



PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION 2023-24 BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING

1. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The MHSAA Boys & Girls Bowling Tournament will be conducted in four equal divisions based on school enrollment. Schools will be placed in one of eight Regional groups in each Division for their initial assignment as determined by MHSAA staff based on geography. The tournament is conducted in both team and individual (singles) competition on separate days. From each Regional, the top two teams and top seven individuals advance to the Finals tournament in each Division. Girls and boys competition is held together at the Regional and Finals Tournaments.

Finals Tournament Locations – 2024

Division 1 – Thunderbowl Lanes, Allen Park

Division 2 – Century Lanes, Waterford

Division 3 – Jax 60, Jackson

Division 4 – Northway Lanes, Muskegon

Tournament Dates – 2023

Regionals – February 23 (Team event), February 24 (Singles event)*

**Because of bowling center scheduling and availability, several Regional been granted a waiver to be conducted Thursday, February 22 (Team), and Friday, February 23 (Single)*

Finals – March 1 (Team event), March 2 (Singles event)

2. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

Coaching – Two school coaches for each gender will be allowed in the bowlers' seating area during MHSAA Team Tournament competition. In the MHSAA Singles Tournament, two coaches for each gender are allowed only if the school has two or more bowlers, if the school has just one singles bowler (such as the Finals), only one coach for each gender is 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. All athletes in the MHSAA Tournament must be accompanied by a school-approved coach, administrator, or appointee of the school.

Pace of Play – Bowlers should be standing and ready to bowl when the preceding bowler is completing his/her frame with a one lane courtesy. Intentional stalling or undue delay is considered unsportsmanlike. Bowlers should be warned about such conduct and may be penalized if there are repeated violations.

Substitutions – 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. 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 out may return as a starter or substitute in subsequent games. The substitute must be on the seven-person roster 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.

Dress Code – Boys – Slacks are required. Blue 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, skorts and shorts must be at least fingertip length when extending the arm straight down to the side when standing straight up. Blue jeans, cutoffs, 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. Bowlers are not required to wear the same style of shirts or slacks, but similar uniforms are recommended. **Yoga/spandex style pants are not allowed.** Jewelry is allowed.

If a violation of the MHSAA Bowling 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.

Neither boys nor girls may wear hats, caps or any other type of headgear. Headbands and sweatbands are allowed. Allowances will be made for religious dress or headwear. 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. Additionally, a single commemorative patch may also appear on the uniform, not to exceed the 2x3 inch size limit. **Prior to competition, warmups (jackets, sweatshirts, hoodies) must be removed and may not be used in competition.**

Entry Limits – Schools may enter a maximum of one team **(seven on the roster)** and **six singles entries** in the MHSAA Regional in each gender.

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

Regional Team – All teams will bowl 2 regular games and 8 Baker games on alternating lanes. (Eight 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 56 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. The head-to-head match game competition will consist of two games, total pins from the round of 16 through the Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Championship matches. After qualifying, the higher seeded player will be given choice of lanes within the pair.

Finals Team – In each Division, the 16 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 qualifying block scores. The Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Finals matches will consist of head-to-head best of 5 Baker matches. All Baker and regular games at all levels will use an alternating lanes format. After qualifying, the higher seeded team will be given choice of lanes within the pair.

Lane Fees – Each school is responsible for their bowlers' lane fees at the Regionals. Managers will inform schools of fees. Most Regional lane fees will be between \$2.85 and \$3.00 per line. Bring payment to the Regional site with checks made out to the bowling center. Fees must be paid prior to bowling. The MHSAA will pay lane fees at the Finals.

Lane Rotation – Bowling center proprietors and tournament managers will assign starting lanes in advance of the Regional tournament after all entries are received. In singles, bowlers will move after each game to a new pair. In team competition, teams will move after each Baker set (2 games), and after each regular game. Team event rotation will be determined by local tournament management with an effort to use the lane block equitably with no team bowling twice on the same pair.

Conduct – Coaches and team members are reminded that rules of good sportsmanship will apply in MHSAA Regional Tournament Bowling. Athletes and coaches will be subject to the MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3-D regarding unsportsmanlike conduct. Profanity, taunting, kicking ball returns and throwing equipment will not be tolerated.

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.

Lane Conditions – The MHSAA tournament (Regionals and Finals) will use the “Phantom 2” oil pattern in 2024. The Phantom 2 pattern has been developed specifically for the MHSAA by the Kegel Corp and it must be used for MHSAA Bowling Regional and Finals sites. MHSAA Bowling websites have a link to the Kegel lane

specifications for the Phantom 2 patter. The pattern may be used during regular season competition. Coaches should manage expectations of bowlers as conditions may not be absolute.

Foul Lights – Automated foul-detecting system 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.

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 tie is broken.

In Team Finals bracket best-of-5 Baker Match Play, each head-to-head Baker game will count as 1 point. The team with the highest pin total is awarded the point for that Baker game. The first team to 3 points wins the head-to-head match, and advances. In games 1-4 of a head-to-head match, if teams are tied after the 10th frame, each team is awarded a ½ point and teams move on to the next Baker game. If after the fifth Baker game, neither team has 3 points, teams will bowl a 6-10th frame Baker format roll-off repeated until the tie is broken.

If a team wins the first 3 Baker games, and the next round opponent is still competing, the team that is waiting for the other team to finish will be allowed to stay loose on their existing pair – adhering to all expectations of good sporting behavior and the following procedure:

Any team that advances 3-0 in Match Play (Round of 8, or Round of 4)

- Will be allowed 2 Balls (per team member) during the 4th game of that Round
- These are non-transferable, from one bowler to another
- This will not be offered during the 5th game of the Round

These frames must be completed prior to teams still in competition reaching the 8th Frame.

3. OPT OUT POLICIES, ELIGIBILITY LISTS, ROSTERS

Schools must submit to the Regional Tournament Manager a Master Eligibility List and team roster/ranking form and singles entry list by the Opt-Out Due Date of February 2, 2024. Failure to fulfill the above obligations by the specified Opt-Out Due Date will result in MHSAA penalties. If the team roster form, singles entry list, and Master

Eligibility List are received after the Opt-Out Due Date, but before lane assignments are made, they may be accepted with the payment of a \$50 late fee retained by the host school.

Additions or updates to the Master Eligibility List (except transfer students who enroll after the dates in Regulation I, Section 9 [F]) may be accepted by the Tournament Manager if submitted and received prior to the start of competition for any team in the first level of that tournament to which the school is assigned. All players on the Master Eligibility List submitted are eligible for tournament play even if the individual names are not on the roster.

Ineligible Players – Teams defeated by teams which have allowed an ineligible student to participate do not advance in MHSAA tournaments. Placement in MHSAA tournaments is vacated as a result of a team allowing one or more ineligible students to participate,

Withdrawals – Tournament management is to contact the MHSAA office if a school withdraws or fails to show for scheduled competition after the Opt-Out Due Date for team sports or the pairings, heat assignments or flights are determined for individual sports of the first level of the MHSAA tournament in that sport. The MHSAA staff person responsible for the sport will request from the school principal a written explanation for the no-show/withdrawal. If the reason is determined to be unacceptable by MHSAA Staff, the MHSAA Executive Director will place the school on probation for the next two school years. A second offense within the two-year probationary period will cause the school to be prohibited from tournament play in that sport for the two years following the second offense.

4. DRAW PROCEDURES – N/A

5. TIME SCHEDULES

Times schedules for the Regional event will be determined by the host school

Time schedules for the MHSAA Finals in all Division sites are as follows:

Team Finals – Friday

7:00 a.m. – Check-in & registration (bowlers go immediately to starting lanes)
7:45 a.m. – Coaches meeting
8:00 a.m. – Opening ceremonies
8:10 a.m. – Warm-up period
8:25 a.m. – Qualifying round
12:00 Noon – Lunch & condition lanes
1:00 p.m. – Quarterfinal match games
2:30 p.m. – Semifinal round match games.
4:00 p.m. – Championship matches

Singles Finals – Saturday

7:00 a.m. – Check-in & registration (bowlers go immediately to starting lanes)
7:45 a.m. – Coaches meeting

8:00 a.m. – Opening ceremonies
8:10 – Warm-up period (15 minutes)
8:25 – Singles qualifying round
11:00 a.m. – Lunch & re-condition lanes
12 noon - Second round match games begin
1:30 p.m. (approx.) – Quarterfinal round
2:30 p.m. (approx.) – Semifinal round
3:30 (approx.) – Finals matches

6. AWARDS

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](#).

7. LIMITS OF COMPETITION

Teams and individuals may have a maximum of 24 dates of competition during the regular season; there is no weekly limit for meets. MHSAA tournament dates do not count against season maximums. Exceeding contest limits will result in disqualification from the MHSAA Tournament.

8. FINANCES

Schools participating in the MHSAA Regional tournament pay all expenses and fees for their schools. At the MHSAA Finals, lane fees and on-site meals are paid by the MHSAA with schools responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses.

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. **Capacity is to be determined locally based on occupancy limits of the center.**

9. OFFICIALS SELECTION/ASSIGNMENTS – N/A

10. PLAYING RULES/ADAPTATIONS

The basic playing rules of the USBC will be followed.

MHSAA rules on substitutions, sportsmanship, tiebreakers, ball cleaning, dress code, coaching restrictions, and equipment limits will be applied. The use of electronic devices such as iPods, smart phones, and headphones are not allowed during bowling competition. **Coaches may not use video recording devices for coaching purposes during competition in the bowlers area, nor can such devices be in the bowler's area during competition.**

11. MEDIA NOTES

Credentials – Media credential requests for Regional meets are processed by local managers. Credential requests for Semifinal and Final games will be handled by the MHSAA.

Streaming - Video (Regular Season) – Video streaming during the regular season is allowed by the home/host school, but there are restrictions. 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.

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 informing their students, parents, and other fans of this policy and to assist the MHSAA upon request in enforcing it.

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.

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](#).

Merchandising/Promotion Policies

Use of MHSAA Logo – The MHSAA logo and acronym are registered trademarks. MHSAA tournament trophy designs are also copyrighted. Use of these legally protected marks requires written permission of the MHSAA. Contact the MHSAA Communications Director for additional information.

12. 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

13. SPORTSMANSHIP

When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for the remainder of that day of competition and for at least the next day of competition for that team.

When a coach is disqualified during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, that coach shall be prohibited by his/her school from coaching for the remainder of that day of competition and from coaching at or attending at least the next day of competition for that coach's team.

Failure of the school for any reason to enforce this regulation will prohibit the school from entry in the next MHSAA tournament for that sport, or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament or during the last regular-season contest.

Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next season in any sport for seniors. If the playing rules for a sport specify an additional penalty or more rapid progression, or use of such a progression for other violations, the playing rules apply.

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.

If a team is removed from competition in protest, the contest is forfeited to the opponent and the coach and principal of the removed team must appear before the Executive Committee to indicate why additional action should not be taken. The Executive Committee may also require the appearance of personnel from other schools and game officials.

If the coach is ejected from the contest and an assistant coach, or an assigned school representative is not available to continue as the coach the event is terminated and forfeited to the opponent.

When a contest is interrupted or it ends prematurely because of breakdown of proper sportsmanship and whether or not the on-site officials forfeit the contest to one team, one or both schools may be subjected to any or all, but not limited to, the following: censure, probation with competition, probation without competition, forfeiture, loss of privilege of revenue sharing, expulsion. In addition, it may be required of one or both schools that their coaches and administrators appear before the Executive Committee to indicate why additional action should not be taken.

14. WEATHER POLICIES, SUSPENSIONS, POSTPONEMENTS

When teams are delayed in arriving at tournament sites because of inclement weather management is encouraged to consider delaying competition for a few hours and/or playing games/matches in brackets of teams/individuals that are present and prepared to participate. If, after a reasonable delay, fewer than 60% of the scheduled teams/individuals have not arrived, the tournament must be rescheduled. If 60% or more of the scheduled teams/individuals are present, the tournament is to be conducted on the day scheduled.

15. INJUNCTION, RESTRAINING ORDER, PROTESTS

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.

Protests will not be reviewed by the MHSAA. All disputes must be decided at the site before the game proceeds. The umpires will make the final decision regarding game events. The Tournament Manager will resolve all next game concerns.

16. 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.

17. SPECTATOR POLICIES

The following general policies apply to spectators at MHSAA Bowling Tournament events. Tournament managers may also have additional school, facility or institutional restrictions and/or policies.

- Banners are allowed with Meet Manager approval.
- Noisemakers are not allowed at MHSAA indoor tournaments.
- Body paint and bare chests are not allowed.
- Flash cameras are not allowed during competition.
- Smoking/alcohol consumption is not allowed at the tournament site.
- Coolers are not allowed.
- Signs on sticks are not allowed.
- Helium-filled balloons are not allowed.
- Spectator Videotaping – 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). Video shot by schools and spectators may not be distributed on the Internet; nor may it be otherwise distributed, sold, rented, or loaned for commercial purposes.
- Spectators are not allowed in the bowlers area during competition.
- 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).
- Exceptions for parents accompanied by a small child with diaper bags and spectators with medical supplies bags will be permitted.

18. 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.

19. RETURN TO ACTIVITY & POST-CONCUSSION CONSENT FORM

<https://www.mhsaa.com/sites/default/files/Administrators/returntoplay.pdf>