

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

**Bowling Committee Meeting Minutes**

Virtual Meeting

East Lansing, March 16, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

**Members Present**

Deb Alexander, Flint  
Chris Bell, Lake Orion  
Loraine Brinker, Dryden  
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock  
Karl Grambau, Rogers City  
Leroy Hackley, Muskegon  
Judy Jaeger, Livonia  
Dave Kowalski, Bay City  
Tracy Long-Arnold, Flint

Brandon Malinowski, Detroit  
Andy Radtke, Traverse City  
Tom Stockton, Sterling Hts.  
Jon Studley, Alpena (MIAAA)  
Robert Tubbs, Davison (MIHSBCA President)

**Staff Members**

Cody Inglis (recorder)  
Andy Frushour

The MHSAA Bowling Committee met virtually on March 16, 2022. Agenda items included correspondence received, staff input and items from the Michigan Interscholastic High School Bowling Coaches Association. The committee introduced themselves and were reminded of the purpose of the committee, process for making a proposal and the protocols that govern and guide all MHSAA sport committees.

A review of the 2020 Bowling Committee meeting minutes was completed. The Phantom pattern adoption as the MHSAA oil pattern was reviewed along with several items of emphasis were placed into the MHSAA bowling rules and regulations.

**General Bowling Discussion items**

Bowling ball limits were discussed in depth by the committee. This included the current ball limit language and rule, as well as some Covid modifications that were made to have bowling during the pandemic. The committee discussion included pros and cons of ball limits. This include it being a fairness issue for all bowlers to have the same number of balls to be used at the center during competition. Additionally, at other levels of non-school bowling there are ball limits and those competitions include multiple different shot patterns unlike the just one-shot pattern at MHSAA competition. Finally, the space issue is a real challenge at many centers that host MHSAA competition at Regionals and Finals and when there is not a ball limit it creates challenges with the number of balls in a center, which is a safety issue for players, spectators and house staff. During the pandemic, ball limits were enforced and it worked to limit the number of extra balls in the house during competition. The committee felt clarifying this number to 5 balls in the center per bowler with no more than 2 in the bowler's area was a strong compromise and a proposal to standardize this number during MHSAA play was recommended.

The MHSAA Phantom oil pattern was discussed after its' first year of use in MHSAA competition. Feedback received from around the state was considered and it was determined that continuing to use the Phantom pattern for MHSAA play was important to see how the pattern held up during play and how difficult the pattern was during MHSAA competition. Ultimately the committee was reminded that many factors come into play when using ANY oil or shot pattern. Bowling conditions can vary as to approaches (wood/synthetic), lanes (wood/new synthetic/old synthetic), pins (old/new & wood/plastic), bowling houses (new, old,) lanes topology and lane oil machines (old/new & manual/automatic & Kegel/Qubica/AMF/Brunswick). In the end, there are many variables from site to site that make oil patterns difficult to compare from one site to another but by using the Phantom pattern as much as possible during the regular

season, it will allow bowlers to become more used to the condition and prepared for MHSAA competition.

Regular season 30-point system was discussed as the standard by the committee. The committee was reminded that local leagues and conferences can determine locally their scoring system during the regular season though the 30-point system has been widely accepted as the standard to be used across the state for high school competition.

Coach certification and the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program was discussed. Committee members were reminded that any new Varsity bowling coach was required to participate in the CAP program. An added emphasis will be pushed by the MIHSBCA to ensure that as many bowling coaches as possible are pushed into this valuable coaching education program which makes the sport better.

The number of coaches allowed at MHSAA tournaments was discussed. Committee discussion involved the number of people at a center for tournament play and how many times, multiple coaches show up as school coaches for tournament play. The committee felt the need to keep the current number of allowed coaches at two but also require a school place the names of the coaches on the team roster for entry into MHSAA bowling competition. This will help tournament administration define who is a coach and who is using this to gain entry and access.

The bowling committee continues to believe that coaching rules meetings are critical to coaches knowing, enforcing and understanding the rules of high school bowling in order to teach their players the rules and consistently use them during the regular and post season of MHSAA bowling. As has been past practice, MHSAA Bowling Regional schools and hosts will continue to be required to attend a virtual meeting in preparation for the MHSAA tournament. Site selection and confirmation will start in October in order to have this information posted by the start of the Bowling season.

The committee had a very in-depth discussion on bowling team roster size for MHSAA tournament and regular season play. During the pandemic, roster size was limited to get a bowling season in with capacity limit restrictions at each bowling center in the state. This number was six for team competition and 6 for individual competition. This number of six on the team roster was kept initially for MHSAA tournament competition this season and later adjusted when Covid restrictions were eased and discussion across the state was to keep the number at seven and have further committee discussion.

The committee discussed feedback both good and bad about this number. A key discussion item was for a program with travel restrictions and having a seventh bowler come overnight for participation in the team event and then barely participate in either the team or singles competition. This was a cost issue, most of the time passed on to parents and caused coaches of these teams to have pressure applied to bowl this additional bowler because they were on the roster even if they were not ready for tournament play. Additionally, discussion centered on space limitations in most centers and how an average Team Regional results in 35 extra bodies in the house and bowler's area for bowlers who most of the time do not bowl in competition. These extra bodies limit in some cases the amount of other people in the center for competition.

Some committee sentiment and discussion were raised that using this roster spot for the experience and getting a "feel" for what the tournament atmosphere is during play is important. It also allows a student to have something to play for during the season. Additionally, there was a desire to allow leagues and conferences to set their own limits during regular season play to ensure that bowlers would get experience there as a substitute and bowler for a coach to determine more accurately their roster for postseason competition. Committee discussion also raised the point that the option

exists up to the start of tournament play for a coach to adjust their roster to include any student-athlete on the school's master eligibility list. A proposal was made to adjust the tournament team roster size to six bowlers (bowl five, one substitute) from its' current seven bowlers on a team roster. Regular season team roster size would remain a local league and conference decision.

Foul lines in bowling centers were discussed by the committee and during tournament play. There is a large discrepancy across the state that the use of foul lights is inconsistent at best. Many centers do not use foul lights, they work on some lanes and not on others and while some centers have upgraded this technology, many centers have not, and it simply does not work consistently across the house. The committee felt that a foul does not provide a distinct advantage to the bowler and that while it is important to have a standard, trying to enforce something that is so inconsistent across the state is difficult at best for tournament administration.

The committee proposed to turn off the foul lights during MHSAA tournament competition. The honor system will be used with the first foul resulting in the tournament manager issuing a warning to the bowler with a subsequent foul being a zero for that frame. This system eliminates the "false" fouls that can sometime plague a tournament or bowler depending upon the lane they are assigned and is a more consistent and fair system than the one that exists currently.

A strengthening of language for number of coaches allowed, slow pace of play and balls being drilled once play has started was discussed and will be placed in MHSAA bowling materials.

### **MHSAA Tournament Format**

The current MHSAA bowling format for Regionals and Finals was discussed for both team and singles. There was sentiment to change the number of Baker games vs. regular games in the tournament. The committee discussed the pros and cons of the pace of play during tournaments, qualifying and advancement of players and teams. The desire of the committee was to have Regional and Final play be consistent and a proposal to change the Regional games to eight Baker games and two regular team games from its' current six Baker games and three regular team games.

### **Future MHSAA Tournament Expansion Discussion**

The committee had a thorough discussion on the future of MHSAA bowling and the potential increase in the MHSAA tournament to include a District round of play in addition to Regionals and Finals. By including a District level of play, it would allow smaller field sizes, allow the use of many more centers around the state and allow another level of qualification for teams and individuals to advance. There is strong committee support to investigate this possibility through school surveys, discussion with AD's, bowling centers and what this change of format would do in terms of qualification, advancement and protocols to be used in the potential new format. The committee asked MHSAA and MIHSBCA representatives to form a District tournament subcommittee to discuss the planning associated with adding a level of the tournament and the impacts it would have on calendar, centers and schools involved in HS Bowling. A report will be made to the Bowling Committee for a possible proposal in the future.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO MHSAA STAFF

Add coaches' names to the MHSAA Bowling roster.

Survey MHSAA schools on whether Districts should be added to MHSAA bowling tournament play.

Form a subcommittee with MIHSBCA help to determine the process, logistics and protocols of adding a District level of play to the MHSAA bowling tournament.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Participants will be limited to five balls in the bowling center, and two balls in the bowler's area. (13-1)

Team roster will be moved to six participants during the MHSAA Regionals and Finals. For the regular season, this is a conference or league decision on the roster size (10-4)

Foul lights will be turned off during MHSAA tournaments with the honor system being used. The first foul will result in the tournament manager issuing a warning to the bowler with subsequent foul being a zero for that frame. (14-0)

Change the MHSAA Regional team format to eight Baker games and two regular games which will match the MHSAA Finals team format and be a change from six Baker games and three regular games. (14-0)