

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Bowling Committee Meeting Minutes

East Lansing, March 20, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Members Present

Deb Alexander, Flint (Finals Manager)
Tracy Arnold (Finals Manager)
Chad Ballee, Macomb
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock (Finals Manager)
Judy Jaeger, Livonia (Finals Manager)
Dave Kowalski, Bay City (MHSIBCA President)
Brandon Malinowski, Detroit

Mike Roy, Vicksburg
Tom Stockton, Sterling Hts. (Finals Manager)
Jon Studley, West Branch (MIAAA)

Staff Member:

Cody Inglis

The MHSAA Bowling Committee met at the MHSAA office to review policies and procedures for boys and girls bowling. Agenda items included correspondence received, staff input and items from the Michigan High School Interscholastic Bowling Coaches Association.

A review of the 2018 Bowling Committee meeting minutes was completed. Though no proposals were submitted to the MHSAA Representative Council for 2018, several items of emphasis were placed into the MHSAA bowling rules and regulations. This included language changes in the Bowling Coaches Manual on items such as bowling ball limits, uniform clarification and the use of USBC approved bowling balls in the Regional and Finals levels of the MHSAA bowling tournament.

TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The committee reviewed the MHSAA tournament assignment process for both Regional and Finals venues. MHSAA Bowling Finals in each of the 4 bowling divisions require at least 50-lane centers which places the MHSAA bowling finals in direct competition for lane space with non-school adult tournaments popular around Michigan including the Elks, Men's state and Women's state. This leaves approximately 10 bowling centers in Michigan that can host the MHSAA Bowling Finals. This number is reduced when you add in geography concerns, tournament administration coordination and finding venues that will agree to MHSAA protocols and rules. The committee did review a new venue in the MHSAA Bowling Finals for the 2019 season, Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park. By all indications, including spectator, coach and participant feedback, the use of the iconic Thunderbowl Lanes as an MHSAA Finals site was a success. The committee suggested that Thunderbowl once again be used as an MHSAA Finals site for the 2020 Finals. In addition, the return to Century Lanes in Waterford was met with support and positivity from the committee and will be used as a Finals site in 2020. Northway Lanes in Muskegon has been used for a Finals site for the past two years but will be unavailable in the 2020 tournament season. M66 Bowl in Battle Creek again is willing and available for the 2020 Finals. MHSAA staff will conduct site visits to several venues across the state to determine interest, viability and availability for use as an MHSAA bowling Finals site.

The team tournament format of 8 baker games and 2 regular games for MHSAA Finals continues to be reviewed by the bowling committee. There is a desire to go to all baker games by some coaches and others as a new standard for MHSAA Finals. Reasons for making this change include: easing some scoring confusion that exists among spectators and parents, making the team tournament even more exciting and reducing the long day of the team Finals. The challenges that make this change over more difficult include the details of how many baker games should be used for qualifying games: 16, 12, 8, best of 3, best of 5, best of 7 were all mentioned as the possible

number of baker games. Though total pins would ultimately determine the winning team, the challenge about how to do this remains. In addition, the committee considered a change in the Regional team format to go from the current Regional format of 6 baker and 3 team games to 10 baker and 2 team games. The committee asked the MHSIBCA to survey its' members on this topic. In addition, staff will recommend this topic becoming an MHSAA Update Meeting survey question. MHSAA staff will work with the MHSIBCA to determine survey language and timing of the survey.

A review of the "Allen Pattern" was discussed by the committee after its fourth year of use in the MHSAA bowling tournament as a Kegel challenge series pattern. While bowling coaches must still remind and manage the expectations for their bowlers as well as parents about any pattern, the adjustment each year continues to be well received in the bowling community. Data was also shared from a NFHS survey of states that sponsor bowling and what oil pattern they use for their tournament. The MHSAA will continue with the Allen pattern for the 2019-20 bowling season at MHSAA Regionals and Finals venues.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS/UPDATES

Several topics regarding regular season and post season regulations and language were reviewed. Suggestions for changes and clarifications for the managers and coaches manuals include: bowling ball carry bag limits, dress code clarifications on blue jeans and headgear, coaches in the bowling area standing, slide and rosin items in the bowlers area, minimum number of bowlers to enter as a team in to the MHSAA team tournament, coaches scoring responsibilities and sign off on scores at Regionals and Finals. The strengthening and clarification on language in the bowling publications of the MHSAA will be done by MHSAA staff prior to the 2019-20 season.

The committee discussed season start dates for bowling and much discussion about why the UP start date was on a Thursday while the LP date was on a Monday of the following week. The committee indicated much confusion about the reasons and recommended that the LP season start on the same date as the UP season start date for consistency. The bowling committee recommended changing the dates so that the season start dates corresponded in the UP and the LP. MHSAA staff was directed to find out the historical reasons why the UP start date was different than the LP to dispel inaccuracies and have the committee and others have facts when determining if a change is needed. MHSAA staff will research this question, analyze data and bring the facts to the MHSIBCA, as well as to the bowling committee next year for more data.

The committee was updated on several topics relating to bowling including Unified bowling and a potential change to MHSAA rules that would allow bowling coaches to work with Unified teams during the out of season time frame. Other topics included LED bowling ball updates and the USBC bowling ball specifications on balance holes. The committee recommended to delay the USBC rule in MHSAA competition until the 2020-21 season to allow high school bowlers the ability to adapt to this new rule that has caused some confusion in the USBC and bowling in general.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

No recommendations to the Representative Council