

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Bowling Committee Meeting Minutes

Zoom Virtual Meeting

East Lansing, October 29, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

Members Present

Deb Alexander, Flint (Finals Manager)
Chad Ballee, Macomb
Chris Bell, Lake Orion
Rick Dodick, Bay City
David Feldman, Bloomfield Hills
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock (Finals Manager)
Angie Hollis, Waterford
Judy Jaeger, Livonia (Finals Manager)
Dave Kowalski, Bay City (MHSIBCA President)
Tracy Long-Arnold, Flint (Finals Manager)

Brandon Malinowski, Detroit
Mike Roy, Vicksburg (MIAAA)
Tom Stockton, Sterling Hts. (Finals Manager)
Jason Vogel, Kent City

Guest:

Josh Solomon, Jackson

Staff Member:

Cody Inglis

The MHSAA Bowling Committee met virtually on October 29, 2020. Agenda items included correspondence received, staff input and items from the Michigan High School Interscholastic Bowling Coaches Association.

A review of the 2019 Bowling Committee meeting minutes was completed. Though no proposals were submitted to the MHSAA Representative Council, several items of emphasis were placed into the MHSAA bowling rules and regulations.

RETURN TO BOWL GUIDANCE

MHSAA staff shared initial thoughts and plans for return to bowl guidance that is being developed. This guidance focused on a safe return to bowl for teams, student-athletes, coaches and others associated with bowling programs. The protocols and guidance follow best practices from bowling centers, including the national governing body, the United States Bowling Congress (USBC). They also focus on the best health and safety procedures of the NFHS and MHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committees and a collaborative effort between the MHSIBCA and the MHSAA to return to bowl safely. The return to bowl guidance will focus on limiting congestion caused by the large numbers of participants that at times occur in and around bowling centers. The key to this transition to bowl is for strong communication to occur between schools, coaches and bowling centers so that the season can begin with care, caution and common sense with an eye on a culmination to the season.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

The committee was joined by Josh Solomon, General Manager of Jax 60, a long-time supporter and host of MHSAA bowling events including last season's MHSAA D3 Bowling Finals. Josh discussed his perspective of returning to bowl and many of the health and safety protocols that bowling centers nationally and statewide are making together to ensure a safe return to bowl plan. The precautions that will be implemented are necessary and important to show bowlers that the bowling community is doing its part in this time of challenge and crisis. In addition, the bowling industry, like many will be challenged financially to cover expenses and generate revenue. Operating with safety in mind will show its customer base that they have the best interests of their patrons in mind and get bowlers back into bowling centers.

Dave Kowalski, the outgoing Michigan High School Interscholastic Bowling Coaches Association President, updated the committee on topics that the bowling coaching association board has discussed. This included an update of their annual coaching in-service, this year held physically distanced in Gaylord. Several topics came from the annual general meeting and were discussed by the committee. These included some Covid related changes like reducing the size of the bowling roster from 7 to 6 competitors and limiting the number of coaches allowed in the bowlers area to 2 as well as banning signs with glitter on them as a safety precaution because of slipping issues. The discussion topics will be added MHSAA bowling materials.

The committee had much discussion about the “Allen pattern” after its fifth year of use in the MHSAA bowling tournament as a Kegel challenge series oil pattern. While there was strong sentiment that the time has come to change the oil pattern to another Kegel challenge pattern, one made specifically for MHSAA competition and called the “Phantom pattern”, timing was a key issue for the committee. The committee felt given the uncertainty of the 2020-21 MHSAA bowling season that the timing of a new oil pattern would be a challenge. Additionally, by delaying the implementation of a new pattern it would allow centers an extended period of testing on the playability of the Phantom pattern. The MHSAA will continue with the Allen pattern for the 2020-21 bowling season at MHSAA Regional and Final venues. A recommendation to adopt the Phantom oil pattern for the 2021-22 MHSAA bowling season was approved.

Discussion on the MHSAA bowling post season was reviewed. The committee felt it was important to start the season strongly with the return to bowl guidance still being developed and approved. The focus should be on following these protocols in order to have a safe return to play. The committee was given a briefing on MHSAA changes to fall sport tournaments that may help determine some direction for winter sport tournaments like bowling. A bowling tournament subcommittee was formed to determine possible solutions to a culmination of the season. This MHSAA tournament subcommittee will meet virtually over the next month to determine a best direction. A selection of tournament committee members was done by the bowling committee and an MHSAA staff member will coordinate this committee.

A review of 2020 Bowling Finals venues was conducted by the committee. All agreed that the sites used by the MHSAA, Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Century Bowl in Waterford, Jax 60 in Jackson and Royal Scot in Lansing met the needs and were good partners with the MHSAA in conducting the MHSAA Bowling Finals tournament. Continuing to have a rotation of suitable bowling Final sites was important for the committee and other venues will also be considered for the 2021 Finals including M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek, Northway Lanes in Muskegon and Super Bowl in Canton.

While the MHSAA determines the rules of high school bowling in Michigan, the committee did review the USBC rule adaptations for the 2020-21 bowling season. Guidance and feedback from a national perspective is important as the MHSAA seeks to clarify its’ protocols, considerations and guidance for MHSAA return to bowl in the 2020-21 season.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Adopt the Phantom oil pattern for the 2021-22 MHSAA bowling season. (13-0)