

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BOYS/GIRLS BOWLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 3, 2024

The IHSA Boys/Girls Bowling Advisory Committee met in person, on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at the IHSA office in Bloomington, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were Rebecca Hoffman, Athletic Director from Machesney Park (Harlem); Cierra Snyder, Boys and Girls Coach from Abingdon (A.-Avon); Mike Mailloux, Girls Coach from Normal (Community West); Todd Rubin, Boys Coach at Northbrook (Glenbrook North); and Eugene Neighbors, Boys Coach at Freeburg. Absent from the meeting was Russell Briggs, Boys/Girls Coach at Chicago (Westinghouse College Prep) and Frank Yudzentis, Girls Coach at Minooka. Guests in attendance were Ann Buja, Girls Bowling Tournament Manager from Rockford. IHSA Assistant Executive Director Stacey Lambert was also in attendance.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Recommendation: VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES B) Player Equipment and Uniform 4) Ball Certification: All bowling balls must meet USBC specifications as defined in the latest edition of the Equipment Specifications and Certification Manual. Any bowling ball that does not meet the specifications will be removed from the regional, sectional, or state final competition until the ball meets the legal specifications. In order for a bowling ball to be considered legal, it must not be used prior to the date the ball is available to be purchased by the general public. If it is shown that the bowler had prior knowledge of violating the specifications, the bowler shall receive a zero for every frame the illegal ball was used in for unsportsmanlike conduct. The tournament director shall report any violations to the IHSA office.

Rationale: This addition will provide clarification as to when a bowling ball becomes legal for high school competition. This also provides direction for tournament managers as to how to handle the situation when an illegal ball is found in competition.

2. Recommendation: IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES A) State Final Passes: A maximum of eight (8) passes will be issued to competitors from qualifying teams whose names are listed on the List of Participants. In addition, a maximum of three (3) coach's passes will be issued for coaches of qualifying teams whose names are listed on the List of Participants. In addition, for the purpose of access into the competition area, two (2) pit passes will be provided to teams. One (1) pass will be issued for each individual qualifier and up to two (2) coaches passes will be issued to a school with individual qualifiers, including those in the Bowling Chair Class. In addition, for the purpose of access into the competition area, one (1) pit pass will be provided to a school with individual qualifier(s). Schools with only one (1) individual qualifier can request a companion pass to bring one (1) teammate with them to the state finals. The companion pass will only allow entry into the facility, not into the pit area. School Administrators may pick up their passes at the state final. Administrative passes will be available at the pass gate before the competition begins or in tournament central after competition begins.

Rationale: More schools are requiring a travel teammate when an individual qualifies on their own. This will provide that student the opportunity to enter the facility without having to wait outside in the entry line on their own or purchase a ticket.

3. Recommendation: V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS E) Regional/Sectional Tournament Structure: 3) The regional/sectional tournament shall start no earlier than 9:00 am and no later than 11:00 am. ~~Coaches' meeting shall start no earlier than 8:30 am and no later than 1:00 pm.~~

Rationale: This modest adjustment will ensure that all regionals/sectionals start at a reasonable time. The previous allowance of a later start time had some teams not getting home until after 10pm.

4. Recommendation: IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES New O) Ladders: No ladders, step stools, and/or chairs will be allowed to be brought in at any state series location from regionals through the State Finals.

~~Remove, Manager's Manual page 23: III. Ladders • Hosts and host houses have the option to state that no ladders will be allowed in facility during the state series. If ladders are not allowed hosts shall notify competing schools prior to the start of the event.~~

Rationale: The ladders are creating issues on multiple fronts. First, they're a fire hazard, where in case of an emergency it would be very difficult for athletes and coaches to get out of the pit area, through the ladders to safety. They've also caused more issues over the last few years between fans where the ladder bearer was blocking the view of the fans behind them. Finally, the extra-wide tall chairs take up twice the amount of space as an individual person making viewing issues even more prevalent.

5. Recommendation: VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES C) The Competition Area 2) Coaches in Competition Area: In each of the games, a participating school, which has a team competing, may have no more than two (2) coaches in the competition area. Two (2) coaches' passes will be provided to schools that have a team competing. In each of the games, a participating school that has only individuals competing may have no more than one (1) coach in the competition area. One (1) coaches' pass will be provided to schools that have individual(s) competing. Coaches' names shall be listed on the school's List of Participants and be in compliance with IHSA By-law 2.070. Coaches who are coaching shall remain in or behind the competitors seating area during the competition.

a) In the Bowling Chair Class, a participating school may have no more than two (2) coaches in the competition area. These names shall be listed on the school's List of Participants and be in compliance with IHSA By-law 2.070. The tournament management will assess penalties when violations occur.

b) Only Coaches who meet the IHSA By-law requirements of 2.070 and have taken and completed all required examinations are allowed to coach. Outside individual caught coaching will be subject to removal from the facility and penalties, as outlined below, will be passed on to the participant receiving the advice.

c) Penalties will accumulate for the tournament. Penalties for violation of coaches in competition area are: first offense - 10 pin team deduction, second offense - 50 pin team deductions, third team offense - 100 pin team deductions, and fourth team offense-team disqualification.

Rationale: Parent and outside coaching continues to be an issue in bowling. Coaches have tried to address issue but without a substantial rule they can easily access, it's been hard to enforce the by-law. This would also give tournament managers a hard and fast penalty to access, along with specifications to remove the offending coach.

6. Recommendation: V. Tournament Assignments: A) Tournament Series: All schools entering teams or individuals will be assigned by the IHSA to one of the Regional and one of the Sectional tournaments. The successive tournament series shall be designated respectively as regional, sectional, and state final. Schools entering the Bowling Class tournament will be assigned directly to one of the Regional tournaments, based on geography. The IHSA Office will select all regional and sectional host sites.

E) Regional/Sectional Tournament Structure:

4) Regional/Sectional tournaments will consist of two (2) rounds of competition. All teams entered in the regionals or sectionals will bowl both rounds. (A round shall consist of a three (3) game series.) In the Bowling Chair Class, competition will consist of two (2) rounds of competition at the regional.

5) All bowling balls used in the series must adhere to Interscholastic High School Bowling Rules.

F) State Final Tournament Structure:

1) The state final tournament will consist of four (4) rounds of competition. (A round shall be a three-game series.) In the Bowling Chair Class, competition will consist of two (2) rounds of competition on Saturday of the State Finals.

2) The state series tournaments will recognize team honors and individual honors. In the Chair Class, the state series tournaments will recognize individual honors.

3) Teams and individuals will qualify to advance from Friday's rounds to Saturday's rounds.

Rationale: These updates were somehow missed between the AWD Advisory Committee and the Bowling Advisory Committee. These are the current practices for the Bowling Chair Class, this recommendation just updates the Terms and Conditions.

7. **Recommendation:** II. Dates and Sites

A. Boys' Regionals: Boys' regional tournaments will be held on Friday, January __, 2025 or Saturday, January 13, 2024, at sixteen (16) sites.

B. Boys' Sectionals: Boys' sectional tournaments will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at four (4) sites.

C. Girls' Regionals: Girls' regional tournaments will be held on Friday, January __, 2025 or Saturday, February 3, 2024, at eighteen (18) sites.

D. Girls' Sectionals: Girls' sectional tournaments will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at six (6) sites.

i. could be a burden to coaches who don't work for schools who would have to potentially take off 6 Fridays in a row, that is why the committee advanced regionals only

Rationale: It is getting more and more difficult to find hosts on Saturdays, schools have been asking for the Friday option for the last few seasons. The committee did hesitate to add the Friday option to sectionals as well, since this would potentially have students and coaches out of the building/work for 3-6 weeks in a row. They felt that adding the Friday option to regionals would allow the additional day on the busiest day when we need the most centers.

8. **Recommendation:** II. DATES AND SITES

A. Boys' Regionals: Boys' regional tournaments will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at eighteen (18) sites.

B. Boys' Sectionals: Boys' sectional tournaments will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at six (6) sites.

C. Girls' Regionals: Girls' regional tournaments will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at eighteen (18) sites.

D. Girls' Sectionals: Girls' sectional tournaments will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at six (6) sites.

VII. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

A) Regional Team Advancement: At each regional competition, the four (4) teams with the highest pin count for both rounds (round one score added to round two score) shall be the winners and advance to the sectional competition.

B) Sectional Team Advancement:

- 1) Boys: At each sectional competition, the four (4) teams with the highest pin count for both rounds (round one score added to round two score) shall be the winners and advance to the state final tournament.
- 2) Girls: At each sectional competition, the four (4) teams with the highest pin count for both rounds (round one score added to round two score) shall be the winners and advance to the state final tournament.

E) Sectional Individual Advancement:

- 1) Boys: At each sectional competition, the top five (5) individuals who are not a part of a qualifying team shall advance to the state meet.
- 2) Girls: At each sectional competition, the top five (5) individuals who are not a part of a qualifying team shall advance to the state meet.

~~H) Individual At-large Qualifiers: From the boys' sectionals two (2) at-large qualifiers will be selected by the IHSA. The IHSA shall survey all the sectionals and determine the 2 bowlers who are the least pins behind the last qualifying spot in the sectional. In the case of a tie, the tie breaker will be broken by the bowler with the highest series. If the tie still is not broken then the bowler with the best 6th game shall advance.~~

~~I) At-Large Notification: At-large qualifiers will be posted on the Monday following the sectionals via the IHSA website.~~

Rationale: This adjustment would make the boys state series mirror the girls state series with the number of regional and sectional sites. When the current model was put in place, there were about 100 less boys' teams, but now with the numbers between boys' and girls' entries being within 10 it is time to adjust. This adjustment will also help with site selection. With the number of participating schools on the boys' side, larger houses must be used at regionals to accommodate the schools eliminating a lot of schools a potential hosts.

9. **Recommendation:** VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

B) Player Equipment and Uniform 1) Uniforms: All competitors shall appear in appropriate matching tops and bottoms for their schools bowling uniform. All players, team and individual, and coaches shall conform to the dress code provisions. Slacks, shorts, turtlenecks, sports shirts with collars, T-shirts with a commercially lettered school name and logo, nice jeans and/or skirts are acceptable team apparel. Coaches may wear school emblemed ball caps during competition. Unacceptable apparel includes but is not limited to tank tops, cut offs, T-shirts that advertised alcohol, drugs or explicit material, jeans with holes or patches, hats, or headgear and/or boxer type shorts, and lettering or graphics across the back of the pants.

Rationale: The way the current terms and conditions are interpreted, coaches would not be allowed to wear ball caps. Most coaches wear ball caps all season long, its modest adjustment would allow them to wear school logoed caps during the state series as well.

10. **Recommendation:** VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES

The Girls State Final Tournament time schedule is as follows: Friday
7:30 a.m. Doors open for teams and individual competitors and their coaches.
8:00 a.m. Doors open to the general public
8:30 a.m. Opening Ceremonies
8:45 a.m. Warm up for Round 1
9:00 a.m. First Round (24 teams and 30 individuals)
12:15-12:45 p.m. 30-minute lunch period
12:45-1:00 p.m. Warm up for Round 2
1:00 p.m. Second Round begins (24 teams and 30 individuals)
3:15 p.m. approx. Second Round completed

Rationale: This will adjust the girls time schedule to mirror the boys. The girls aren't hanging out or leaving during lunch like they used to, they're ready to being bowling again, so waiting for the 45-minute lunch period to expire seems like a waste of time.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Recommendation:** Manager's Manual Practice Times for the IHSA Girls and Boys State Bowling Meet – II. Practice Times: Girls: update to allow for coaches to start calling for The Cherry Bowl at 10am on Sunday.

Rationale: The Cherry Bowl brings in a staff member just to set up practice times, this information update will allow coaches to know what time that person will be onsite to answer the phone.

2. **Recommendation:** State Final Lane Assignments for boys and girls – update to show current lanes being used

Rationale: Since the 2021 season we have been adjusting the lanes we're using at the state finals to try to accommodate crowd flow. There have been multiple adjustments from year to year. Stacey will work with the centers to update this page in the manual.

3. **Recommendation:** Specify "ABCD" and "1234" with an explanation so that all hosts understand how to set up their day

Rationale: This rotation gets confusing for regional/sectional hosts who aren't bowling coaches. Providing an explanation for hosts to follow will help answer questions that come up during the regional/sectional events.

4. **Recommendation:** In Manual, add sample coaches meeting and sample announcements

Rationale: Many hosts ask for help knowing what information to go over or announce during post season events.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The Committee reviewed 2023 Minutes.
2. The Committee discussed the 2004 state series

- a) The probability of an individual advancing from sectionals to state is disproportionately hard when compared to individuals getting out of a regional. It should be an accomplishment to make state, but we are losing some very good potential bowlers
- b) St. Clair Bowl – first 8-10 lanes are shot because that's where McKendree bowls.... For 2025 don't start below 11
 - i) bathroom situations at St. Clair Bowl, water on the floor, cleaning up paper towels/trash, etc. – worth bringing in an additional person?
 - ii) security person for the paddock area?
- c) Regional/Sectional start time
- d) Individuals in outside leagues during the state series – ask for updated interpretation?
- e) Practice day is for program members only (bowlers or coaches).

3. The Committee discussed adjusting the state final blocks to put teams in two blocks based on rankings and individuals in another block. No further action was taken.
4. The Committee discussed the block assignments for Saturday at the State Finals, they felt that while playing through difficult lanes conditions was all part of the experience, some adjustments could be warranted to provide a better experience. Stacey will work with the state final hosts on how to best utilize lanes and space in the two State Final houses.
5. The Committee discussed two-handed vs. one-handed delivery. Stacey will put clarifying wording in the Rules Video.
6. The Committee discussed a bowling ball limit of 5 or 6 bowling balls. They did not move forward with this but do want to see the 2-bowling ball limit in the pit rule enforced. Stacey will put additional information in the Rules Video.
7. The Committee discussed having a team scorekeeper and/or manager in the pit area. This is not an area designated for these personnel. Stacey will put information in the Rules Video. Stacey will also work with St. Clair Bowl and The Cherry Bowl to ensure designated space is available for scorekeepers or managers.
8. The Committee talked about outside event waivers and post season events.

The Committee talked about Financial Arrangements and Admission Prices: REGIONAL Ticket: *If GoFan is used: Digital Ticket: \$8.00 Cash Ticket: \$9.00 SECTIONAL Digital Ticket: \$10.00 Cash Ticket: \$11.00 STATE FINALS Digital Ticket: \$15.00 Cash Ticket: \$16.00

They asked about a child rate. No further action was taken.

9. The Committee discussed at Terms and Conditions “cheat sheet” like the IESA uses. Stacey will look into this further.
10. The Committee discussed cheering/lane courtesy/overall sportsmanship. Stacey will put information in the Rules Video
11. The committee thanked Rebecca Hoffman and Cierra Snyder for their years of service.