

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Bowling Committee Meeting Minutes

East Lansing, March 21, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Members Present

Deb Alexander, Flint (Finals Manager)
Greg Ambrose, Wayne (MIAAA)
Paul Gaudard, Flint
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock (Finals Manager)
Judy Jaeger, Livonia (Finals Manager)
Dave Kowalski, Bay City (MHSIBCA President)
Tracy Long, (Finals Manager)
Brandon Malinowski, Detroit

Alexis Regnier, Holt
Michael Roach, Battle Creek
Tom Stockton, Sterling Hts. (Finals Manager)
Jon Studley, West Branch (MIAAA)
Robert Tubbs, Davison

Members Absent

Scott Hare, Saginaw
Dan Macha, Ithaca

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 2017 Bowling Committee meeting minutes was completed. Though no proposals were submitted to the MHSAA Representative Council several items of emphasis were placed into the MHSAA bowling rules and regulations. This included "cleaning up some language" in the Bowling Coaches manual on things like uniforms, ball limits and format and process of the Regional and Finals levels of the MHSAA tournament.

TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The committee reviewed MHSAA Tournament location assignment policies and procedures for both the Regional and Finals venues. The MHSAA Regional and Final Tournament locations and venue selection process was reviewed by MHSAA staff. MHSAA Bowling Finals in each of the 4 bowling divisions require at least 50-lane centers which puts 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. There are only about 10 bowling centers in Michigan that can hold 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. These facts limit the ability to establish a designated rotation of MHSAA Bowling Finals venues even though there is desire to do so with some coaches. The committee did discuss the potential for two new venues to be included in the Bowling Finals for the 2019 season, including Century Bowl in Waterford and Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park. These two houses are capable and willing to host MHSAA events. Though MHSAA staff has visited Thunderbowl in Allen Park the committee suggested that MHSAA Bowling Finals managers accompany MHSAA staff for a visit to Thunderbowl Lanes to make sure that the venue can handle MHSAA Finals. This visit will occur in the spring or summer.

The team tournament format of 8 Baker games and 2 regular games was looked at by the committee. There is a desire to go to all Baker games by some on the committee as the new standard for MHSAA Finals. Some on the committee felt that this would ease some scoring confusion that exists among spectators and parents as well as make the team tournament even more exciting than it already is for participants. 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. The committee felt that until there were more details given ahead of time and more survey and other data from coaches around the state that it would be premature to jump into this format. The committee asked the MHSIBCA to convene a subcommittee on tournament format for both Regionals and Finals and come up with suggestions that could be shared across the state prior to the Bowling Committee meeting next school year so that feedback could be shared and details given about how the change would impact bowlers, time at the centers and scoring in the team event.

A bowling division and region review was done by the MHSAA to determine how and why teams were placed into divisions. This includes both geography and enrollment of bowling schools. In addition, the size and number of houses available for Regionals was reviewed as a potential future increase in the number of divisions allowed in bowling. Much discussion on this issue would need to be done in order to make sure that increasing in the future would be for the right reasons.

Bowling advancement from Regionals to Finals was discussed at length in the singles tournament. While rare, it does happen that a bowler bowls in the singles Regional tournament while knowing that they can't compete in the MHSAA Finals event the following weekend. This "takes away a spot" from another bowler who may have advanced. The MHSAA discussed the policy of not advancing non-qualifying bowlers to the Finals in place of those who couldn't attend including MHSAA Handbook interpretation #258. The committee understood this policy though would like additional language placed on the team/singles bowling roster sheet that indicates that bowlers who can't attend the MHSAA finals in singles should not be entered into the MHSAA Regional singles tournament. This change of language was approved by the committee.

A review of the "Allen Pattern" was discussed by the committee after its third year of use in the MHSAA bowling tournament as a Kegel challenge series pattern. Given that this year is the third year of use of the Allen pattern, it continues to gain popularity among centers, coaches and players alike. While bowling coaches must still remind and manage the expectations for their bowlers as well as parents about any pattern, the adjustment this year was much easier for all. General discussion on scoring averages was done with data given from past MHSAA championship events. The committee agreed that MHSAA tournaments are not about scoring, as much as it is competing against bowlers and teams at the same time in the same house to determine the best. The MHSAA will continue with the Allen pattern for the 2018-19 bowling season at MHSAA Regionals and Finals venues.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS/UPDATES

Several topics regarding overall regular season regulations were reviewed. Suggestions for changes and clarifications for the Coaches Manual include: bowling ball limits at both Regionals and Finals, approved ball usage and uniform discussion on skorts, shorts and skirts as a uniform for bowling teams. The Limited Team Membership rule restricting outside events during the school season was also analyzed and reviewed by the committee.

The MHSAA Bowling Committee recommended language changes to MHSAA documents related to girls teams and bowlers wearing skirts, skorts and shorts. This includes treating these three items the same in the bowling uniform rule so that skirts, skorts and shorts must be at least fingertip length when extending the arm straight down to the side while standing straight up. This strengthening of language will provide more clarity to this changing style of dress that has become increasingly popular among girl bowlers.

Clarifying language will also be used to ensure that approved bowling balls will be used by bowlers and that those balls are on the USBC approved ball list. This language will be placed in the bowling coaches' manual, bowling regionals managers manual as well as the finals qualifier information.

Continued discussion regarding the increase of the roster size for singles from its current 6 participants per school to 7 participants per school. This increase of one bowler would match the roster size of the team roster allowed for regionals and finals and would allow coaches to use the same roster for each day of the bowling tournament. While this is not a new topic, the challenges associated with this potential increase include the large number of bowling venues that use 24 lane centers and the possibility that an additional bowler in singles could add up to two more bowlers per pair in some cases increasing this number to 7 or 8 or 9 which could add significant time to each Regional and Final. Lane availability would then become a major issue in some areas of the state and bowling centers could limit the time and space needed to adequately conduct a bowling tournament. The committee felt that the potential negative effects of a change outweighed the positives and did not recommend a change from the current 6-person roster for singles from each bowling school.

The committee recommended that emergency action plans be developed for Bowling Centers that host MHSAA Regionals and Finals events. While this isn't a change, since many centers do follow and have on hand an emergency action plan, it was recommended that MHSAA staff and Finals managers make this review more formal at all venues to ensure that proper procedures would be followed if the worst case scenario unfolded.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

No recommendations to the Representative Council