

ETBF's Medal History

World Championships: A Historical Review / Page 1

The World Championships is owned by World Bowling.

Each edition of the championships is awarded to a host, which can be a federation, a public organization or a company. The host organizes the event in co-operation with WB's Officials.

Athletes must have reached the age of 15 on 1 January in the year of the championships.

The first edition of the World Championships was conducted in 1954 in Helsinki, Finland with 58 male athletes from 7 different federations taking part.

The first 4 editions of the championships included only men, while the following 11 editions of the championships included both men and women.

The first edition of the championships was conducted in 1954, followed by championships in 1955, 1958, 1960 and 1963, where after the championships was conducted every fourth year until 2003.

As a consequence of the growing number of federations taking part in championships, both at the World level and in Europe, it was in 2001 decided to separate the two genders in World and European Championships as of 2005.

At the same time it was decided to end the conductions of the World Tenpin Team Cup and the European Cup Teams, in favour of having two World respectively two European Championships per gender over a 4 years period.

The two decisions had effect for the following two 4 years cycles as follows:

World Women Championships was conducted in 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011.

World Men Championships was conducted in 2006, 2008 and 2010 (2012 was moved to 2013).

In 2009, a World Congress decided to re-introduce World Championships for both genders to be conducted every fourth year. The first edition of these so called Combined World Championships was conducted in 2013.

The participation in Combined World Championships is limited to 36 teams of each gender, of which one is the team from the host federation, while the other 35 federations are qualified from the Zones in numbers relative to the number of federations belonging to each zone as of 1 January, two years ahead of the year of the Combined World Championships.

The newest 4 years cycles for World Championships are as follows:

2018: European Women Championships / World Men Championships

2019: European Men Championships / World Women Championships

2020: European Women Championships and European Men Championships

2021: Combined World Championships and no European Championships

The above presented 4 years cycles will be repeated again for the 2022-2025 cycles etc.

In World Championships conducted 1954-1975 the men have competed in Doubles, Team of Five, Team of Eight and Masters.

When the women entered the scene in 1963, they competed in Doubles, Team of Four EU, Team of Four AM and Masters, while the women in championships conducted 1967-1975 competed in Doubles, Team of Four, Team of Five and Masters.

As of 1979 there have been 6 women and 6 men on each team, and the disciplines have for both genders been Singles, Doubles, Trios, Team of Five, All Event and Masters since then.