



World Tenpin Bowling Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCITING CHANGES FOR TENPIN BOWLING RECOMMENDED BY WTBA PRESIDIUM

Kuala Lumpur, Wednesday 4 June 2003:

Changes that will have a far-reaching impact on the popular sport of tenpin bowling are anticipated following decisions by the WTBA Presidium here this week.

The Executive of the sport's international governing body has endorsed recommendations by its Technical and Tournament Committees that will mean significant changes to the format of future World Championships from 2004 onwards. The proposal will be recommended for ratification by the WTBA Congress when it meets in Kuala Lumpur prior to the 15th World Championships in September 2003.

The changes are designed to streamline the competition program of World Championships, commencing with the 8th WTBA World Youth Tenpin Bowling Championships, to be held in Guam in August 2004.

Increasing numbers of athletes now participating in the World Championship events required a radical appraisal of the format and schedule. The proposed program would enable almost 450 players to participate over a maximum of nine days of competition.

Incorporating dual lane conditions for Long and Short Oil, the format would be adjusted to provide two 8-game rounds of Doubles and two 3-game rounds of Teams, each with a semi final and final, followed by a 23 game round-robin Masters event for the top 24 All Events players, plus a semi final and final of the top four players. Number 1 plays Number 4 and Number 2 plays Number 3 - then the winners play a one game roll-off to decide the Gold and Silver medals, with the two losers awarded the Bronze medals.

Six medals would be awarded – one each for Doubles and Teams, one each for Short Oil and Long Oil All Events, and a combined All Events medal. The sixth medal awarded would be the Masters Final.

This revised format and schedule – in conjunction with the adoption of the 6-ball limitation - have been developed following trials and extensive consultation, according to the brief given to each Committee by WTBA President, Dato Dr. P.S. Nathan following the World Bowling Symposium held in 2000.

"Difficult and complex issues have been examined and acted upon over the last four years...the Committees have been committed, creative and decisive ... their hard work has been focused on delivering what is best for the sport worldwide" said Dr. Nathan. "I doubt, though that this will be the final format as there are already some misgivings on the principle of awarding medals. These will surface at the Congress and will be ultimately decided on there of course" he added.

more follows

The Coaching Committee undertook the task of producing WTBA Coaching Manuals, an ongoing issue since 2000. Level 3, 4 and 5 Manuals have all now been completed and arrangements for a Course Conductors' Clinic are currently being finalised. Each of the sport's three Zones (American, Asian and European) will be invited to send four highly experienced Coaches to undertake this Course, scheduled for the third quarter of 2003 in a central location in Europe.

Another keenly awaited benefit for Federations and bowlers alike will be the roll-out of an integrated WTBA website that will offer an individual web page facility and dedicated email address for each national Federation affiliated to the WTBA. A free email address will also be offered to every registered bowler of participating Federations worldwide. "This vision has been translated into reality thanks to the efforts and sponsorship of our Development and Marketing Director, Amr Kamel to whom the WTBA and all Federations owe a great debt of gratitude" said Dr. Nathan.

All of these initiatives, and the benefits that will flow directly to bowlers and Federations in every country in which tenpin bowling is played, are the fulfillment of the vision of WTBA President, Dato Dr. P.S. Nathan who identified the need to give national Federations - and bowlers throughout the world - the opportunity to have access to the most up to date and successful coaching techniques and to enable greater equity and participation in the sport internationally.

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