



2024 MHSAA BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Tournament Plan – Key Review Points

- **Spectator admission for MHSAA Regional tournaments will be \$7 per person both days. Spectator admission at the MHSAA Finals will be \$11 each day. Digital tickets will be sold via GoFan.**
- The MHSAA Tournament is conducted in four equal Divisions by enrollment.
- Each Division will have eight Regional tournaments, February 23 & 24, 2024. (Any other days used for the MHSAA Bowling Regional Tournament must be approved by the MHSAA.)
- Team competition is on Friday and singles Saturday at each regional event.
- Time schedule is determined locally by the tournament host and bowling center.
- Lane fees are determined by each Regional manager and host center and are paid by each participating school at the Regional event.
- Entry materials including rosters and Master Eligibility list are due to Regional Managers by Friday, February 2, 2024.
- Regional Managers shall send tournament information regarding time schedule, fees, and all pertinent event information to participating schools.
- The MHSAA tournament (Regionals and Finals) will use the “Phantom 2 pattern” for the 2023-24 season. The “Phantom 2 pattern” was developed specifically for the MHSAA by the Kegel Corp. Specifications can be found online at MHSAA.com under bowling.
- **Roster limit is 7 bowlers for the team event;** each school may enter a maximum of 6 bowlers in each gender for the singles event.
- Practice at the host center is not allowed on the day(s) of the Regional event.
- All MHSAA sportsmanship rules apply under regulation V, Section 3-C.



**2023-24 BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING
TOURNAMENT MANAGERS MANUAL
GENERAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES**



MHSAA 2024 Boys & Girls Bowling Regional Tournament Manager Manual

ADMISSION – Spectator admission for MHSAA Regional tournaments will be \$7 per person both days. Spectator admission at the MHSAA Finals will be \$11 each day. Digital tickets will be sold via GoFan.

Passes - League passes, coaches' passes, local booster club passes, officials' association passes, etc., are not to be honored at any tournament. There are no passes to be honored except those distributed by the local management for supervision purposes. Managers are urged to issue complimentary admissions for visiting school administrators for the purpose of crowd supervision.

ALCOHOL/TOBACCO – Alcohol may not be sold to or consumed by spectators during MHSAA Tournament competition. 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.

BALL CLEANING - Players may not alter the surface of the ball with abrasives or apply cleaner after competition begins. **USBC Rule 18 has been rescinded. Starting Aug. 1, 2022, bowlers are no longer allowed to use isopropyl alcohol to clean a bowling ball once competition has started. This restriction continues in 2023-24 until other notice.** Cleaning or polishing a ball is allowed with a dry (no pre-soaked products) cloth. Using rosin for grip is allowed, but the ball must be wiped clear.

BOWLING BALL LIMITS – Participants shall be limited to a maximum of **FIVE** bowling balls in the bowling center, and **two** balls in the bowler's area. Additional bowling balls should be kept in and around the bowlers' area, in unused lanes, etc. as the paddock or other assigned equipment area may not be available. A bowler may not leave the center to get other balls during competition. Equipment changes will be allowed during competition. Bowling balls must be on the [USBC approved ball list](#) to be used in MHSAA competition.

Please note, the six balls previously certified by the USBC that were then prohibited from use in USBC national events in March 2022 are still listed on the USBC approved ball list, and therefore legal for use during MHSAA Tournament competition. Provided the balls still appear on the current USBC approved ball list at the time of the MHSAA postseason tournament, the following balls are permitted:

Storm Phaze 4
Storm Electrify Solid
Storm Trend 2
900 Global Altered Reality
900 Global Wolverine
Roto Grip UFO Alert

COACHING RESTRICTIONS – Two school coaches per gender will be allowed in the bowlers' area during competition. Coaches are not allowed on the approaches. Additional coaches are to be in the spectator area. Coaching is allowed only between frames.

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 wireless headphones 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 in the bowlers area for coaching purposes, nor can coaches or athletes have such devices in the bowler's area.

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. Bowlers are not permitted to have large backpacks and bags in the bowlers area during competition. Each bowler is allowed one small bag (e.g., drawstring/cinch bag) used to transport and store bowling equipment in the bowlers area during competition. Exceptions for bowlers with bags containing medical supplies are permitted. Coaches are allowed to have large backpacks/bags in the competition area during 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.

ENTRY MATERIALS – Participating schools must submit a Master Eligibility List and roster form to the tournament manager by February 3, 2023 or be subject to the \$50 late entry fee. Please get materials into the Regional manager on time.

Foul Lights – Automated foul-detecting systems will be turned off during MHSAA postseason tournament competition. Regular bowling rules apply for obvious foul line infractions; if a bowler clearly crosses or touches the foul line at delivery, the player is not credited with any pins knocked down by that delivery. Otherwise, bowlers will use the honor system regarding suspected foul line infractions. In the event of a dispute, the first suspected foul will result in the Tournament Manager issuing a warning to the bowler, with a subsequent foul being a zero for that delivery.

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.

INTERNET STREAMING – Teams participating in MHSAA Tournaments are prohibited from streaming live video of any portion of an event over the Internet – including using social media platforms like YouTube and Facebook – or any other method. Likewise, individual spectators are also prohibited from streaming video through any means during the MHSAA tournament. Consult the [Media/Streaming Information PDF](#) for complete information.

LANE ASSIGNMENTS – For singles competition, bowlers will be assigned lanes by tournament management with no school having two bowlers on the same pair but spaced as close as possible with no more than 6 bowlers on a pair. The number of lanes available in the host bowling center and the size of the field will determine exact assignments. A maximum of 6 bowlers on a pair should be the goal of lane assignments.

LANE ROTATION – In singles, each group rotates one pair right after each game. In the team event, teams bowl a Baker set (two games) on one pair, rotating one pair for the next Baker set. Lane rotation will be determined by tournament managers across the lane block.

LANE ROTATION AT FINALS ONLY – In singles, each group rotates one pair right after each game. In the team event, teams bowl a Baker set (two games) on one pair, rotating one pair for the next Baker set. Lane rotation will be determined by tournament managers across the lane block.

LATE ARRIVALS – Teams and/or individuals who do not arrive for the scheduled start time will receive a score of zero for each frame missed. Managers may delay the start of an event for legitimate travel problems (weather, accident) if contacted in advance by the school or coach.

LOCKER ROOM PRIVACY POLICY

Using devices of any kind to capture or transmit images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, dressing areas, training rooms, weigh-in rooms, showers, restrooms, or other areas where there is an expectation of privacy during MHSAA tournament events. Tournament managers or athletic directors that discover such use should move immediately to have the device removed and inform the head coach or athletic director of the identity and nature of the activity of the person involved.

MEDIA NOTES – For complete information on credentials, drones, locker room privacy policy, microphones, photographers, flash photography, postgame interviews, press box, results, streaming (audio and video), and videotaping, go to this [Media/Streaming Information PDF](#).

- **Streaming - Video (Regular Season)** – Video streaming during the regular season is allowed by the home/host school in a couple of different ways. If the home/host school is a member of the NFHS Network, they must stream games to the NFHS Network first and foremost. They can also produce a stream to broadcast on a school-controlled page (separate from the NFHS stream). Additionally, NFHS Network members can partner with local media to broadcast regular season home games on the media outlet's channel/website. Schools that are not members of the NFHS Network can stream regular season home games to a school-controlled webpage. Refer to the Multimedia Regulations for more information.
- **Streaming - Video (Postseason)** – The broadcast and streaming rights of MHSAA post-season tournament events belong exclusively to the NFHS Network, Bally Sports Detroit,

the MHSAA, and those media outlets which have pre-arranged to secure those rights. Teams participating in MHSAA Tournaments are prohibited from streaming live video of any portion of an event over the Internet including using social media platforms or any other method. Likewise, individual spectators are also prohibited from live streaming video through any means. Participating schools are responsible for

- **Videotaping** – Competing schools may videotape games in which that school competes. The tape is not to be used to second-guess decisions made by game/meet officials. Schools wishing to videotape games at other sites may do so without securing advanced permission but must tape from the stands unless press box space is available. Spectators may tape games from their normal seating area but are not to interfere with the view of other spectators or news media personnel covering the activity. A manager is not required to provide electrical hook-ups; or tripod space and may arrange spectator videotaping from a designated location(s). The tape may not be distributed, sold, rented, or loaned for commercial purposes.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY POLICY – Host school Tournament Managers should follow all local school district policies regarding medical emergencies for participating athletes, coaches, student and adult spectators for competition conducted in school facilities. It is advised that AED devices be readily available during tournament competition. In addition:

- Trainers are an allowed expense and encouraged, but not required
- All MHSAA concussion protocols will be followed.
- MHSAA policy on tornado watches and warnings shall be followed.
- MHSAA policy on managing heat and humidity shall be followed.

When MHSAA tournament contests are conducted at non-school facilities, plans should be developed for the following needs and/or circumstances:

- Student, coach and spectator shelter for outdoor events
- Host facility emergency equipment such as AED's, fire escape, etc.
- Emergency communications, i.e. phone numbers, school administration contact
- Coordination with facility management regarding evacuation, first aid, on-site responsibilities
- Medical transport or first responder contact procedures
- Proximity/directions of nearest medical facility

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

PRACTICE AT TOURNAMENT SITE – Teams/individuals may not practice at MHSAA Regional or Finals 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 sites, participants may schedule practice sessions prior to day of competition on their own during open bowling times. Singles qualifiers will have lane access for practice on the prior afternoon (Friday) at the Finals sites.

PRACTICE/WARM-UP POLICY – Teams and individuals shall be allowed a warm-up period not to exceed 15 minutes. Local policy will determine the exact amount of warm-up time.

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 LIMITS – A maximum of 7 eligible athletes are allowed on the team roster for the MHSAA tournament on the day of competition, six for singles competition. The tournament roster may change from one day to the next (singles to team), or one level to the next (Regional to Finals).

SPECTATORS – **Spectator policy to be determined locally and with MHSAA coordination. Digital ticketing (GoFan) will be used.** No spectators are allowed in the bowling area where team members are seated. Spectators shall not taunt or jeer opposing players. Noisemakers are not allowed. Large purses, backpacks, duffle bags, oversized bags/totes, and coolers are prohibited. Spectators are allowed a single clear bag not exceeding 12" x 6" x 12" - e.g., One-gallon clear plastic freezer bag (Ziploc bag or similar). Diaper bags brought in by a parent with a small child and bags containing medical supplies will be permitted.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS – Regional managers shall send to each participating school an information packet with time schedule, lane fees, check in procedures and all other information regarding facilities, parking, concessions, scoring, equipment, etc. The packet should be sent to schools no later than February 12, 2024.

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

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.

Taunting – MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3

Interpretation No. 264: 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

SUBSTITUTIONS & LINEUPS – A starting team lineup must be determined 10 minutes prior to the start of the first team game. A standard starting lineup for team competition will consist of 5 bowlers. 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 7-person roster at the start of competition. Any of the five starting bowlers may be substituted for in any given game. If a substitute is injured, they may be replaced by an eligible substitute. **Substitutes may not warm up on open lanes during the MHSAA tournament. Scratches or deletions from MHSAA Regional and Finals competition should occur as early as possible and no later than the Monday prior to competition.**

TOURNAMENT EXPENSES – Schools are responsible for their own transportation, lodging, meals and lane fee expenses at the MHSAA Regional Tournament. **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.**

TIME SCHEDULES – Regional tournament Managers and host centers will determine start times for competition. Check-in should be one hour prior to the start of competition. Finals time schedules will be supplied to Finals qualifiers by Regional Managers or by going to MHSAA.com on the bowling page.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY – A school may enter only one team in the MHSAA tournament and that team may have a maximum of 7 members on the roster. Five students constitute a team for MHSAA tournament competition and may bowl in the Regional competition.

Tournament entry, singles – Schools may enter a maximum of six bowlers in the singles portion of the MHSAA Regional tournament.

Tournament entry, team – A school may enter only one team in the MHSAA tournament and that team may have a maximum of 7 members on the roster. Five students constitute a team for MHSAA tournament competition.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT & Qualifiers – The MHSAA tournament format will be as follows:
Regional Singles – All singles entrants will bowl six regular games with total pins determining score. The top seven in each Regional will advance to the MHSAA Finals.
Regional Team – All teams will bowl 8 Baker games and 2 regular games on alternating lanes, the top two teams in each Regional advancing to the Finals.

Tiebreaker Procedures – Tiebreaker procedures for champions and final qualifier position at Regionals, and champions and final qualifier position at the Finals will be as follows: Singles – One regular game, if still tied then a 9-10th frame roll-off repeated until the tie is broken. Team Regional and Finals Qualifying – One Baker set (2 games), if still tied then a 6-10th frame Baker format roll-off repeated until the tie is broken.

In team Finals bracket match play, in games 1-4 of the best of 5 head-to-head Bakers, if teams are tied after the 10th frame, each team is awarded a ½ point and teams move on to the next Baker game. In the 5th Baker game of a best of 5 head-to-head match (i.e., going into the 5th game teams are tied 2 to 2), if the teams are still tied after the 10 frame, teams will bowl a 6-10th frame Baker format roll-off repeated until the tie is broken

TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL POLICY – 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.

TROPHIES/MEDALS – Tournament managers will receive both trophies and medals together in one shipment from ESCO. The box containing the trophies and medals should be opened immediately upon delivery and inspected for accurate amounts, engraving, etc. Tournament managers should contact ESCO directly (not the MHSAA) at 800-852-4266 with any questions or problems regarding trophy and medal shipments.

Distribution – Each Regional Champion will receive a team trophy and seven team medals. Medals will be given to the top seven places at the Regional singles event. At the Finals the first and second-place teams will receive trophies and seven team medals, and the top eight individuals in singles receive medals. By Representative Council action, only MHSAA approved awards may be presented. If additional medals are desired by winning schools, they may be ordered through the MHSAA at school expense using the [Extra Medal Order form](#).

UNIFORMS/DRESS CODE – **Boys:** Slacks are required. Jeans, cutoffs, shorts, sweatpants, or warm-up pants will not be allowed. Jerseys of either collared, quarter zip, V-neck, rib-lined or banded neckline designed for use as a bowling uniform are legal uniform tops. V-neck and crew neck jerseys must be made of some type of athletic performance fabric – not cotton. Cotton T-shirts and sweatshirts will not be allowed as legal uniform tops during competition. **Girls:** Slacks, shorts, skorts or skirts will be allowed. Skirts, shorts and skorts must be at least fingertip length when extending the arm straight down to the side when standing straight up. Jeans, cutoffs, sweatpants, warm-up pants, **or yoga/spandex pants will not be allowed.** Jerseys of either collared, quarter zip, V-neck, rib-lined, or banded neckline designed for use as a bowling uniform are legal uniform tops. V-neck and crew neck jerseys must be made of some type of athletic performance fabric – not cotton. Cotton T-shirts and sweatshirts will not be allowed as legal uniform tops during competition. Bowlers are not required to wear the same style of shirts or slacks, but similar uniforms are recommended. Jewelry is allowed. Hats, caps or any other headgear is prohibited. Headbands for hair retention and sweatbands are allowed. Religious dress is allowed with NO approval from the MHSAA required.

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.

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 by 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. Additionally, a single commemorative patch may appear not exceeding the 2x3 inch size limit. No offensive language of any sort is allowed on uniforms. **Coaches must also adhere to the MHSAA uniform/dress code regulations.**

YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY - During the MHSAA Tournament events, the MHSAA expects all designated managers, volunteer or paid staff assisting in the event, officials, or any other personnel to follow local school district policy and state statute regarding the mandatory reporting of child abuse, bullying, hazing and sexual harassment. A report of such activity shall be made to legal authorities and to the MHSAA Executive Director or his designee.

