

# FILC OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

## Arcade Rolling (Seven-Ring Bowling)

Version 2025.1

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE LANCER CIBLÉ  
Seven-Ring Bowling. One World. One Target.  
The Original Esport.

Registered Headquarters  
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The international governing body for the sport of Arcade Rolling

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## SECTION 1: EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

### 1.1 Lane Specifications

#### 1.1.1 Dimensions

- Competition lanes must be at least 12 feet (3.65m) in length from foul line to backboard
- Lane width must be 30-32 inches (76-81cm)
- Incline angle must be  $12^{\circ} \pm 0.5^{\circ}$

#### 1.1.2 Playing Surface

- Surface must be constructed of approved hardwood or synthetic material
- Surface must be treated with FILC-certified finish to ensure consistent ball roll
- No visual markings or aids are permitted on the playing surface

#### 1.1.3 Scoring Rings

- Seven concentric rings with the following point values:

- Center ring: 100 points (10-12 inches/25-30cm diameter)
- Second ring: 80 points (14-16 inches/35-40cm diameter)
- Third ring: 50 points (18-20 inches/45-50cm diameter)
- Fourth ring: 30 points (22-24 inches/55-60cm diameter)
- Fifth ring: 20 points (26-28 inches/65-70cm diameter)
- Sixth ring: 10 points (30-32 inches/75-80cm diameter)
- Seventh ring: 0 points (outer court)

#### 1.1.4 Corner Pockets

- Two "Simpson Corner Pockets" must be positioned at upper corners
- Each corner pocket shall be worth 100 points
- Pocket opening must be 4.5-5 inches (11-13cm) in diameter

**Historical Note:** The Simpson Corner Pockets were introduced in the 1950s as an experimental feature and became standardized in the 1970s. They are named after Joseph Fourestier Simpson, the inventor of the original Skee-Ball game in 1908.

#### 1.1.5 Ball Return System

- Must return balls to player within 5 seconds of completion of roll
- System must not interfere with lane playability or scoring accuracy

### 1.2 Ball Specifications

#### 1.2.1 Size and Weight

- Diameter: 98-102mm
- Weight: 280-310 grams
- Density: Consistent throughout the entire ball

#### 1.2.2 Material and Construction

- Balls must be constructed of polyurethane or approved synthetic material
- Surface may not include any grooves, indentations, or protrusions
- Core must be solid and maintain a consistent center of gravity

#### 1.2.3 Competition Balls

- All tournament play must use league-grade balls
- Venue-specific balls must be removed for tournament play
- Competitors may not use personal balls unless specifically permitted by tournament rules

### 1.3 Foul Line

#### 1.3.1 Position and Marking

- The foul line must be clearly marked across the full width of the approach area
- Line must be positioned exactly at the beginning of the inclined portion of the lane
- Line must be between 1-2cm in width and marked in contrasting color

#### 1.3.2 Electronic Detection

- Major tournaments must employ electronic foul detection systems
- System must emit audible alert when violation occurs

## SECTION 2: SCORING SYSTEM

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### 2.1 Standard Scoring

#### 2.1.1 Point Values

- Center target: 100 points
- Second ring: 80 points
- Third ring: 50 points
- Fourth ring: 30 points
- Fifth ring: 20 points
- Sixth ring: 10 points
- Corner pockets: 100 points
- Missed target (outer court): 0 points

#### 2.1.2 Frame Construction

- Each standard frame consists of 9 consecutive balls
- Maximum theoretical score per frame: 900 points
- For display purposes, trailing zeros are omitted (e.g., 650 is displayed as "65")

### 2.1.3 Match Format

- Standard match consists of 10 frames
- The lowest scoring frame is dropped from final calculation
- Maximum theoretical match score: 8,100 points (displayed as "810")

## 2.2 Special Scoring Situations

### 2.2.1 Ball Position Disputes

- If a ball comes to rest on a line between scoring zones, the higher point value is awarded
- If a ball bounces out of the lane after making initial contact with a scoring zone, points are awarded based on initial contact
- If a ball becomes lodged between rings or in the ball return, it shall be scored based on where the majority of the ball rests

### 2.2.2 Scoring Verification

- Electronic scoring must be verified by a certified official
- In case of scoring system failure, manual scoring will be employed
- Video review is permitted for scoring disputes in major tournaments

## SECTION 3: COMPETITION RULES

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### 3.1 Standard Match Procedure

#### 3.1.1 Pre-Match Procedure

- Competitors are allowed a 2-minute warm-up period (3 practice balls maximum)
- Lane assignment is determined by tournament seeding or random draw
- Scorecards must be verified and signed by competitors before match begins

#### 3.1.2 Rolling Procedure

- Competitor must begin each roll with both feet behind the foul line
- Ball must be delivered by hand and must make initial contact with the lane
- Competitor must wait for complete ball return before proceeding with next roll
- Maximum time between rolls: 20 seconds

#### 3.1.3 Frame Completion

- All 9 balls must be rolled consecutively to complete a frame
- Once a frame begins, it must be completed without interruption
- Frame scores are recorded immediately upon completion

#### 3.1.4 Match Completion

- Match is complete when all 10 frames have been rolled
- Lowest frame score is automatically dropped from final calculation
- In case of tie, highest single frame score determines winner

### 3.2 Player Conduct

#### 3.2.1 Etiquette

- Competitors must maintain respectful silence during opponent's delivery
- Excessive celebration that delays match progress is prohibited
- Competitors must remain in designated waiting area when not actively rolling

#### 3.2.2 Equipment Handling

- Intentional mishandling of equipment is strictly prohibited
- Balls must be returned via the ball return system, not handed directly to opponent
- Lane surface may not be touched by hand or modified in any way

#### 3.2.3 Penalties for Misconduct

- First violation: Warning
- Second violation: 10-point deduction from frame
- Third violation: Frame forfeiture (score of 0)
- Fourth violation: Disqualification

### 3.3 Fouls and Violations

#### 3.3.1 Foot Faults

- Crossing or touching the foul line during delivery results in "Zilch" (0 points) for that ball
- Intentional foot faults may result in additional penalties

### 3.3.2 Time Violations

- Exceeding 20-second limit between deliveries: 10-point deduction
- Exceeding 90-second limit for complete frame: 50-point deduction
- Excessive delays may result in frame forfeiture

### 3.3.3 Illegal Deliveries

- Two-handed deliveries are prohibited unless medically necessary
- Bouncing or skipping the ball intentionally is prohibited
- Any delivery technique intended to circumvent normal ball physics is prohibited

## SECTION 4: TOURNAMENT FORMATS

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### 4.1 Standard Tournament Structure

#### 4.1.1 Qualification Round

- 128 competitors maximum
- Each competitor completes 3-6 frames
- Top 64 advance based on total score

#### 4.1.2 Main Draw

- 32 or 64 competitors
- Single elimination or round-robin format
- Matches consist of standard 10-frame format

#### 4.1.3 Finals Structure

- Top 8 competitors
- Extended format (12 frames, drop 2 lowest)
- Finals must be officiated by minimum 3 certified judges

### 4.2 Variant Tournament Formats

#### 4.2.1 Simpson System

- Points awarded based on threshold achievements per frame:
  - 0-349 points = 0 Simpson Points
  - 350-449 points = 1 Simpson Point
  - 450-549 points = 2 Simpson Points
  - 550-649 points = 3 Simpson Points
  - 650-749 points = 4 Simpson Points
  - 750+ points = 5 Simpson Points
  - Perfect Frame (900 points) = 7 Simpson Points

#### 4.2.2 Continental Format

- 12 frames per match
- 7 balls per frame
- Maximum frame score: 700 points
- Two lowest frames are discarded

#### 4.2.3 Pressure Point Format

- Standard 10-frame format
- After 5 frames, trailing competitor designates one frame where points count double
- Leading competitor then designates their own double-point frame

### 4.3 Team Competitions

#### 4.3.1 Team Structure

- 4 competitors per team
- Gender balance requirements per competition rules
- Team captain must be designated

#### 4.3.2 Scoring System

- Individual match scores are combined for team total
- Alternating rolls format: Team members alternate ball delivery

#### 4.3.3 Substitutions

- One substitution permitted per match
- Substituted player may not return in same match
- Substitution must occur between frames

## SECTION 5: OFFICIATING AND GOVERNANCE

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### 5.1 Match Officials

#### 5.1.1 Lane Judge

- Responsible for monitoring foul line and delivery legality
- Authorized to assess penalties for violations
- Must be FILC-certified at appropriate level for tournament tier

#### 5.1.2 Scoring Official

- Verifies electronic scoring accuracy
- Resolves scoring disputes
- Maintains official scorecard

#### 5.1.3 Tournament Referee

- Final authority on rule interpretations
- Handles competitor appeals
- Responsible for overall match conduct

### 5.2 Dispute Resolution

#### 5.2.1 Immediate Disputes

- Must be raised before next ball is delivered
- Initial ruling made by Lane Judge
- May be appealed to Tournament Referee

#### 5.2.2 Post-Match Disputes

- Must be filed within 10 minutes of match completion
- Requires submission of official protest form
- Reviewed by tournament committee

#### 5.2.3 Video Review

- Available only for scoring disputes in televised matches
- Limited to 2 reviews per competitor per match
- Tournament Referee's decision after review is final

### 5.3 Equipment Certification

#### 5.3.1 Lane Certification

- Lanes must be certified by FILC-authorized inspector
- Certification valid for 12 months or 5,000 games, whichever comes first
- Recertification required after any lane modification or repair

#### 5.3.2 Ball Certification

- All competition balls must carry FILC certification mark
- Random testing conducted throughout tournament
- Non-compliant equipment results in disqualification

## SECTION 6: CLASSIFICATION AND RANKINGS

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### 6.1 Player Classifications

#### 6.1.1 Rollmaster Status

- Awarded to competitors who:
  - Win any FILC Major Championship
  - Record 3 or more Grand Prix victories
  - Achieve a certified Perfect Frame (900 points) in sanctioned competition

### 6.1.2 Professional Divisions

- Premier Division: Top 100 in World Rankings
- Challenger Division: Rankings 101-250
- Development Division: All other registered professionals

### 6.1.3 Age Classifications

- Youth: U14, U18, U23
- Senior: 50+, 65+

## 6.2 World Ranking System

### 6.2.1 Simpson Points

- Awarded based on tournament tier and finishing position
- Points remain valid for 24 months on rolling basis
- Bonus points awarded for exceptional performances

### 6.2.2 Ranking Calculations

- Based on best 12 tournament results in previous 24 months
- Major Championships weighted at 150-200%
- Grand Prix events weighted at 100-125%
- Challenger events weighted at 50-75%

### 6.2.3 Ranking Updates

- World Rankings updated weekly
- Published on official FILC digital platforms
- Used for tournament seeding and qualification

## SECTION 7: ANTI-DOPING AND INTEGRITY

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### 7.1 Prohibited Substances

#### 7.1.1 WADA Compliance

- FILC anti-doping program complies with World Anti-Doping Agency code
- All competitors subject to testing at FILC-sanctioned events
- Therapeutic Use Exemptions must be approved prior to competition

#### 7.1.2 Testing Procedures

- Random testing conducted at all major tournaments
- Mandatory testing for all semifinalists and finalists
- Samples analyzed at WADA-accredited laboratories

### 7.2 Match Integrity

#### 7.2.1 Anti-Corruption Measures

- Competitors prohibited from betting on any FILC-sanctioned events
- Prohibition on sharing inside information
- Mandatory integrity education for all registered professionals

#### 7.2.2 Reporting Obligations

- Competitors must report any approach regarding match-fixing
- Failure to report constitutes violation of integrity code
- Whistleblower protection guaranteed

## SECTION 8: PARA ARCADE ROLLING

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### 8.1 Classification System

#### 8.1.1 Physical Impairment Classes

- Class AR1: Competitors requiring wheelchair
- Class AR2: Competitors with lower limb impairment requiring support
- Class AR3: Competitors with upper limb impairment

8.1.2 Visual Impairment Classes

- Class ARV1: Completely blind competitors
- Class ARV2: Partially sighted competitors

8.2 Modified Rules

8.2.1 Equipment Adaptations

- Modified ball delivery devices permitted per classification
- Lane approach adaptations approved by classification committee
- Custom grip aids authorized for specific classifications

8.2.2 Competition Format

- Standard scoring system applies to all classifications
- Time allowances adjusted per classification
- Assistant permitted for ARV1 competitors (positioning only)

APPENDICES

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Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

- **Century Frame:** Any frame scoring 1000+ points (100+ in shorthand)
- **Perfect Pocket:** All nine balls in the 100-point pocket (900 points)
- **Simpson Nine:** Nine consecutive balls all scoring points (no zeroes)
- **Royal Flush:** Three consecutive 100-point rolls
- **Zilch:** A ball that fails to score any points
- **The Line:** The optimal path for ball delivery
- **Sweet Spot:** The ideal point on the lane for maximum scoring potential
- **Power Roller:** Competitor who emphasizes velocity over precision
- **Technician:** Competitor known for methodical, precise delivery

Appendix B: Hand Signals

- One arm raised: Scoring dispute
- Two arms raised: Request for official review
- Crossed arms: Request for time stoppage
- Hand to ear: Request clarification of ruling

Appendix C: Code of Conduct

All registered competitors and officials must adhere to the FILC Code of Conduct at all times. This includes:

1. Sportsmanship and respect toward all competitors, officials, and spectators
  2. Adherence to the spirit of fair play and integrity
  3. Positive representation of the sport in all public settings
  4. Compliance with anti-doping regulations
  5. Appropriate attire and demeanor at all FILC events
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This rulebook is the definitive authority on all matters concerning the sport of Arcade Rolling.

Any modification or interpretation must be approved by the FILC Rules Committee.

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