



2026 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 to be held two consecutive days February 18-21, 2026.
- Team competition is on Day 1, and singles on Day 2 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 January 24, 2026
- 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 2025-26 season. The “Phantom 2 pattern” was developed specifically for the MHSAA by the Kegel Corp. Specifications can be found online at [MHSAA.com](https://www.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.



MHSAA 2026 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.

AED – MHSAA tournament host sites must have an AED within visible distance (within 1-3 minutes) of the event.

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. 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 **SIX** bowling balls in the bowling center, and **two** balls in the bowlers' 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. All balls must be brought into bowling center prior to the start of competition. No one – bowlers, coaches, or parents – may leave the center to get or exchange balls after the start competition. Equipment changes will be allowed during competition. Bowling balls must be on the [USBC approved ball list](#) to be used in MHSAA competition.

NOTE: Regarding the new rules on urethane balls which are to begin January 1, 2026 – as was the case in 2022 when previously certified balls were prohibited from use in USBC national events, if balls not meeting the new standard are removed from the USBC Approved Ball List, they would be illegal for MHSAA competition. If they remain on the list, they will continue to be legal for both MHSAA regular season and postseason play.

COACHING RESTRICTIONS – A maximum of two school coaches per gender will be allowed in the bowler's area during competition. Coaches are not allowed on the approaches during

competition. If a team has two coaches in the bowler's area, only one coach may stand at any given time, while the other must remain seated. Any additional coaches beyond the allowed two must stay in the spectator area.

Coaching and instruction are allowed between frames. Mid-frame advice from the coach is allowed, but all communication must stop once the ball thrown appears on the ball return. Coaches must ensure that any coaching, instruction, or behavior does not slow the pace of play.

A violation of the coaching restrictions will result in a warning issued by the tournament manager. A violation after a warning will result in loss of coaching privileges.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES – Bowlers are prohibited from playing music with or without headphones, using cell phones, or electronic devices that would assist a bowler in receiving outside coaching or instruction at any time during the competition, including during warm-ups, in the competition area. Bowlers who violate these electronics guidelines will receive a warning to discontinue use. Continued violations following this warning may result in disqualification from the competition.

Coaches are allowed to have electronic devices, but their use should be limited. Electronic devices such as iPads, tablets, or smartphones may be used to track stats. Coaches may not record and play video in the competition area for coaching purposes. Any electronic devices being used to record and play video must be used outside of the competition area.

COMPETITION AREA – Only bowlers who are in the lineup and actively competing are permitted in the bowlers seating area. Substitute bowlers should remain in a nearby area, ready to enter competition promptly when needed. Large backpacks and bags are not allowed in the bowlers' area during competition. Each bowler is permitted one small bag (e.g., drawstring/cinch bag) to transport and store bowling equipment in the bowlers' area. Exceptions will be made for bags containing medical supplies. Coaches are allowed to have 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 January 24, 2026 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 on during MHSAA postseason tournament competition. IMPORTANT NOTE: activation of the foul light is not automatically a foul – the foul-detecting system is there to assist in bringing awareness to fouls. A foul occurs when a part of the player's body encroaches on or goes beyond the foul line AND touches any part of the lane, equipment or building during a delivery.

Regular bowling rules apply for obvious foul line infractions; if a bowler clearly fouls, the player is not credited with any pins knocked down by that delivery.

If foul light is triggered, and it is obvious that the bowler did not foul, the delivery will stand and the tournament manager will be notified that there is a potential issue with the foul-detecting system.

If there is a dispute as to whether or not a foul has occurred, the delivery in question will stand, the tournament manager be notified, and the tournament manager will issue a warning. After the warning issued by the tournament manager, any subsequent foul will be a zero for that delivery.

Prior to any warning issued, the coaches are expected to work together with the tournament manager to determine if the foul-detecting system is working correctly. If there is an issue and it is determined that the foul-detecting system is not functioning correctly, the system will be turned off for the entire house for the remainder of that day's competition, and bowlers will use the honor system.

The decision to turn off the foul-detecting system will be made by the tournament manager in conjunction with the bowling center, and that determination may be made prior to the start of competition.

If the foul-detecting system is turned off during competition, 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.

USBC Rule 5 – Fouls: *A ball remains in play after delivery until the same or another player is on the approach in position to make a succeeding 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 who 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
- **Recording Video** – Competing schools may record video during competition in which that school competes. The video is not to be used to second-guess decisions made by game/meet officials. Schools wishing to record competition at other sites may do so without securing advanced permission but must record from the stands/spectator area. Spectators may record competition 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 video recording from a designated location(s). The video recordings 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

IMPORTANT NOTE: All schools are required to have Emergency Action Plans in place for all sports and venues. For all MHSAA tournaments conducted at either school or non-school facilities, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is required to be within visible distance (1-3 minutes) of the event.

PLAYING RULES, EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS – MHSAA regular season and postseason 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.

[CHART: MHSAA Guidelines for Spectators & Teams](#)

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 2, 2026.

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 ball before being substituted. 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.

Regional Tiebreaker Procedures – Tiebreaker procedures for champions and final qualifier position 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 – One Baker set (2 games), if still tied then a 6-10th frame Baker format roll-off repeated until the tie is broken.

Finals Tiebreaker Procedures – For the Singles Qualifying Block, ties for the final qualifying position is one game, if still tied then a 9-10th frame roll-off repeated until the tie is broken. All other seeded positions are determined by the last game bowled. In Singles Match Play, a 9-10th frame roll-off is used for all rounds.

For the Team Qualifying Block, ties for the final qualifying position is one Baker set (2 games); if still tied, then a 6-10th frame Baker format roll-off is repeated until the tie is broken. All other seeded positions are determined by the last game bowled.

In Team bracket 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 in the 3rd or 4th game and the next round opponent is still competing, the team that is waiting will be allowed to stay loose on their existing pair – 1 player at a time, in rotation. Only the player bowling will be allowed to be up at any one time – all other team members must be seated. The team waiting and staying loose will immediately stop once their next round opponent's round has been completed. The waiting team is expected to adhere to all expectations of good sporting behavior.

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 – **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. Bowlers wearing skirts must wear shorts or spandex underneath. Yoga/spandex pants are permitted only if worn under shorts, skorts, or skirts. Worn alone, they are not permitted. 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. Jewelry is allowed.

Neither boys nor girls may wear hats, caps or any other type of headgear. Headbands and sweatbands are allowed. Bandanas are not allowed. Allowances will be made for religious dress or headwear without MHSAA approval.

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.

