



MHSAA 2016-17 Bowling Coaches Manual

ACADEMIC STANDARDS – Students must meet the MHSAA minimum academic standard of passing a minimum of 66% of a full class load in both the current and previous semester to maintain eligibility. Local schools may have higher academic standards than the MHSAA minimum, in which case students must meet their school’s academic requirement to be eligible.

ADMISSION – Schools, leagues & conferences may establish their own admission policies and ticket pricing for regular season competition. Admission for MHSAA Regional tournaments will be \$5 and \$8 at the MHSAA Finals.

ALCOHOL/TOBACCO – Alcohol may not be sold to, or used by spectators during school competition. Smoking is not permitted during school competition. Coaches may not use alcohol or tobacco. It is preferred that bowling centers do not sell alcohol during school competition. The area of a bowling center where high school bowling competition is being held should be clearly defined in order to restrict the sale and use of alcohol and tobacco.

Use of alcohol or tobacco, including e-cigarettes or other smoking devices, is prohibited at MHSAA tournament events by players, coaches and spectators. Managers should stress in coaches meetings that they are not to use tobacco at the tournament venue.

ALL-STAR RESTRICTIONS/NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – Neither students or coaches are allowed to participate in any event which purports to be an All-Star contest or a national high school championship. Such participation will result in a loss of eligibility for one calendar year. Coaches should review the All-Star and National Championship restrictions and relevant MHSAA Handbook interpretations with their school athletic director to avoid violations. Events that are called “All-Star” and have a selection process that does not include open tryouts are indications of types of competition that can create loss of eligibility.

AWARDS/AMATEUR STATUS/SCHOLARSHIPS – The MHSAA Awards limits as stated in Regulation I, Section 11 applies to all athletes in sports under MHSAA jurisdiction at all times. Athletes may never accept cash or merchandise for athletic participation. Symbolic awards such as trophies, medals, plaques and t-shirts may not exceed \$25 in retail value. A violation of the awards limits in a sport under MHSAA jurisdiction results in loss of all eligibility for all sports for a minimum of one full semester. Players may purchase at fair market value and keep equipment such as shoes and uniforms without incurring a loss of eligibility.

It is a violation of the MHSAA Amateur Status regulation when students compete in events offering prize money and accept prize money, even if the prize money is deferred or held in escrow and paid to the student at a later date, even if the prize money is used for educational purposes. Regardless of who sponsors or conducts such events, accepting prize money, regardless of its later use and deferred payment is a violation and may result in loss of athletic eligibility for all MHSAA sports for one calendar year.

Through a series of discussions with Michigan Bowling Proprietor representatives, USBC youth leadership, USBC and other Michigan bowling industry leaders, bowling scholarship programs have been changed to be in compliance with MHSAA Amateur Status and scholarship regulations. Coaches, students and parents should contact the state USBC youth leadership regarding scholarships programs and be aware of all MHSAA regulations to be in compliance. When bowlers compete in out of state competitions and/or local “scholarship” events, MHSAA regulations regarding Amateur Status as stated previously apply. Questions regarding all MHSAA regulations should be directed through school athletic administration to the MHSAA.

As stated in the Amateur Status Regulation I, Section 12(A), students must compete as amateurs and may not have received gifts of materials or money or other valuable consideration because of athletic performance or potential, or sign a professional contract. This applies to all sports under MHSAA jurisdiction. A violation of the Amateur Status regulation will result in the student being ineligible for a period of one full year. Bowlers who participate in adult leagues and accept cash or awards, or give their share to team members are in violation of this regulation.

BAKER FORMAT/ABSENT BOWLER – For regular season meets when the Baker format is used, the MHSAA substitution rule will be applied. Absent or late bowlers will be given a zero for their scheduled Baker frame. Example: If the bowler schedule to bowl frames 1 & 6 is absent, the team receives a score of zero for frames 1 & 6. The team cannot place the absent bowlers zero scores in frames 1-2. All other USBC Baker format rules will be followed.

BOOSTER CLUBS – Booster Clubs are an extension of the school and may not engage in activities which the school itself is prohibited from doing. Booster Club funds raised for transportation, uniforms, etc. should be coordinated with school administration with full knowledge of the use and source of funds.

BOWLING BALL LIMITS – Participants shall be limited to a maximum of two bowling balls in the bowler area. Additional bowling balls should be kept in the paddock or other assigned area. Equipment changes will be allowed during competition.

BALL CLEANING - Players may not alter the surface of the ball with abrasives once competition begins. Cleaning with a dry cloth or polishing a ball is allowed. Using resin for grip is allowed, but the ball must be wiped clear.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES – Electronic devices such as cell phones may not be used during competition and should not be in the competition area. Listening devices such as IPODS may not be worn during competition. After a warning is issued to discontinue such use, bowlers are subject to disqualification for repeated violations.

Video recording devices such as IPADS, tablets or smartphones may not be used by coaches during competition for coaching purposes, nor can coaches have such devices in the bowlers’ area.

CHANTS/CHEERS – Coaches and bowlers should be aware that there are reasonable limits to team and spectator cheering. While enthusiastic support of teammates is okay and natural,

coaches need to communicate to athletes that they may not run out on the approach to celebrate, nor should athletes scream, shout or chant so as to disrupt others, Orchestrated chants to intimidate opponents are not allowed by bowlers or spectators. Profanity, taunting, intimidation or offensive language will not be tolerated. Noisemakers may not be used.

Only two bowlers will be allowed standing during a match, if seating is available. The one player that is bowling and the one that is on deck. Coaches and tournament managers should make this a point of emphasis in player and coach meetings prior to competitions.

COMPETITION FORMAT - REGULAR SEASON – For all regular season competition, it is required that all competition consist of two Baker games and two regular games for league/conference and school vs. school competition. Local leagues/conferences may determine order (Baker first or regular games first). All competition shall be “scratch”. Other formats may be used for invitational or other types of competition. When reporting results and determining conference/league standings it is recommended that a match victory be considered a win or loss and not reported with “points” or individual games won or lost.

COACHING RESTRICTIONS – **Two** school coaches will be allowed in the bowlers’ seating area during MHSAA Tournament competition. At the MHSAA Finals, two coaches per team are allowed in the bowlers area. However, in the Finals singles bowling, if a school has one bowler, then one coach is allowed. If the school has two or more bowlers in singles, then two coaches will be allowed. Coaches are not allowed on the approaches. Additional coaches must be in the spectator area. Direct coaching and/or instruction is only allowed between frames. Coaches shall not act to slow the pace of play.

COMPETITION AREA – Only the bowlers who are in the lineup and are currently competing are allowed in the bowlers seating area. Substitute bowlers should be in a nearby area and ready to enter competition in a timely manner.

CANCELLATIONS/POSTPONEMENTS - Competition may be delayed or re-scheduled for legitimate transportation or weather problems that schools experience at the discretion of the schools involved and/or the host school manager. Teams may not bowl without an opponent and later “match” that score against another team’s score who bowled without an opponent.

DATES OF COMPETITION/MEET LIMITS – School teams are allowed a maximum of 24 dates of competition for the regular season and an individual bowler may not participate in more than 24 school meets during the regular season. MHSAA Regional tournament dates do not count against the regular season limit. **There is no weekly limit for meets.** If a school conducts multiple meets against several schools in one day, it counts as one date of competition.

Individual students are allowed a maximum of 18 games in one day. For the purposes of this rule, five Baker games constitute one game. When a school team or individual students represent their school using one of the allowed 24 dates of competition, a school designated coach must be present and all students competing for the school must be eligible athletes from the same school. For example, school dates of competition may be used for school teams participating in weekly youth leagues but such use of school dates must be done properly with coach and school understanding of using school dates for such competition.

DELAY, STALLING, PACE OF PLAY - Bowlers should be standing and ready to bowl when the preceding bowler is completing his/her frame. Intentional stalling or undue delay is considered unsportsmanlike. Bowlers should be warned about such conduct and may be penalized if there are repeated violations.

DISQUALIFICATIONS/SUSPENSIONS FOR COACH & PLAYER

Coach - Unless a school or the MHSAA applies additional conditions, suspension from coaching requires at least that the coach not be at or near the team bench before, during or after the contest, not be in or near the locker room before, during or after the contest, and not give instructions directly or indirectly to coaches or players from any position in or near the gymnasium or field of play.

If a school fails to enforce a suspension which is required by the MHSAA, tournament management shall require the coach to comply with the terms of suspension and shall report the school to the MHSAA for further action. If the coach fails to comply with the terms of suspension, tournament management shall report the school and coach to the MHSAA, which shall prohibit the school from the remainder of the current tournament and impose additional penalties as circumstances warrant.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct in Previous Contest - A coach who is ejected during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be prohibited by his/her school from coaching at or attending at least the next day of competition for that team. This is true even if the coach is a parent of a player. A coach serving the disqualification penalty shall not be on the premises. If a school fails to enforce the subsequent disqualification with respect to its coach or the coach fails to comply, the tournament manager or any registered official or representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA, which shall prohibit the school from the remainder of the current tournament. Note: MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3(D).

Player - Unless a school or the MHSAA applies additional conditions, a suspended player is treated as an ineligible player, which means that student shall not participate. It is permissible, but is not recommended, that the player may sit with the team, even in uniform. The minimum requirement is that the suspended student shall not enter the contest as a participant.

If a school fails to enforce a suspension required under MHSAA regulations with respect to one of its students, tournament management or any representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA for further action, which shall include (but not be limited to) forfeiture of the contest and thus elimination from the remainder of the tournament.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct in Previous Contest - A player who is ejected during a contest for sportsmanlike conduct shall be withheld by his/her school for at least the next day of competition for that team. If a school fails to enforce the subsequent disqualification with respect to one of its students, the tournament managers or any registered official or representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA, which shall prohibit the school from the remainder of the current tournament. MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3(D).

Coach and Player - Any coach who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct two or more times during a season, any player who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct three or more times during a season, and any coach or player who is ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing or intentionally and aggressively physically contacting an official at any time

during that season, is not eligible to participate in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. If the tournament disqualifying ejection for that individual occurs during the MHSAA tournament, that player or coach is ineligible for the remainder of that tournament.

The school of the disqualified coach or player must prohibit that person from being present on the property of the tournament venue for the remainder of the tournament series. If that school fails to enforce this, the tournament manager, any registered official or representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA, which shall prohibit the school from the remainder of the current tournament.

ELIGIBILITY – All bowlers must be on the school’s Master Eligibility list and meet all MHSAA and school eligibility requirements in order to compete in a scrimmage or meet. Coaches may not intentionally use ineligible athletes. Each individual school district may determine policies for allowing ineligible athletes to **practice** with the school team.

FIRST PRACTICE/TRYOUPS – MHSAA regulations allow school programs to begin practice with prospective students on Monday, November 14, 2016. (Schools in the UP may begin on Thursday, November 10, 2016) Tryouts are considered part of practice, i.e. tryouts may not begin prior to the first date of practice.

FIRST COMPETITION - The first LP school contest may not be held prior to Saturday, December 3, 2016. (Schools in the UP may begin one week earlier on Saturday, November 26, 2016) Schools may begin regular season meets anytime after the first contest date.

FINALS QUALIFIERS – The top three teams and top ten individuals from each Regional in each Division will advance to the Finals. Each division Finals field will consists of 60 singles players and 18 teams in both boys and girls competition. All ties for advancing teams & individuals will be broken. (See tiebreaker policies)

FORFEITS – When a team does not show for scheduled competition, a forfeit is declared. A team may begin competition with less than five players, but no fewer than 3, with the absent bowler receiving a zero score for each frame missed. Absentee scores or pre-bowled scores are not allowed. When teams compete with less than 5 bowlers, individual scores of the bowlers who do compete may be used for individual honors, averages, awards, post season awards, etc. at the discretion of the league or conference. **Competition may be delayed or re-scheduled for legitimate transportation or weather problems that school teams experience at the discretion of the schools involved and proper coordination with athletic directors of the participating schools.**

GIRLS ON BOYS TEAMS – Girls are eligible to tryout for and participate on the boys bowling team. If girls participate on the boys team, they are eligible only for the MHSAA boys tournament, and cannot participate in both the boys and girls tournament. If a girl participates on the boys team because there is not a girls team for that school, that girl must represent her school in at least 4 girls meets to bowl in the MHSAA tournament. It is not recommended that boys participate on a girls team, and if a boy is on a girls team, the team is not eligible to compete in the MHSAA tournament under Regulation II, Section 15.

INJUNCTION/RESTRAINING ORDER POLICY - If an injunction or restraining order is served or presented at an MHSAA tournament site and such purports to require the eligibility of or participation by a student or team which a school and/or the MHSAA has ruled to be ineligible under MHSAA regulations, the on-site tournament manager is to suspend the entire competition (team competition) or events in which that student is intending to participate (individual competition). If the meet has begun, it shall be completed.

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION – Under MHSAA Regulations, students in grades 7-8 may not participate with or against students in grades 9-12. Junior High/Middle school programs should be separate from varsity programs as the varsity team may not have 7-8th graders on the team. **Exception** – Under MHSAA Regulation I, Section 1(D), schools with less than 100 students in grades 9-12 may have students from grade 8 on their varsity bowling team, and schools with less than 50 students in grades 9-12 may have students in grade 7 on their bowling team.

LANE CONDITIONS – After much discussion and a subcommittee to discuss oil patterns during MHSAA bowling competition, the Bowling committee recommendation to the MHSAA Representative Council to adopt the use of a customized Kegel Challenge series pattern for MHSAA Tournament competition was accepted starting in 2016.

The MHSAA tournament (Regionals and Finals) will use the “Allen pattern”. The “Allen pattern” was developed specifically for the MHSAA by the Kegel Corp. It is named after longtime MHSAA Asst. Director Randy Allen, whose tireless and devoted efforts are the reason that bowling is an MHSAA sponsored sport. MHSAA Bowling websites have a link to the Kegel lane specifications for the “Allen pattern”. The pattern may be used during regular season competition.

Note: Coaches, students and parents should be advised that although the chosen pattern condition for the MHSAA Tournament will be applied at all tournament centers, there may be variations to the condition due to humidity, lane surface, lane machine characteristics and oil type. While we will strive for the most consistent application of the condition as possible, the condition is not an absolute and expectations should be managed accordingly.

MINIMUM MEET REQUIREMENTS – To be eligible for the MHSAA tournament, a school team must have a minimum of four regular season meets against other MHSAA high school teams. The four meet minimum is for teams, not individual members of teams. All athletes must meet school and MHSAA eligibility standards and be on the school Master Eligibility list in order to compete.

MULTIPLE TEAMS – Schools may have more than one team, but only one team is eligible for the MHSAA tournament. If a school has more than one varsity, or more than one junior varsity, it is recommended they keep such teams separate and distinct.

NOISEMAKERS – Noisemakers such as whistles, air horns, cow bells, etc. are not allowed at MHSAA indoor tournament contests.

NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION – The MHSAA Limited Team Membership Rule, Regulation I, Section 13, will apply to bowling. During the school season, students may not participate in non-school competition. The restriction begins from **the first time an individual student participates in a game or scrimmage for his/her school team.** As an individual sport, bowlers are allowed to participate in two non-school events during the school year while not representing their school. An individual event is defined as not more than 3 consecutive days. (see Dates of Competition for use of school dates for school teams in youth leagues)

NON-SCHOOL OPPONENTS – MHSAA member schools sponsoring bowling may compete against non-school teams or individuals as part of their 24 allowed dates of competition. All MHSAA regulations apply to member school athletes and teams when competing against non-school teams. A school must have a minimum of four meets against MHSAA member school teams to qualify for the MHSAA Tournament.

OUT OF SEASON COACHING – MHSAA Regulations place limits on all school coaches when working with team members before or after the school season during the school year. During the out-of-season period during the school year, school coaches may coach a maximum of four students in grades 7-12 in that sport at any one time at any one location. Schools may apply for exemptions to the 4-player rule if specific criteria are met and the request is approved by the Executive Committee.

During the summer period (the Monday after Memorial Day to Monday of the week of August 15) bowling coaches are not restricted to the number of athletes or dates in which they may coach members of the school team. However, summer activities with the school coach must be voluntary, not mandatory and not part of team selection, no school transportation or funds may be used and school uniforms may not be used. Bowling coaches should review Regulation II, Section 11(H) with their school athletic director to be in compliance with all out of season coaching regulations and restrictions. During the school 7-day summer dead period no coaching contact is allowed.

PHYSICAL CARDS – All students who practice or compete in a school scrimmage or contest are required to have a current physical card on file with school administration.

PLAYING RULES, EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS – MHSAA regular season and tournament playing rules and equipment regulations will be those of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) unless otherwise modified by the MHSAA in the Tournament Manager Manual.

PRACTICE AT TOURNAMENT SITE – Teams/individuals may not practice at MHSAA Regional or Final tournament sites on the day of competition. Practice **may** take place at the site on days **prior** to the tournament at school expense. At the Regional level, such practice should be coordinated by the host school & proprietor so that all schools are given equal access. Such practice should be monitored by the school coach. At the Finals, practice sessions will be coordinated and scheduled by the MHSAA at the Finals site on the evening prior to the competition at school expense.

PRACTICE/WARM-UP POLICY – Teams and individuals shall be allowed a warm-up period not to exceed 10 minutes.

PROTESTS – There are no protests allowed for regular season and/or MHSAA tournament competition. Scoring errors may be corrected before teams depart the competition.

ROSTER LIMIT, REGULAR SEASON – Schools may have any number of bowlers active in their program during the regular season. On the day of competition, a roster is limited to 10 eligible bowlers for each contest. The roster may change from one competition to the next, or one day to the next.

ROSTER LIMIT, MHSAA TOURNAMENT – A maximum of 7 eligible athletes are allowed on the team roster for the MHSAA tournament, while 6 eligible athletes comprise the singles roster on the day of competition. The tournament roster may change from one day to the next (singles to team), or one level to the next (regional to state).

SCRIMMAGES – MHSAA member schools are allowed 4 bowling scrimmages at any point in the regular season. Scrimmages are defined in the MHSAA Handbook as a form of practice session conducted with another school. Normal scoring should be modified, and scrimmages do not count as a win or loss.

STATISTICS, POST SEASON RECOGNITION – Regular season statistics are the responsibility of local schools, leagues and conferences and are not collected or published by the MHSAA. Any post-season honors or recognition is also a matter for local schools, leagues and conferences or coaches associations. Awards such as All-State, All-State academic, etc. are not coordinated or handled by the MHSAA.

SPECTATORS – No spectators are allowed in the bowling area where team members are seated. Spectators shall not taunt or jeer opposing players.

SPORTSMANSHIP/CONDUCT – Good sportsmanship for players and coaches is a must. Taunting, profanity and intimidating conduct are not allowed. All MHSAA regulations regarding sportsmanship and disqualification penalties as stated in Regulation IV, Section 3 will be followed. Players will not be allowed on the approach to congratulate or celebrate the accomplishment of a fellow team member during bowling. Bowlers will not be allowed to enter an adjacent lane approach to celebrate or “run-out” their delivery. Bowlers shall observe traditional bowling courtesy for bowlers on adjacent lanes. **Crowding of the approach will not be allowed by opposing teams. Only two bowlers will be allowed standing during a match, if seating is available. One that is bowling and one that is on deck.**

Taunting – MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3

Taunting includes any actions or comments by coaches, players or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs or personal matters.

Examples of taunting that would lead to ejection include, but are not limited to, "trash talk"; physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game; reference to sexual orientation; "in the face" confrontation by one player to another; standing over/straddling a tackled or fallen player. Managers are to consider taunting a flagrant unsportsmanlike foul that disqualifies the offending

bench personnel or contestant from that contest/day of competition (and next contest/day of competition). A warning may be given, but is not required before ejection.

At all MHSAA tournament venues, tournament management may give spectators one warning for taunting. Thereafter, spectators who taunt others are to be ejected by security.

SUBSTITUTIONS/LINEUPS/PARTICIPATION – A starting lineup must be submitted 10 minutes prior to the start of each game. A standard starting lineup for team competition will consist of 5 bowlers (regular season competition may involve formats where fewer than 5 bowlers constitute a team as adopted by leagues or conferences).

Lineups may change in subsequent games. Starting bowlers must bowl at least one frame before being substituted for. Once a substitute enters the game, he/she must finish that game. Substitutions in mid-frame are allowed. The bowler who is substituted for may return as a starter or substitute in subsequent games.

The substitute must be on the 10 person roster (7 for the MHSAA tournament) at the start of competition. All five starting bowlers may be substituted for in any given game. If a substitute is injured, they may be replaced by an eligible substitute. **Note:** The substitution rule will be applied as stated in MHSAA tournament competition. Modifications are allowed for regular season play, but it is recommended the MHSAA tournament substitution rule be used.

If a school has multiple teams competing at the same time, bowlers may **not** compete for both teams (i.e. move back and forth between the teams) once a match or competition has started. Bowlers may only be used as substitutes for one team once a match has started.

Also, students may not participate on the varsity and JV teams on the same day.

Scratches or deletions from MHSAA Regional and Finals competition should occur as early as possible and no later than the Monday prior to competition.

SANCTIONING – The MHSAA does not require sanctioning of leagues, conferences or individuals by outside governing bodies. Any such sanctioning shall be voluntary and not mandatory by either schools or leagues & conferences.

TOURNAMENT CLASSIFICATION –The MHSAA Tournament will be conducted in four equal divisions for boys and girls, based on enrollments, 6 Regional qualifying events in each Division. The largest 25% of schools sponsoring bowling will be placed in Division 1, the next largest 25% in Division 2 and the next largest 25% in Division 3 and finally the next 25% of schools in Division 4. Schools who notify the MHSAA of their intention to sponsor a bowling program after the divisions and enrollment breaks have been established will be placed in the appropriate division based on their enrollment.

TOURNAMENT EXPENSES – Schools are responsible for their own transportation, lodging and lane fee expenses at the MHSAA Regional Tournament. At the MHSAA Finals, lane fees will be paid by the MHSAA and a breakfast and lunch will be provided to coaches and athletes. Transportation and lodging expenses at the MHSAA Finals are the responsibility of participating schools.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY - Schools participating in the MHSAA Tournament must submit a Master Eligibility List and Tournament Roster for singles and team to the Tournament Manager by the Opt-Out Due date which is February 3, 2017. Entry materials submitted after the due date are subject to the \$50 late fee penalty. There may not be changes to the Master Eligibility

list after the start of Regional Competition. **Schools/Coaches must make payment for lane fees PRIOR to competition or their team will not be allowed to participate. Please make arrangements with your school's athletic department to ensure that financial obligations are met.**

Singles Entry - Schools may enter a maximum of **six** bowlers in the singles portion of the MHSAA tournament. **Team Entry** - A school may enter only one team in the MHSAA tournament and that team may have a maximum of **seven** members on the roster. Five students constitute a team for MHSAA tournament competition. The roster may change from one level of the tournament to the next.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT – The MHSAA tournament format will be “scratch” as follows:

Regional Singles – All singles entrants will bowl six regular games with total pinfall determining score. (Six Regional events in each Division)

Regional Team – All teams will bowl 6 Baker games and 3 regular games on alternating lanes. (Six Regional events in each Division) Lane rotation will be determined by local managers intended to rotate teams through all pairs in the available lane block.

Finals Singles – In each Division, the 60 bowlers will roll a six game qualifying block with total pinfall determining score. The top 16 bowlers/scores (ties will be broken) will advance to head-to-head match games with bracketing based on qualifying round score. After qualifying, the Higher seeded individual will be given choice of lanes within the pair. The head-to-head competition will consist of two games, total pins from the round of 16 to the quarterfinals, semifinals and Championship matches.

Finals Team – In each Division, the 18 teams will first bowl a qualifying block consisting of 2 regular games and 8 Baker games with total pinfall determining score. The top 8 teams in each Division (ties will be broken) will advance to head-to-head match games with bracketing based on first round scores. After qualifying, the Higher seeded team will be given choice of lanes within the pair. The Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Finals matches will consist of 1 regular game and 2 Baker games. All Baker and regular games at the team Finals will use an alternating lanes format.

TOURNAMENT DIVISION & REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS - The MHSAA Tournament will be conducted in four equal Divisions by enrollment with six Regional Tournaments in each Division. Schools will be assigned to a Regional site which will be posted on the MHSAA Web site in late November.

TOURNAMENT DATES

MHSAA REGIONALS – FEB. 24 (TEAM), FEB. 25 (SINGLES), 2017
MHSAA FINALS – MARCH 3 (TEAM), MARCH 4 (SINGLES), 2017

TIEBREAKER PROCEDURES – For regular season it is recommended that one Baker set (2 games) be used to break ties in team competition. In singles competition, ties may be broken with additional games or 9th & 10th frame tiebreakers as adopted by leagues & conferences. The MHSAA Tournament tiebreaker will be; In singles, one regular game, if still tied a 9-10

frame roll-off(s) until a winner is determined; in team one Baker set (2 games), if still tied a 6-10 frame Baker roll-off (s) until a winner is determined.

TRANSPORTATION – Teams and individuals should follow all school transportation policies for travel to regular season and MHSAA tournament competition. MHSAA liability insurance will be in effect for school approved transportation only directly to and from competition venues.

UNIFORMS/DRESS CODE – Boys – Slacks are required. Blue jeans, cutoffs, shorts, sweatpants or warm-up pants will not be allowed. A collared shirt will be required, or a custom mock-turtleneck style shirt designed for use as a bowling uniform shirt. T-shirts will not be allowed. **Girls** - Slacks, shorts or skirts will be allowed. Skirts must reach the top of the knee and shorts shall be an appropriate length. Blue jeans, cutoffs, sweatpants or warm-up pants will not be allowed. A collared shirt will be required. T-shirts will not be allowed. Bowlers are not required to wear the same style of shirts or slacks, but similar uniforms are recommended. Jewelry is allowed. “Yoga/spandex” pants are not allowed. **If a violation of the MHSAA Dress code/Uniform rule occurs, a warning will be given to the player and coach of the violating team. If at that time the dress code is not followed, a loss of bowling privileges and disqualification from the MHSAA Regionals or Finals will result.**

Prior to competition, warm ups (jackets, sweatshirts, hoodies) must be removed and may not be used in competition.

Neither boys nor girls may wear hats, caps or any other type of headgear. Allowances will be made for religious dress with prior approval from the MHSAA. A single patch or embroidered area not to exceed 2 inches X 3 inches in size will be allowed to identify a sponsor. The logo or type must be approved with the MHSAA. It may appear once on either sleeve, or the left or right front breast-pocket area.

School name, logo, school nickname or bowler name may also appear on the shirt. No offensive language of any sort is allowed on uniforms. A single commemorative patch may also appear not exceeding 2 by 3 inches in size. **Coaches must also adhere to the MHSAA uniform/dress code regulations.**

USE OF INELIGIBLE ATHLETE

1. Individuals or teams which are defeated by an ineligible opponent or teams which allowed one or more ineligible students to participate do not advance in MHSAA tournaments.
2. If placements in MHSAA tournaments are vacated as a result of an individual being ineligible or a team allowing one or more ineligible students to participate, other individuals or teams neither advance to those placements nor receive awards for those places.

VARSITY/JUNIOR VARSITY PARTICIPATION – The MHSAA does not regulate grade placement on varsity or junior varsity teams (i.e. can a senior be on a JV team). Individual schools may establish their own policies regarding grade assignments (9-12) for varsity and JV participation, or leagues & conferences may establish policies on this matter. Students in grades 7-8 may not participate with or against students in grades 9-12 in MHSAA member schools. **NOTE:** A student may not participate on the JV team and the varsity team on the same day.

COACHES PLEASE NOTE

The MHSAA Bowling Coaches Manual is meant to serve as a quick reference document containing information on the most frequently applied MHSAA regulations, tournament policies and general information about bowling in member schools. Coaches should review all matters pertaining to their programs with school athletic administrators on a regular basis. All regulations governing interscholastic bowling are contained in the MHSAA Handbook.