

Indiana High School Bowling Program
(IHSB) Rules 2009-2010
As of 07/06/09

I. CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- a. This program is organized and operated by the Indiana Bowling Centers Association.
- b. Guidelines for creating a new IHSB conference are as follows:
 - i. The conference shall consist of at least 6 high schools. The **Rules Committee** must approve any conference with less than six participating schools (this applies to both new and existing conferences).
 - ii. The area shall create its Conference Constitution, budget and income & expense statement and have a copy of each document on file with the office of the Indiana Bowling Centers Association.
 - iii. The area shall elect or appoint its local 'Advisory Board'.
 - iv. When the above-mentioned steps have been completed, the area forming the conference shall present the information in writing to the **IHSB Rules Committee** for approval. The **IHSB Rules Committee** reserves the right to deny the forming of a new conference if an existing conference meets the needs of a center and/or school.
- c. Management Of Conference Funds:
 - i. If a proprietor/manager is the only proprietor/manager of the center or centers in a conference, he/she must submit his/her financial statement to the IHSB Advisory Board. Appropriate interested parties may view the statement.
- d. Changing A School's Sponsoring Center Or Conference:
 - i. Schools are tied to the center that put them into the program. If a school wishes to change centers both centers must sign a waiver form in agreement. Without the waiver, the school can petition the advisory board or change centers after sitting out a season.
 - ii. The **IHSB Rules Committee** also reserves the right to dictate realignment of conferences.
- e. Teams that do not have a sponsoring center must pay the non-member fee and must be approved by the **Rules Committee**.
- f. **See attachment for Independent and Non-conference matches.**

II. STRUCTURE:

- a. Competition in bowling will be held for all participating high schools.
 - i. The goal of each individual school shall be to field one boys' and one girls' varsity team (a total of two teams per school).
 - ii. If there aren't enough girls to field a team, they may bowl on the boy's team during the season.
 1. **They are eligible to bowl on the boy's team during sectional, regional, semi-state, or state team events if they bowled on the boy's team during conference play.**
 2. Singles competition is by gender.

If numbers allow, conferences may form junior varsity competition. It is recommended that they follow the same rules as the varsity program.

III. Sanctioning Of Teams, Clubs, & Events:

- a. **The IHSB program will be certified with USBC under the Free Team Membership registration program. Bowlers will no longer have to be certified under the USBC Standard Membership. Averages from this program will not be certified for other events. Bowlers wishing to participate in certified tournaments must obtain USBC membership through another program.**
- b. **Letter jacket pins will be awarded for 298, 299 & 300 games as well as 700, 800 & 900 series and Baker 300 games. The IHSB will award rings to bowlers who roll a 300 game, 800 or 900 series (1 per bowler per award per year).**
- c. **An individual bowler, parent, conference, or other interested party may purchase other rings available with this program (298 game, 299 game, or state champions).** Other awards shall be the responsibility of the conference.
- d. Any competition outside of conference and **tournament** play should be processed as a USBC Tournament.
- e. Bowling centers, schools, or conferences may run invitational tournaments or events. It is the tournament directors' responsibility to ensure they are run in accordance with IHSB and USBC rules. Any such event outside the official IHSB program may not use the IHSB Logo in any way to promote or designate it as an IHSB event.
- f. The Indiana High School Bowling **Commissioner** shall certify the sectional, regional, semi-state and state finals.

IV. Conference Playing Rules:

- a. These rules apply to all practices, regular season matches and post-season tournaments.
- b. Additional rules shall apply to post season tournaments.

The IHSB **Protest Committee** shall make the final determination on any situation that may arise that is not covered specifically by IHSB or USBC rules.

V. Eligibility:

- a. Members of the Indiana High School Bowling (IHSB) Program shall abide by this set of rules and the United States Bowling Congress (USBC - youth) current eligibility rules.
- b. **Coaches must register their teams and bowlers online to be certified through the USBC Free Team Membership program.**
 - i. It shall be the coach's responsibility to verify that their bowlers are certified and not participating in adult leagues.
 - ii. Bowlers found to be in violation will be disqualified from any event that they participated in and may cause their team disqualification.
- c. The IHSB will follow USBC Rule #400. Members may not bowl, substitute or pace in any bowling activity which offers any of the following as prizes:
 - i. Cash or bonds
 - ii. Merchandise exceeding \$500 in value.
 - iii. Members may bowl in singles competitions (including side competitions/brackets) offering such prizes, provided, prior to bowling:
 1. The competition agrees to award the youth's prize in the form of a scholarship, or
 2. The youth signs a form waiving his/her rights to any prize in violation of this rule.
 3. Any youth bowler deemed in violation of this rule is subject to disciplinary action including the potential loss of membership.
- d. It is the responsibility of the school's **head** coach to ensure all bowlers meet their school's eligibility requirements for **athletic** competition and that they attend the school they are representing.

- e. **It shall be the head coach's responsibility to verify their bowlers continued eligibility at the end of each grading period.**
- f. Schools that bowl ineligible bowlers shall forfeit all matches in which the ineligible student competed.
- g. If a student transfers to another school, he or she can begin conference play immediately if both schools sign a form allowing the transfer. If either school objects, the **rules committee** shall review the information and make the final decision.
- h. The team's sponsoring bowling center and/or high school must approve coaches before they are eligible.
 - i. **All head coaches must have attained the age of 21.**
 - ii. The coach must be in good standing with the USBC.
 - iii. **Coaches are urged to participate in the USBC Registered Volunteer Program and to wear their ID lanyards at all practices and matches. RVP will be required next season (2010-2011).**
- i. Required Forms:
 - i. It shall be the responsibility of the coach(es) to collect the following forms and submit them to the conference coordinator prior to the established deadline(s).
 - 1. The Rules of Conduct & Uniform Form signed by the bowler and their parent or legal guardian.
 - 2. Travel Authorization Waiver Form signed by the bowler's parent or legal guardian.
 - a. It will be the responsibility of each participant in the IHSB to arrange for his/her own transportation to and from practices, matches and tournaments.

All bowlers are subject to their school's policy for **athletic** participation and discipline.

VI. Protests:

- a. The **head coach**, as a representative of the bowling club, must file a written protest within 48 hours after the series in which the infraction occurred.
- b. If no protest is filed within 48 hours, scores shall stand as bowled.
- c. Protests shall be filed with a representative of the local 'Advisory Board' who will coordinate a brief conference.

There is no time limit to file a protest concerning any bowler's academic eligibility.

VII. Conference Conduct:

- a. It is recommended that conferences use a schedule to avoid byes whenever possible.
 - i. **Each conference shall determine how they will determine the bye team in accordance with USBC criteria.**
 - ii. Conferences using the bye must notify the commissioner of their bye rule prior to the start of competition.
 - iii. The scores bowled will be used as if bowling in direct competition with the drawn team. Teams will be awarded a win or a loss for a match based on the number of points won during that match.
- b. The number of matches won (or win percentage) shall determine the conference standings.
- c. Prior to the start of the regular season the conference shall determine if there will be co-champions in the case of a tie. If the conference opts to have a tie-breaking roll off, that decision and the format shall be communicated to all coaches in the conference prior to the first match.
- d. Coaches of all participating schools are responsible for the enforcement of league rules and penalties. The Coordinator (or the local 'Advisory Board' in his/her absence) shall have

final say on enforcement when coaches cannot agree on the penalty that should be imposed. (See Protests).

- e. The conference (coordinator) may suspend a conference member for an infraction of a USBC rule or conference rule (Please refer to USBC Rule 115c).
- f. All matches are 'Smoke Free' events. The smoke free area may be restricted to the lanes used for participation if the whole house isn't being used.
 - i. Players caught using tobacco, alcohol or drugs on the center grounds will be immediately suspended from that day's activities. They are then subject to their school's policy for discipline.
 - ii. Coaches or other persons officially connected with the team shall not use any tobacco products or consume alcohol during competition.
- g. No mechanical or artificial noisemakers are allowed.

VIII. Team Structure:

- a. A team shall roster no more than seven bowlers per competition (five bowlers and two substitute bowlers).
- b. All seven players are eligible to participate in each competition.
- c. A team may have an unlimited number of reserve bowlers.

The five member team will bowl each game with all five scores being used to determine the team that wins the match point.

IX. Match Format:

- a. All bowling will be on a scratch basis.
- b. Each match shall consist of two games.
- c. A point system will determine the winner of the match.
 - i. The point system will be based on 10 total points per game, 20 points per match.
 - ii. 1 point will be awarded per game for each bowler who defeats his or her opponent.
 - iii. 5 points will be awarded per game to the team with the highest pin count.
 - iv. In case of a tie at the end of a regular two game match (points tied) the winner will be determined based on the total pins for that day. If the match is still tied a half point will be awarded each team. Individual match ties will result in a half point awarded to each bowler.
- d. Bowlers are not permitted to bowl on the same day, prior to a competition, on the assigned lanes in the bowling center where the competition is to be held.
- e. In conference play, a substitute bowler may only be used at the beginning of a new game.
 - i. Substitutes will take the place of the bowler they are replacing.
 - ii. Other lineup changes are illegal.
 - iii. In tournament play, coaches may substitute during a game. Lineups may be changed at the start of any new game. A bowler may be used just once during any game.**
- f. Each team must present a lineup on the lanes at the scheduled starting time for each match.
- g. The team on the odd number lane shall post their team's line-up 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. This posting is limited to 5 minutes. After seeing the odd lane's posted line-up, the team on the even lane has 5 minutes to post their line-up. After posting line-ups, no position changes may be made. (See Substitutes).
- h. There will be ten minutes of practice on the starting pair prior to the beginning of the match.
- i. No headsets (radios, I-pods, mp3's) or cell phones shall be permitted in the bowler's area once competition starts.
- j. All bowlers must remain in the bowler's area while competition is in progress.

- k. Bowlers are expected to follow the previous bowler promptly and will be required to bowl as soon as the lane to their right is clear.
- l. Un-sportsmanlike conduct, including but not restricted to deliberate foot fouls, vulgar language, or abuse of equipment or facilities, is not permitted.
- m. The foul line shall be observed during match play.
 - i. Awards will not be issued if automatic foul detecting devices or a human foul judge is not used.
 - ii. When a player deliberately fouls, the player shall receive zero pin fall for that delivery and shall not be allowed any further deliveries in that frame.
- n. A team, which forfeits shall lose, all points earned for that game. However, the scores of all eligible players shall be included in the conference records and will qualify for all conference and USBC (youth) individual awards. When a match is declared forfeited the opposing team must bowl as if the match were actually contested.
- o. Match play will not be delayed past the scheduled starting time due to late players (there will no longer be a 10 minute wait past the scheduled start time). Late players may enter the game at anytime but will receive 0 up until their entry frame. If a team or individual does not show, a score of 0 will be given.
- p. A match may be re-scheduled or the starting time delayed due to travel difficulties at the discretion of the Conference Coordinator providing that he or she and the opposing team's coach are notified within a reasonable time prior to the scheduled start time of the match.
- q. Any player unable to complete a game due to injury, illness or emergency may be substituted for the balance of the game.
 - i. The removed player may not participate for the balance of the match.
 - ii. The Conference Coordinator must approve the substitution.
 - iii. If no substitute is available, that player shall be awarded a 0 for each remaining frame of that game.
- r. The players or coach shall keep score if necessary. It will be the responsibility of the team captains to verify that scores are complete and accurate. It shall be the team captain's responsibility to make sure his/her team contributes its fair share of time to the scorekeeping function.

Authorized Personnel: Coaches, tournament officials and rostered bowlers are the only persons authorized to be in the bowlers' area during a match. A total of 2 coaches and 5 participating bowlers may stand in the bowler's area. Other interested parties must remain behind the area defined as the bowlers' area.

X. Position Round Format:

- a. All conferences must have at least one position round during conference play consisting of 10 Baker games.
 - i. 2 points are awarded the winning team each game.
 - ii. The team with the most total points will receive a win for the position round match.
 - iii. In the event of a points tie, total pins will determine the winner of the match.
 - iv. All team members follow each other in regular order to bowl a single game. For a 5-player team, Player #1 bowls frames 1 and 6; #2 bowls 2 and 7; #3 bowls 3 and 8; #4 bowls 4 and 9; and #5 bowls the 5th and 10th frames.
 - v. Substitutions and lineup changes are only permissible at the beginning of a new Baker game.
 - vi. For the first Baker Game, each team bowls one complete game on their assigned lane. For the second and subsequent games, each team bowls a complete game on the adjoining lane in the pair, alternating between the two lanes until the match (10 games) is complete.

- vii. Any absent bowler during a Baker Game will be given a zero for any frames missed.
- b. Standings for position rounds shall be determined first by matches won, then total points won and if there is still a tie, by total pins.
- c. In a Baker Game position round, if there is an odd number of teams, the last place team bowls against the next team ahead of them in standing points, i.e., eleventh place team bowls against the tenth place team for points.

XI. Uniforms:

- a. Team competitors and coaches must appear in uniforms approved by the Commissioner for all matches and tournaments.
- b. Classic Products Corporation will be the designated vendor and will provide order forms for everyone. Teams may purchase their shirts from other vendors with written permission from the Commissioner to obtain and use the 'Trade-Marked Logo'.
- c. The Conference Coordinator and/or Designated Conference Supervisor will have final say over appropriate or inappropriate uniforms. They will have the authority to make allowances if there are delivery problems.
- d. The entire team must wear the same color of uniform, including slacks/**pants**.
 - i. **Blue jeans**, cargo pants, and **skorts** are not allowed.
 - ii. **The commissioner may allow exceptions due to religious beliefs.**
- e. No advertising of any type is permitted on uniforms.
 - i. Exceptions may be approved by the commissioner; such as 'In memory', etc.
 - ii. No advertisement of tobacco, liquor, wine, beer, or gambling industries on any equipment is allowed.
- f. Head coverings are not allowed. The conference coordinator must approve medical exceptions.
- g. All necessary under-clothing must be worn in the appropriate manner.
- h. Coaches not in uniform are not allowed in the bowler's area.
- i. If a bowler or coach is out of uniform, they will be given a verbal warning by the Conference Coordinator to comply with the uniform rule. If changes are not made, the coach or bowler may be disqualified from that event.
- j. Uniform shirts must have the official IHSB logo printed or embroidered on the shirt.
 - i. The logo may be on either breast or sleeve, but must be in the same location for all bowlers on the team.
- k. A team may opt to have bowler's names placed on the uniform shirts
 - i. All team members must have his/her name on the shirt. There will be no teams with a combination of bowlers' shirts with names and bowlers' shirts without names.
 - ii. Names are permitted anywhere on the shirt, but they must be in the same location for everyone on the team.
 - iii. Nicknames are not permitted.
- l. Writing on or defacing of the bowling shirt is not permitted at any time.
- m. The bowling shirt must have a butterfly collar or mock collar. Mock collars must be one inch up on the neck. T-Shirts are not allowed.
- n. All shirts must have finished sleeves for all competition.
- o. **Coaches shall decide whether members of his/her team wear their shirrtails in or out. All members of the team must wear their shirts in the same manner.**
- p. Long sleeve shirts may be worn under the uniform shirt but they must be the same color if worn by more than 1 player.

XII. Jewelry:

- a. **Bowlers will be allowed to wear any jewelry that does not depict foul language or gestures.**
- b. **Coaches have the authority and responsibility to limit their team members' jewelry.**
- c. Conference Coordinators and/or tournament directors shall make the final decision on questionable items.
- d. Coaches are not governed by the rules governing jewelry. Modesty, however, is requested. Any coach's jewelry deemed excessive will be brought to the Advisory Board for review.

XIII. **Penalties:**

- a. Violations of any of the above rules **relating to conduct, uniform, or jewelry** will result in the following penalties. It is the responsibility of the Conference Coordinator and/or Tournament Director to enforce these penalties. The Conference Coordinator and/or Tournament Director will inform the IBCA of all infractions.
 - i. 1st Offense- Written Warning
 - ii. 2nd Offense- Bowler(s) will be suspended for the day and a substitute cannot be made until the next game.
 - iii. 3rd Offense- Bowler(s) will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
 - iv. Severe violations may be brought to the Advisory Board and further action may be taken regardless of the number of violations.

XIV. **Practice:**

It is the responsibility of each head coach to conduct no more than two (2) formal practice sessions each week during the IHSB season. These sessions will be at little or no cost to the school or student and must be pre-arranged with the sponsoring bowling center to ensure lanes are reserved and available.

XV. **Inclement Weather:**

When inclement weather arises, centers shall follow the inclement weather guidelines of the team's represented school district. If a match is cancelled due to a school district's inclement weather guidelines, the canceling team shall be allowed to reschedule the match at a date and time mutually agreeable to the opposing team.

XVI. **Sunday Activities:**

Sunday activities are allowed after 1pm. Earlier activity must be pre-approved by the **IHSB Commissioner**.

XVII. **State Playoffs Eligibility:**

- a. To be eligible to participate in the state playoffs (Sectional, Regional, Semi-State events and the State Finals) a team member or individual must have bowled at least one complete regular game during the season.
- b. The number of players to advance into the state playoffs will be determined prior to the start of sectionals.

Changes in team rosters may be made for the Regional, Semi-State and State events so long as the incoming bowler has bowled one regular game during the regular season.

XVIII. **Scholarships and Awards:**

- a. The **IHSB Awards Committee** will determine any scholarships or awards at the Regional, Semi-State and State levels.

Any local conference scholarships or awards will be determined by the local conference.