PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
2026-27 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.

Regional Tournament Dates – 2026

Regionals will be held on two consecutive days: Wednesday, February 17 – Saturday, February 20, 2027:

Friday, February 19 – Saturday, February 20, 2027, OR
Thursday, February 18 – Friday, February 19, 2027, OR
Wednesday, February 17 – Thursday, February 18, 2027

The team event will be held on the first day, followed by the singles event on the second day, regardless of the specific days the Regionals are scheduled.

Finals – February 26 (Team event) – February 27 (Singles event)

Finals Tournament Locations – 2027

Division 1 – Thunderbowl Lanes, Allen Park
Division 2 – Century Bowl, Waterford
Division 3 – Jax 60, Jackson
Division 4 – Northway Lanes, Muskegon

2. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

Coaching – Two school coaches for each gender (team) 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 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. Additional coaches must be 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. 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 for 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. A starting bowler must deliver 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 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 and warm-up pants are not permitted.

Girls – Slacks, shorts, skorts and skirts are permitted, subject to the following requirements:

- Shorts, skorts and skirts must be at least fingertip length when standing upright with arms extended straight down at the sides.
- Bowlers wearing skirts must wear shorts or spandex underneath.
- Yoga pants, leggings and other spandex pants may be worn only underneath shorts, skorts or skirts and are not permitted as standalone uniform bottoms.
- Blue jeans, cutoffs, sweatpants and warm-up pants are not permitted.

Uniform Tops (Boys and Girls) – Bowling jerseys with a collar, quarter-zip, V-neck, crew neck, rib-lined neckline or banded neckline are permitted, provided they are designed for use as a bowling uniform. V-neck and crew neck jerseys must be made of athletic performance fabric; cotton is not permitted. Cotton T-shirts and sweatshirts are not permitted as uniform tops during competition.

Additional Requirements – Team members are not required to wear identical styles of shirts or bottoms; however, similar uniforms are recommended. Jewelry is permitted.

Headwear (Boys and Girls) – Hats, caps and other forms of headgear are not permitted during competition. Headbands and sweatbands are allowed; however, bandanas are prohibited. Exceptions for religious dress or headwear are permitted without prior MHSAA approval.

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.

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 – Each school may enter a maximum of one boys team and one girls team in the MHSAA Regional Tournament, with no more than seven bowlers on each team's roster. Schools may also enter a maximum of six bowlers in the Boys Singles Tournament and six bowlers in the Girls Singles Tournament.

Girls Participation – Regardless of regular-season participation, a girl may compete as a member of either the boys team or the girls team during the MHSAA Team Tournament, but not both. Once a girl competes for a team at the Regional Tournament, she must remain with that team throughout the postseason and must be listed on that team's roster and Master Eligibility List.

For singles competition, a girl may enter either the Boys Singles Tournament or the Girls Singles Tournament, but not both, regardless of which team she represents during team competition. Schools remain limited to six singles entries per gender.

Regional Tournament Format

Singles Competition – All bowlers will compete in six regular games, with total pinfall determining individual standings. Each Division will have eight Regional Tournaments.

Team Competition – All teams will bowl two regular games and eight Baker games, with total pinfall determining team standings. Competition will take place on alternating lanes, with lane assignments and rotation determined by the local tournament manager.

Lane rotation should be designed to allow teams to compete across all available lane pairs within the designated competition 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 $3.25 and $3.50 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 bowlers are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship throughout MHSAA Regional Tournament competition. All participants are subject to MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3(D), regarding unsportsmanlike conduct. Profanity, taunting, kicking ball returns, throwing equipment and other unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.

Approach Area – Teams must remain clear of the approach area when opposing bowlers are competing. Crowding the approach is prohibited. When seating is available, no more than two bowlers from each team may be standing at a time: the bowler currently competing and the next bowler scheduled to compete (on deck). All other team members must remain seated.

Lane Conditions – The MHSAA tournament (Regionals and Finals) will use the "Phantom 2" oil pattern in 2027. 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 pattern. 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 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.

Tiebreaker Procedures – ***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 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 repeated until the tie is broken. All other seeded positions are determined by the last game bowled.

In Team Finals 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.

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 January 23, 2027. 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 February 1 as stated 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, 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 and Recording – Competing schools may record tournament competition in which their teams or individuals participate. Video recordings may not be used to challenge or second-guess decisions made by tournament officials.

Schools may also record competition at other tournament sites without obtaining prior permission. Recording must take place from the spectator seating area unless press box space is available.

Spectators may record competition from their designated seating areas, provided they do not obstruct the view of other spectators or interfere with news media personnel covering the event.

Tournament managers are not required to provide electrical outlets or space for tripods and may designate specific areas for spectator recording.

Recordings 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.

- 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.

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 POLCIES, 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.

- CHART: MHSAA Guidelines for Spectators & Teams (includes noisemakers and music/speakers)
- 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