applied.

Article 9: Annotation and Statistics

- The Organizers of the Ranking Events must forward the final results in “EXCEL” format to the Regional Coordinator, and the Regional Coordinator will forward this information to the General Coordinator, otherwise the results will not be considered valid.
- In case of MIXED Events the excel file must have a column to define the gender of each participant, as otherwise it will be difficult for the Coordinator to split the file in male- and female participants.
- The excel file should also have a column to specify the nationality of each participant.
- The name of a bowler who participates in the ranking project, and has different names, the same name must be used for ranking purpose.
- The names should be reported uniformed as follows: First letter of the name and family name in capital letter and the other letters in small letters
- Other information which should be reported are(in descending sequence): the bowlers' end position, Total pin falls, number of games played, ending average, and ranking points awarded.

Article 10: Information

The information must be remitted in excel format in the following time frame:

- a) The Regional Coordinator must forward these results to the General Coordinator at the latest one week after the Ranking Event finished.
- b) The General Coordinator on his turn must forward the compiled results to the President of the Zone at the latest two weeks thereafter, and will coordinate the official publication and statistics with the President of the Zone.
- c) In case we have a ranking event which finishes at the end of November, The Regional Coordinator must then forward the results to the General Coordinator at the latest on December 5th, while the General Coordinator must deliver the end product to the President of the Zone before December 15th for immediate publication of this information.

Article 11: Classified Players:

Each Region of the Zone can send maximum 12 best classified players in the male category and 12 best classified players in the female category, to the Final Ranking Event of the American Zone, so that a maximum of 60 players per category are going to participate in this final event.

This Final Ranking Event will be held at the latest on March 10th of 2008 in a site which will be announced at a proper time.

In case one or more of the 12 best classified players of a Region cannot participate at the final Ranking Event, they will be substituted by the next best classified bowler(s) on the final ranking list of the particular Region.

In case at the start of this Final Event, there are still some spaces available to complete the 60 participants per category, the host country can include maximum 2 players per category to fill the vacancy. However these players must be selected from the host country's ranking list with the highest positions. This special case must review and authorized by either the General Coordinator or the President of the Zone.

Article 12: Final Ranking Event

The Final Ranking Event of the American Zone (FRAZ) will be held at the latest on March 10th of 2008, and the duration of the competition is maximum 5 days, including the arrival and departure date

The format of the Event will be authorized previously by the Zone.

The top eight players of each category in this Final Event will gain the right to represent the American Zone in the World Ranking Master 2007, which will be held in year 2008 in Florida, U.S.A. In case one or more of these players are not able to participate, they will be substituted by the next best classified player in the Final Event of the Zone. This special case must be reviewed and authorized by either the General Coordinator or the President of the Zone.

Article 13: Costs

The Certification Fee of each Championship or National Event or Invitational Ranking Event is two hundred US Dollars (US \$200.00)

Players' Fee

- a) The ranking points of all participants (up to a maximum of 200) awarded in National Championships or special designated events by a Federation or Association are valid at no extra cost, provided these events have been previously certified and the corresponding certification fee has been paid.

Certified Invitational Tournaments. The organizer or the owner of the certified event can choose from the following options, as they are responsible to collect and remit the corresponding fees:

OPTION 1:

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- a. The Organizers or Owners of all the Invitational Tournaments MUST charge each participant a fee of US \$5.00 for the Zone, even if they are not interested in participating for the Zone ranking.
- b. Each player who is interested in participating in the Zone ranking must pay additionally US \$10.00 to validate his ranking points won, prior the initiation of the Event.

OPTION 2:

- a. Only players who are interested in obtaining **valid** ranking points from the Invitational Tournaments must pay each US \$25.00, prior the initiation of the Event.

The General Coordinator is the representative to watch over the Regional Coordinators that they affect the charges correctly and that the fees are transferred to the Zone Bank account.

The General Coordinator has the power to instruct the Regional Coordinator how the transfer of the fees should take place.

Whichever certified event for Ranking which do not comply with payment of the corresponding fee timely according to the established rules, the results will not be considered on either the Ranking List or the Official Activities of the American Zone. This will also count for players that do not comply with payment of the corresponding fee timely, according to the established rules.

Article 14: Case of Tie

The ties in positions which must be dissolved will be resolved as follows:

- a. The ties in Regional positions will be resolved by the highest average of the ones involved and the total number of games played, applicable only to determine the final ranking position of the Region.
- b. The ties presented during the final Ranking Event will be resolved, according to the established rules of competition of the WTBA.

Article 15: Income

The fees collected, registered are under responsibility of the Regional Coordinators and will be transferred to the General Coordinator as follows:

- a. The registration fee paid by the Federations or Associations in order to register their National Championships or Special Designated Events, should take place before the start of the events
- b. The certification fee of all the Tournaments that we authorize to include as a Ranking Event: One week after the Organizer or the Owner of the Tournament has been notified by the Zone, that the tournament will be certified. In this case the payment to the Regional Coordinator must be effected prior the development of the tournament and
- c. The fees paid by the participants must be transferred at the latest one week after the finalization of the event. (it's the duty of the owner or organizer of the certified event to collect and remit the fees as established in these rules)

The General Coordinator may present a different way to remit the payments, with the only purpose to make it more efficient, practical and less expensive.

Article 16: Distribution of the Income

The distribution of all income collected during the development of the Ranking of the American Zone, will be carried out as follows:

- a. The amount of US \$5000.00 will be withheld from the total collected income by the five Regions, in order to pay the rights of the American Zone to the WTBA, to participate in the Final World Ranking Master (WRM)
- b. The Zone will withdraw 10% of the remaining amount after the deduction of the payment to the WTBA. This amount will be basically used to cover the expenses caused by the realization of the Regional Rankings.
- c. The cash prize of US\$12000.00 (or more which amount is guaranteed by the Host Country of the Final Ranking Event of the American Zone) will be awarded to the winners of this

Event, according to the established distribution specified in this regulation to each category (male and female).

- d. The balance of the collected amounts from the ranking events of the zone after having deducted the amounts as described in 16a and 16b will be equally distributed between the 8 males and 8 females who will participate in the Final World Master Ranking Tournament of the WTBA.

Article 17 : Awards

The total amount as described in article 16c will be distributed to each category (male and female) as follows:

First place:	8.0%
Second place:	7.5%
Third place:	7.0%
Fourth place:	6.5%
Fifth place:	6.0%
Sixth place:	5.5%
Seventh place:	5.0%
Eight place:	4.5%

Article 18: Site

The Presidium will grant the Site to organize the Final Ranking Event of the American Zone to the Country or Bowling Center which officially send their request in writing to the President of the Zone, preferably before March 31 of the current year, giving the guarantee of the minimum cash in awards of US \$12000.00 which will be distributed amongst the winners of this Event, and should report additionally:

- a. Name and general characteristics of the City where the event will be held,
- b. Name and general characteristics of the Bowling Center in which the games are played, by specifying the Brand, Model, number of lanes, physical condition of the equipments and lanes etc..
- c. Equipment which will be used to apply the oil pattern on the lanes
- d. The official hotel designated by the organizers of the event and the approximate cost.
- e. Guarantee for the coverage of the expenses which will incur to comply with the established rules of the Zone, related to Technical Committee of the Event and the other positions as specified in the rules.
- f. Special deals and offers for the participants
- g. Guarantee of Security to all participants in the Event
- h. Other information which are considered important to be aware of.

The Presidium will select from the requests, the one that offer better conditions for an optimum development of the event and the participants.

Article 19: Rights

The accrediting organization of the site for the Final Ranking Event of the American Zone will acquire the right to organize the event and will accept the conditions which the Zone has instituted for a well development of the event.

The publish rights belong always to the American Zone, and these rights can be transferred to the organizers, by means of the acknowledgement of 50% of the commercialized product they obtain. This condition does not inhibit them the right to place advertisement for the event, provided it is not committed to a brand which is being exploded commercially.

Article 20: Format of the Final Event

The Final Ranking Tournament of the Zone must comprise of a competition schedule of maximum three days, which should guarantee equal conditions for all participants and a format which will also propitiate a fair and truthful result.

All participants will start the competition with zero pins and points.

The Presidium can authorize the competition with a longer duration, provided this prolongation does not cause additional expenditure for the players, while this prolongation must open the opportunity to the players to win higher prizes for their effort and performance.

Article 21: Application

These General Ranking Rules consist of all provisions which are necessary for the development and determination of the Zone Ranking, and should be strictly applied by all involved (Coordinators, Bowlers, federations, Associations, Collaborators, Organizers, Technical Committee, Presidium etc.)

In case something not foreseen may present in these general rules, the Constitution and rules of the American Zone, Rules of the WTBA, then the Presidium of the American Zone will resolve the case. There is no appeal on these decisions.

Article 22: Publications

Only the President of the American Zone has the right and authority to publish the official results on Ranking of the American Zone.

Article 23: Language

In case there present a difference in the interpretation of the rules, between the English- and Spanish version, the Spanish version will then prevail.

Article 24: In Effect

These present Rules must be applied starting January 11, 2007, the date on which these Rules were approved by the Presidium of the American Zone.

San Salvador, El Salvador January 11, 2007. **José Antonio Guandique E.** – President; **Veronica Rajii** – 1st Vice President; **José Amado Aguilar** – 2nd Vice President; **Gilbert Snijders** – 1st Director; **Martín Faba Castro** – 2nd Director; **Gustavo López** – 1st Alternate Director; **José Luís Rivas** – 2nd Alternate Director.