

3. BOWLING — BOYS AND GIRLS

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) All high school bowling matches shall be played utilizing USBC rules modified according to OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations.
- 1.2) A minimum of two (2) regular games of tenpin regulation scoring followed by a minimum of two (2) Baker games will constitute an official, regular season match. Total combined pins for all games bowled win the match. Regular season matches (excluding tournaments) that bowl more than the minimum number of games as described above require the permission of the participating schools.
 - 1.21) In addition to regular season matches, teams may participate in tournaments that utilize an all-Baker format, provided that a minimum of five (5) teams participate in the tournament and no fewer than six (6) Baker games are bowled by each participating team. Boys teams and girls teams may not participate against each other in regular season matches/tournaments. All contests count in the 24 match season limitation. **Note:** See Bowling Regulation B.7 for additional tournament information.
 - 1.22) A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests shall not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA tournament.
 - 1.23) **Tiebreakers**
 - a. **Team**—ties for team match total pins and/or the advancement of teams in tournaments and/or the placement of teams on brackets will be broken by a 9th and 10th frame roll-off between one player from each team selected by each respective head coach. This roll-off, utilizing the same two players, will be repeated until the tie is broken. For the initial tiebreaker, the winner of a coin toss will select their starting lane. Bowlers will rotate lanes for the 10th (and any additional) frame.
 - b. **Individual**—ties for advancement/awards and/or placement on brackets in individual competition will be broken based on the highest single game bowled in the series being used to determine advancement/awards. Should this also result in a tie, there will be a 9th and 10th frame roll-off until the tie is broken. For the initial tiebreaker, the winner of a coin toss will select their starting lane. Bowlers will rotate lanes for the 10th (and any additional) frame.
 - c. **Baker Game**—no individual Baker Game shall end in a tie in head-to-head Baker game competition that advances teams on brackets or tournaments. In such situations, the tie will be broken by a 9th and 10th frame roll-off between one player from each team selected by each respective head coach. This roll-off, utilizing the same two players will be repeated until the tie is broken. The team shall continue to bowl on the same lane until the tie is broken.
 - 1.3) A team will field five (5) players at a time in contests. A minimum of three (3) players must be present to constitute a legal lineup. Absent and/or tardy bowlers will receive a score of zero (0) for any missed frames. Missed frames cannot be made up. Any school that fails to field a legal lineup shall not be permitted to participate in a contest.

Note: School teams are not permitted to practice against each other. School teams may practice in the same facility at the same time, but member schools may not “combine” teams to practice simultaneously on the same lanes.
 - 1.4) A maximum of eight (8) eligible student-athletes are permitted on the roster for OHSAA tournaments. The number of individuals listed on the roster during the regular season is not limited, but each roster member must be certified as eligible on the school’s eligibility certificate.

- 1.5) Lineups – A coach may change his/her team lineup (order of bowling) prior to the start of any game.
 - 1.51) Participation Limits–Players may be moved between varsity and non-varsity teams at the discretion of the coach. The maximum number of matches in which a bowler may participate during the season is 24. Bowling a frame or any part of a frame in any game shall constitute a match. No player may compete on a school varsity and school non-varsity team simultaneously during a match. The match in which the student first competes (non-varsity or varsity) must have concluded prior to the student bowling in the next match (non-varsity or varsity).
- 1.6) Substitutions – A coach may substitute a player “at will” at any time before or during a game. However, once removed from the lineup, the removed player(s) may not re-enter play until the start of the next regular or Baker game. A player once removed is reclassified as a substitute bowler and may be used as a substitute bowler in any spot in the team lineup upon legal return to play (subsequent game). A coach substituting any player for any reason must notify the match scorekeeper and opposing coach at the time of the substitution. The partial game score produced by the removed player and substitute **shall not be computed** in the individual average of either player.
Penalty: An illegal substitute shall be assessed a score of zero (0) for all frames, or part of a frame, bowled.
Note: Any frame, or part of a frame bowled, counts in the total number of contests bowled in the season limitation of 24 matches.
- 1.7) School Representative – No team or individual entry will be permitted to compete in a contest unless accompanied by a school coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education or similar governing body.
- 1.8) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date – An individual who has not participated as a representative of the school in a bowling contest during the current season must cease non-interscholastic competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Bowling Tournament to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition in bowling.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in bowling who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest or event in bowling shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in bowling in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Date: Division II – January 11, 2016; Division I – January 18, 2016

- 1.9) The home school coach shall serve as referee, enforcing all OHSAA regulations and USBC rules.
 - 1.91) Electronic Devices–Bowling participants (players) are not permitted to use electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, cameras, etc.) during competition. Coaches are permitted to use electronic devices for the purpose of scorekeeping only.
 - 1.92) Protests–There are no protests allowed for regular season and/or OHSAA tournament competition. Scoring errors and other sports regulation disputes must be corrected/resolved before teams depart the competition. A match becomes official when all final scores are agreed upon and/or teams depart the competition.
 - 1.93) Use of Foreign Substances–The use of foreign substances applied to bowling balls, bowling shoes, towels, or the use of items that emit a foreign substance, including powder, are prohibited. **EXCEPTION:** The use of approved cleaning agents such as isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol for the purpose of ball cleaning is permissible during competition. Ball polishing machines are not permissible once competition begins. Competition is defined as when scoring

begins. **Penalty:** For each frame bowled, or part of a frame, where a foreign substance has been used, a score of zero shall be assessed.

- 1.94) Altering the Ball Surface—A bowling ball surface may not be altered once competition has started for the remainder of the event. **Competition is defined as when scoring begins.** All bowling balls so altered must be removed from competition. **Penalty:** The altered ball shall be removed from competition and for each frame in which the altered ball was used, a score of zero shall be applied. The frame does not have to have been completed for the score of zero to apply for that frame.

2) Out-of-State Travel

A bowling team may travel out of state to compete in contests, and matches in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance of travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, a bowling team may travel out-of-state one time per interscholastic season to compete in states or provinces in Canada that are not contiguous to Ohio provided there is no loss of school time. A bowling team may not travel out of state to practice only. **EXCEPTION:** A school team that utilizes an out-of-state facility as its home facility may practice at that facility.

“School time” is defined as any time during any day during which the school is in session as stipulated in its Board-adopted school calendar exclusive of contingency days. **Penalty for violation, including practicing out of state:** The school shall be ineligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11.

EXCEPTION: If, because of missed school days due to calamity situations, an otherwise non-school day(s) becomes a school day(s) in order to make up for the missed school day, the school may compete in a contest(s) outside the state of Ohio provided:

- 1) The school had contracted for/committed to said trip/contest(s) at least three months prior to the contest(s) in question and;
- 2) The school receives written permission from the Commissioner’s office at least one week in advance of the scheduled event.

3) Sponsorship

- 3.1) A school that sponsors girls bowling, with five or more girls participating, shall have a separate girls team in order to enter the OHSAA-sponsored girls tournament competition.
- 3.2) A school that sponsors girls bowling and has less than five girls participating may permit the girls to participate as individuals with the boys team during the regular season, and the girls will be permitted to enter and compete as individuals in the OHSAA-sponsored girls tournament provided the school is registered for the girls tournament. There are no “co-ed” bowling teams. A girl who bowls on a boys team is a permanent member of the boys team that season if the school has a separate girls team for which the student chose not to bowl. Girls on boys teams must continue to participate as a member of the boys team during the regular season. Girls who participate as members of the boys team may only participate in the OHSAA girls tournament if the school sponsors girls bowling, but was unable to field a girls team. Any girl who has bowled with the boys team during the season may choose to continue to participate with the boys team during the OHSAA tournament. No person may bowl in both the boys and girls OHSAA tournament. No girl may go back and forth between a girls and a boys team during the regular season. If a girl first bowls with a boys team and the school sponsored a girls team that has a separate girls schedule, the girl(s) shall be a permanent member of the boys team for that season and shall be excluded from the girls state tournament. **No student may bowl on both a boys and girls team during the same school regular season.**
- 3.3) A school that sponsors boys and girls bowling and has separate teams shall schedule separate contests, but both may be held at the same time.

- 3.4) A school that does not sponsor girls bowling but has one or more girls participating may permit the girls to participate on the boys team, but they must enter the OHSAA-sponsored boys tournament competition.

4) Uniforms

All players must wear the same sleeved, bowling shirt which conforms to school/OHSAA regulations. At a minimum the shirt must have the name of the school or school nickname as identified in the *OHSAA School Directory* on the back. The name of the school or school nickname must be at least 1 inch in height. All bowlers must wear the same color pants. No jeans or cotton sweat pants are permitted. If nylon warmups are worn, they must be worn by the entire team and be identical in style and color. Girls are permitted to wear skirts and/or shorts provided the skirts/shorts are of the same color as the pants and are no shorter than the end of the bowler's index finger when standing. Girls uniforms may be mixed. Pants should be worn at waist level and not sag or touch the floor. Cargo, yoga pants, jeggings, leggings, and painter pants (i.e., pants with side pockets) are not permitted. Headbands, if worn, must be of a solid color and bear no markings. Headbands do not need to be the same color for each team member. It is not necessary for all members of a team to wear a headband. Manufacturer logos (Nike, Adidas, etc.) are permitted, on uniforms (not headbands) but not Bowling Center logos. See General Sports Regulations regarding permissibility and size of manufacturer's and other (patriotic) logos. Currently there is no necessity to have a number on an individual bowler's uniform. Conferences/Leagues may have their own requirements.

5) Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

See *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Sections 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations.

6) Transfer Bylaw

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to bowl, please go to the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org), click on the "Eligibility" link, then click on the "Transfer Bylaw Resource Center" to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests until regular season contest number 13 in bowling.

7) Practice

The host center shall prohibit all open play or practice by team members on the day of the match prior to official team warmups. EXCEPTION: School physical education classes may use the facility for any and all scheduled activity during school hours.

Substitute (bench) players may warm up prior to a match on practice lanes not assigned by the host bowling center as competition lanes. This warmup shall end at the same time as the warmup for those bowlers who will compete in the initial lineup.

Practice is not permitted for any player while that player is participating in a match. This would be unsporting conduct – Penalty: Student would be subject to penalties under 5) Ejection for Unsporting Conduct.

8) Non-Interscholastic Participation

A member of an interscholastic bowling squad (any student who has played in a regular season/tournament contest) sponsored by the Board of Education or similar governing body shall not participate in a non-interscholastic (non-school) contest or event during the school's bowling season (Sports Regulation 7.2.2).

Note: Examples of non-interscholastic bowling contests include, but are not limited to, club or intramural bowling, bowling facility championships, tournaments, leagues (adult and/or youth), charitable events and other events that are organized for the purpose of competition or fundraising.

- 8.1) The **maximum** penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2.2, participation on a non-interscholastic bowling squad, or in a non-interscholastic bowling event; or any

OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic bowling season or the ensuing season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

8.2) Interscholastic bowling coaches may coach athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

9) Spectators

Spectators are NOT permitted in the bowling area where team members are seated, nor are spectators permitted to converse with participants once pre-match practice begins. It will be the responsibility of coaches/contestants to caution ANY spectator from talking to or interfering with contestants during competition. Failure to do so may result in a penalty or disqualification of contestants involved.

Bowling team members must remain in the bowling area once a match begins, unless explicitly excused by the coach.

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — October 30, 2015.
- 2) First contest —November 13, 2015.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — January 25, 2016.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — January 31, 2016, 2:00 p.m.
- 5) Coaching and Season end —March 5, 2016.
- 6) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 7) Regular season contests — 24 for team and individual and each interscholastic contest counts. *Regular season tournaments with multiple teams count as one contest (EXCEPTION: A tournament that is designed to run more than one day with “new” matches starting on the following or consecutive days shall count as the same number of matches as days of the tournament). For tournaments that feature only head to head competition between teams rather than field of play competition, each head to head competition shall count as one contest.*
- 8) Rules—United States Bowling Congress (USBC) as modified by OHSAA.
- 9) Officials — No requirements.

Bowling	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Coaching Begins	10/30	11/4	11/3	11/2	11/1	10/30
Season Begins	11/13	11/18	11/17	11/16	11/15	11/13
Non-Interscholastic Date – Div II	1/11	1/16	1/15	1/14	1/13	1/11
Non-Interscholastic Date – Div I	1/18	1/23	1/22	1/21	1/20	1/18
Sectional – Div II	2/8-2/13#	2/13-2/18#	2/12-2/17#	2/11-2/16#	2/10-2/15#	2/8-2/13#
Sectional – Div I	2/15-2/20#	2/20-2/25#	2/19-2/24#	2/18-2/23#	2/17-2/22#	2/15-2/20#
District – Div II	2/15-2/20	2/20-2/25	2/19-2/24	2/18-2/23	2/17-2/22	2/15-2/20
District – Div I	2/22-2/27	2/27-3/4	2/26-3/3	2/25-3/2	2/24-2/29	2/22-2/27
State – Div II	2/26-2/27	3/3-3/4	3/2-3/3	3/1-3/2	2/28-2/29	2/26-2/27
State – Div I	3/4-3/5	3/10-3/11	3/9-3/10	3/8-3/9	3/6-3/7	3/5-3/6
Season Ends	3/5	3/11	3/10	3/9	3/7	3/6
Easter	3/27	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4

#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date)