

2026 BOWLING TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

SECTIONAL, DISTRICT & STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENTS

NOTE: The following regulations apply to all levels of tournament competition unless otherwise specified. They have been adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors on September 25, 2025.

The Executive Director is authorized to modify these Regulations when it is deemed necessary, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

1. ORGANIZATION OF TOURNAMENTS

The District Athletic Boards organize and conduct Sectional and District Tournaments in their respective Districts, subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. The State Tournaments are under the control of the Executive Director's office.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS

All participants must be eligible under the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA.

A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids.

3. DIVISIONS

There shall be two Divisions in the Sectional, District and State Tournaments for bowling, both boys and girls.

4. ENTRIES

Schools shall transmit all entry information to the manager of the Sectional Tournament to which the school has been assigned by the District Athletic Board, per the instructions from each respective Board. Member schools wanting to participate in the 2026 OHSAA postseason tournaments must indicate their intent to participate on their 2025-26 OHSAA Sport Participation Form on myOHSAA. Tournament entry confirmation ends January 19, 2026 without penalty.

Each school may enter one girls team and one boys team (eight participants per team). Schools without a full team may enter individual participants (up to four) provided the school indicated it sponsored boys and/or girls bowling through FinalForms. A participant who starts on a team in a Sectional, District or State Tournament must continue until that respective tournament is completed. Substitutions may be made prior to the start of the next level of the tournament.

5. SUBSTITUTIONS

Five bowlers compete at one time on a team at each tournament level. There may be up to eight participants listed on a team's roster. The roster/lineup must be provided to the tournament manager prior to the start of tournament play. Substitutions may be made in the Sectional Tournament level.

A school that sponsors girls bowling, has less than five girls participating and was unable to field a team throughout the season may permit the girls to participate 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 competition. The maximum number of individual bowlers that may compete in the OHSAA postseason tournament from a sponsoring school is four.

A school that does *not* sponsor girls bowling, but has girls participating, may permit the girls to participate on the boys team, but they must enter the OHSAA-sponsored boys tournament competition. No student may enter both the boys and girls State Tournament.

6. SEEDING AND DRAWING FOR SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Coaches shall be notified when the draw meeting is scheduled so they may be present to help with the draw in the Sectional Tournaments. The current draw date has currently been scheduled for Sunday, February 1, 2026. **NOTE: The draw/seed meeting is to be held at 2:00 PM.** There will be no *mandatory* seeding of teams for the purposes of lane assignments or placement into tournament sites. Tournament draw meetings may be conducted virtually.

It is the responsibility of each District Athletic Board to determine the number of qualifiers from the Sectional Tournament to the District Tournament. Advancement of teams to the state tournament is based on a formula that takes into account the number of school teams that participate in each of the OHSAA's six districts.

7. FAILURE TO APPEAR

When national playing rules do not address failure to appear, the following regulations shall apply.

- A. If a team or individual participant fails to appear or is not ready to compete at the time of their scheduled competition, the team or individual participant shall be disqualified and removed from the event or tournament competition.
- B. The OHSAA, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors, and the tournament manager, may delay or reschedule a tournament contest/competition provided it is practical to delay or reschedule such contests/competitions.

All decisions relative to this regulation shall be made by a member of the respective District Athletic Board and/or the OHSAA Executive Director's Office.

8. TIME BETWEEN MATCHES

Bowling matches shall be continuous with no scheduled break in play during regular games. There may be a short break between the end of the three regular games in team play and the start of the Baker games. For any lane changes, there may also be a short break in play. Tournament games are meant to be played with minimal interruption. There will be a break in State Tournament play prior to the Team Championship rounds.

9. QUALIFIERS

- A. **Sectional to District Tournament:** The District Tournaments will be comprised of the qualifiers from the Sectional Tournaments if a separate Sectional Tournament is held. Each Sectional Tournament will qualify a proportionate number of individual bowlers and teams to the District Tournament. The number of qualifiers from each Sectional Tournament to each District Tournament will depend on the number of Sectional Tournaments held and the number of teams represented.
- B. **District to State Tournament:** There will be six District Tournaments in Division II, one in each respective OHSAA district. There will be five District Tournaments in Division I (*see note above*).

NOTE: Should an individual bowler or a bowling team not be able to advance to the next round for any circumstance, please have the tournament manager, sport coordinator or DAB member contact Emily Mason to determine potential advancement replacement.

The number of team/individual qualifiers from the District to the State Tournament shall be:

DIVISION I

DISTRICT	BOYS	GIRLS
Central	3	3
East	1	1
Northeast	5	5
Northwest	2	2
Southeast	0	0
Southwest	5	5

DIVISION II

DISTRICT	BOYS	GIRLS
Central	2	2
East	2	2
Northeast	4	4
Northwest	3	3
Southeast	1	1
Southwest	4	4

The highlighted numbers represent a change in representation for that respective district since the last enrollment cycle.

10. ADMISSION

The admission fee for Sectional and District tournament tickets shall be \$5.00 for students and \$10.00 for adults and will be available for sale online.

NOTE: Children under the age of five are provided complimentary admission.

11. PRACTICE

At the Sectional and District Tournament level, it is up to the facility to determine if practice is permitted at the site. If the facility is not able to provide the opportunity for practice to participating teams, and if the tournament site is the home facility for a participating team, they are not permitted to practice on the established oil pattern at that facility.

12. TIEBREAKER

TEAM: ties for team match total pins and 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 will be repeated, until the tie is broken. For the initial tiebreaker, the winner of a coin toss will select their starting lane and who bowls first. Bowlers will rotate lanes for the 10th (and any additional) frame(s).

No Individual Baker game shall end in a tie.

INDIVIDUALS: ties for advancement/awards in individual competition will be broken based on the high 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 and who bowls first. Bowlers will rotate lanes for the 10th (and any additional) frame(s).

13. SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

No team or individual entry will be allowed to compete in the Sectional, District or State Tournaments unless accompanied by a school coach or person authorized by the school's Board of Education or similar governing body. Teams and individual entries unaccompanied by a school coach or authorized person will be disqualified. The school representative shall be present during play of their entries.

14. AWARDS

Awards presented at the site of the District or State Tournaments must be approved by the OHSAA.

SECTIONAL – awards will not be presented.

DISTRICT – Team trophies will be presented to the championship and runner-up teams, and medals will be presented to the participating members of the championship and runner-up teams. Medals will be awarded to the district individual champion and runner-up. The individual champion and/or runner-up could be a participant on a team or a bowler bowling as an individual.

STATE – Team trophies will be presented to the championship and runner-up teams. Individual members of championship and runner-up teams and the head coach will be presented with medals by the OHSAA. Medals will be awarded to the state individual champion and runner-up as well as the third, fourth, and fifth place finishers.

NOTE: Additional awards can be ordered through Croton Craft by calling 1-800-947-5521

15. TOURNAMENT QUALIFIERS

To enter the District Tournament, an individual bowler must first qualify from the Sectional Tournament or qualify to participate in a combined Sectional/District Tournament. Substitutions may not be made for individual bowlers.

All tournaments must be played to a winner.

16. VOLUNTARILY DEFAULTING MATCHES

A player who voluntarily defaults a game/match, shall not be eligible for further tournament competition.

17. RULES

The United States Bowling Congress Rules as adopted and amended by the OHSAA shall prevail for all tournaments sponsored by the OHSAA unless otherwise noted.

18. FORMAT

The OHSAA bowling tournaments at all levels will consist of individual participants and teams. The only exception may be the Sectional Tournament, or a combined Sectional/District Tournament. It is possible that a Sectional Tournament, or combined Sectional/District Tournament, will have only full teams participating. Those schools that sponsor boys and/or girls bowling that have less than five bowlers will enter their participants as individuals at the first level of the tournament. Schools that sponsor boys and/or girls bowling that have more than four bowlers will enter the tournament as a team.

The Sectional Tournament shall consist of:

Individual participants will bowl three games of regulation 10-pin bowling, totaling all pins during this competition. Teams will bowl three games of regulation 10-pin bowling and six Baker games. District qualifiers for teams are determined by highest total pin count of all regulation games and Baker games. Individual District qualifiers are determined by the highest total pin count after the three-game regulation 10-pin bowling for all participants. The top individuals not on a District qualifying team will advance to the District Tournament. The District Athletic Boards determine the number of District qualifiers from each sectional site (*see Section 9*).

The District Tournament shall consist of:

Individual participants will bowl three games of regulation 10-pin bowling totaling all pins during this competition. Teams will bowl three games of regulation 10-pin bowling and six Baker games. State qualifiers for teams are determined by highest total pin count of all regulation games and Baker games. Individual State qualifiers are determined by the highest total pin count after the three games of regulation 10-pin bowling for all participants. The top individuals not on a State qualifying team will advance to the state tournament. The number of qualifiers to the State Tournament from each district tournament is outlined in *Section 9*.

The State Tournament shall consist of:

See *Section 7* of the State Tournament Regulations below.

19. INCLEMENT WEATHER

Should there be inclement weather, information about the tournament will be posted on the OHSAA website, www.ohsaa.org. The tournament manager may also be contacted for updated information. Should a DAB or tournament manager decide to postpone a tournament event, please inform Michael Cornathan (mcornathan@ohsaa.org).

20. INTERRUPTED TOURNAMENT

Should there be mechanical or other failure, all contests suspended shall be resumed at the point of interruption. Please refer to the Failure to Appear Policy (*Tournament Regulation 7*) above.

21. UNIFORMS

Bowlers must wear uniforms that conform to the requirements outlined in the Bowling Sport Regulations in all tournament matches. Any lettering or pictures on clothing must pertain to the school name, school mascot, school emblem, or the student's name. *Exception:* Manufacturer's names or logos, and commemorative patches as well as one United States Flag are permitted on all bowling uniforms provided they do not exceed two and one-quarter square inches with no dimension exceeding 2 ¼ inches.

Participating bowlers must *wear all black bottoms*. The dress code is to be enforced by the tournament manager. Failure to comply will result in a player being denied the right to participate.

Please refer to the **2025-26** *Bowling Regulations* for complete text of uniform requirements and other regulations specific to bowling.

22. EQUIPMENT

The maximum number of bowling balls allowed in the bowling center at one time by each bowler is six. The maximum number of equipment bags in the bowling center at one time by each bowler is two. Bowlers may trade out bowling balls and equipment outside of the bowling center but must adhere to the maximum restrictions at any time while in the bowling center. The equipment maximums apply at all Sectional, District and State Tournaments.

23. STUDENT PARTICIPATION CONDUCT PENALTY

During participation in OHSAA Tournaments any student or coach ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two consecutive tournament contests are played. Individuals ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be reported to the OHSAA Executive Director's office by the tournament manager. The Executive Director's office will investigate the situation and may impose additional penalties in accordance with *Bylaw 11* if the situation warrants it.

Participation in an athletic contest is a privilege. Everyone is expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner while participating.

24. PROPERTY DAMAGE

There is no insurance covering property damage. If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body or spectators, the school from which the students and/or spectators come shall be liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement. Other damages to facilities not attributed to a competing school could be a legitimate tournament expense and schools may be invoiced. If damage is extensive, the appropriate District Board or Board of Directors will become involved. Student crowd control at the state-sponsored tournaments is the responsibility of the principals or administrators of the competing schools.

25. SPONSORSHIP AND RIGHTS

The Ohio High School Athletic Association is the sponsoring association for the Sectional, District and State Bowling Tournaments. **The OHSAA reserves all rights in regard to the management of these tournaments and the sale of any items or any audio-visual reproductions.** Any sale of food, clothing, souvenirs or any other items is strictly prohibited without permission of the respective District Athletic Boards for Sectional or District Tournaments and the OHSAA Executive Director's office for the State Tournaments.

26. PROHIBITED ADVERTISING

There shall be no advertising through printed media, billboards, radio or television that includes beer, wine, liquor, tobacco, political parties or candidates or any other advertising contrary to the philosophy of the high school athletic program.

27. RAFFLES PROHIBITED

50/50 raffles are permitted if approved by the OHSAA Executive Director's Office and follow the IRS guidelines. There shall be no raffles or any type of games of chance permitted at the site of bowling tournament contests during the period beginning one hour prior to the tournaments and ending at the conclusion of the tournament(s) if approval is not received by the Executive Director's Office.

28. PROHIBITED SALES

The sale of, the distribution of, or the consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is not permitted at the site of any OHSAA tournament contest involving OHSAA member schools.

29. PROHIBITED ITEMS

The following items are prohibited: ***coolers, food or drink purchased outside the contest venue.*** Signs, including those with participant photos, school banners, pennants, pom-poms, shakers, balloons, flowers, and noisemakers such as horns, bells sirens, drums, etc. are not permitted. This list of prohibited items is not meant to be exhaustive.

30. SPECTATOR ATTIRE

Shirts/appropriate attire must be worn by all spectators at all OHSAA indoor tournaments.

31. NEWS MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Reservations are made directly with the site manager for Sectional and District competition.

20th ANNUAL BOYS AND GIRLS STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENTS

DIVISION II BOYS – February 27, 2026 | DIVISION II GIRLS – February 28, 2026

DIVISION I BOYS – March 6, 2026 | DIVISION I GIRLS – March 7, 2026

HP Lanes | 2012 Innis Road, Columbus, OH 43224

Greg Coullles, *Manager*

Holly Calhoun, *Assistant Manager*

1. REGULATIONS

The regulations for Sectional and District Bowling Tournaments shall apply to the State Bowling Tournament. The following Regulations are in addition to those listed above.

2. STATE TOURNAMENT MANAGER

The State Bowling Tournaments are under the supervision and sponsorship of the OHSAA with the cooperation of the proprietor of the assigned bowling center. The State Tournament Manager is Greg Coullles; P: (937) 602-1475; E: greg300@gmail.com The Assistant State Tournament Manager is Holly Calhoun; P: (937) 432-6780; E: calhoun.holly@gmail.com

3. COACHES MEETING

A mandatory coaches meeting will take place the morning of the State Tournament. Attendance by one coach from each school is required.

4. SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

No team or individual entry will be allowed to compete in the Sectional, District or State Tournaments unless accompanied by a school approved coach or person authorized by the Board of Education or similar governing body. Teams and individual entries unaccompanied by a school coach or authorized person will be disqualified. The school representative shall be present during play of their entries.

5. ENTRIES

Individual bowlers and teams that qualify from a District Tournament are automatically entered in the State Tournament.

6. SEEDING: STATE

There will be no mandatory seeding of teams that advance from the District Tournaments to the State Tournament.

7. FORMAT

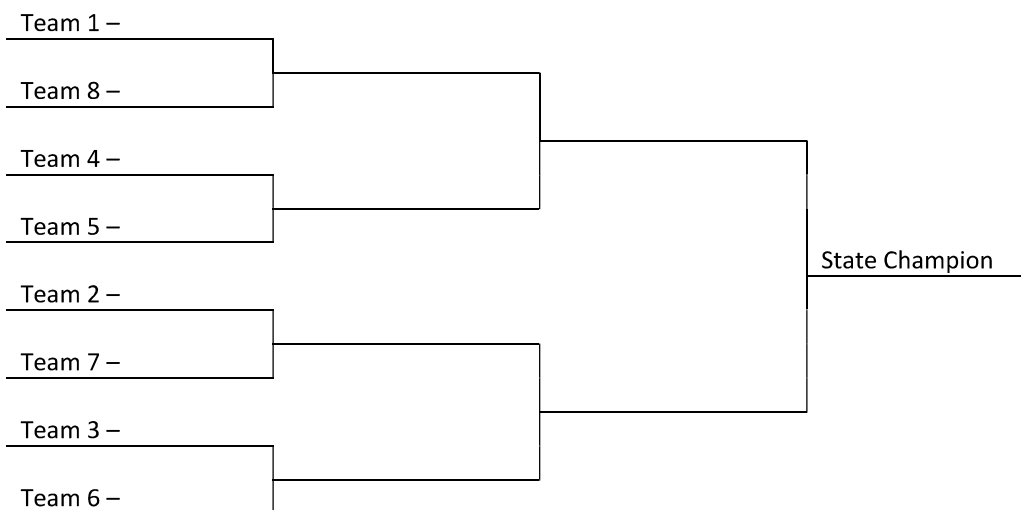
Individual participants will bowl three games of regulation 10-pin bowling totaling all pins during this competition. Teams will bowl three games of regulation 10-pin bowling and five Baker games. The top two individuals with the highest total pin count following the three games of 10-pin bowling will be the state champion and runner-up. The individuals with the third, fourth, and fifth highest total pin count will also receive an award.

See Section 11 of the previous section for tiebreaker procedures.

In addition, the top eight teams with the highest total pin count following three games of regulation 10-pin bowling and the five Baker game competition will advance to compete for the team state championship. These teams will be seeded 1 through 8 based on the order of finish following the three games of regulation 10-pin bowling and the five Baker games and will compete in head-to-head competition in a best of five Baker game format. The head-to-head competition will continue until a champion and runner-up is determined.

See the State Tournament team bracket below:

2026 State Tournament Team Championship Bracket



8. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DIVISION II

Friday, February 27, 2026 – Boys State Bowling Tournament – HP Lanes (2012 Innis Rd, Columbus, OH 43224).

Competition begins at 10:30 AM. Check in and registration begins at 9:00 AM. *All times are approximate.*

Saturday, February 28, 2026 – Girls State Bowling Tournament - HP Lanes (2012 Innis Rd, Columbus, OH 43224).

Competition begins at 10:30 AM. Check in and registration begins at 9:00 AM. *All times are approximate.*

DIVISION I

Friday, March 6, 2026 – Boys State Bowling Tournament – HP Lanes (2012 Innis Rd, Columbus, OH 43224).

Competition begins at 10:30 AM. Check in and registration begins at 9:00 AM. *All times are approximate.*

Saturday, March 7, 2026 – Girls State Bowling Tournament - HP Lanes (2012 Innis Rd, Columbus, OH 43224).

Competition begins at 10:30 AM. Check in and registration begins at 9:00 AM. *All times are approximate.*

9. ADMISSION

The admission fee for State Tournament tickets shall be \$10.00 for students and \$16.00 for adults and will be available for sale on the OHSAA ticketing webpage.

NOTE: Children under the age of five are provided complimentary admission.

10. PARTICIPANT ADMISSION

INDIVIDUALS – the number of participants plus one coach

TEAMS WITH FIVE BOWLERS – the number of participants plus one coach

TEAMS WITH SIX TO EIGHT BOWLERS – the number of participants plus two coaches

All of the individuals listed above will be permitted admission through a pass list or certified Bag Tag. All other individuals entering the State Bowling Tournament will require paid admission.

11. RE-ADMISSION

Individuals will be permitted to leave and reenter the competition venue if they have the appropriate stamp/credentials.

12. EXPENSES FOR STATE TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION

No team expenses shall be expected to be paid to member schools participating in 2025-26 OHSAA Tournaments. Transportation, meals and lodging shall be the responsibility of the school and/or the participants.

13. NEWS MEDIA CREDENTIALS

There is no official credential application form to submit to the OHSAA for the State Bowling Tournament and no other advance registration is needed. Media members shall show their company identification (badge or letter from editor/supervisor on station letterhead) for admittance. Media shall sign in and ask tournament personnel to obtain media packet, which contains a credential, release, welcome letter and program.

14. PRACTICE SESSIONS

Practice sessions are permitted by contacting HP Lanes at 614-267-0321 (reservations required) under the following schedule.

Practice sessions are \$5.50 per game.

DIVISION II: *Thursday, February 26, 2026* – 48 lanes: 12:00 – 9:00 PM

Friday, February 27, 2026 – after completion of the Boys Tournament

DIVISION I: *Thursday, March 5, 2026* – 48 lanes: 12:00 – 9:00 PM

Friday, March 6, 2026 – after completion of the Boys Tournament