

2023-24 TSSAA Handbook

BOWLING REGULATIONS

I. Regular Season and Tournament Play

- A. Girls bowling and bowling (COED) shall take place as winter sports, with the regular season beginning in October and ending in December. District team and Individual qualifying tournaments will be held in December. Region and State tournaments will be held in January. If a school has a girls bowling team, girls may not participate on the bowling team. If a school does not have a girls bowling team, girls may participate on the bowling team.
- B. Six members of each team may compete in each American 10-Pin game. Five members of each team may compete in each Baker Game. The remaining members, if any, will act as substitutes. Averages, vacancy, or absentee scores are not allowed.

Competition will consist of American 10-Pin games and Baker games as well as total pin fall. Format will be two games of American 10-Pin and two Baker games. For the American 10-Pin games, two teams of three bowlers on two different pairs of lanes will compete head-to-head (6 points) and two points will be awarded for total pinfall. For the Baker games, the team leading in points will have the choice of which pair of lanes to use and which lane they will start their first Baker game, after which teams will switch lanes within the same pair of lanes. If teams are tied in points, then the team with the highest pinfall will have the choice of which pair of lanes to use and which lane they will start their first Baker game, after which teams will switch lanes within the same pair of lanes. Teams must submit a team lineup in order to the opposing coach prior to each Baker game.

There shall be 10 minutes between the American 10-Pin game and the start of the Baker games. There shall be two minutes between Baker games.

Competition is based on a 27-point scoring system - 8 points per American 10-Pin game (12 individual and 4 team - 16 points maximum), 3 points per Baker game (6 Points), 2 Points for Total Pin Fall of the two Baker games, and Overall Total Pin Fall wins 3 points. Half points will be used in the case of tie situations.

During regular season matches involving two member schools and post season matches, this format is to be used. During matches or tournaments involving member schools versus non-member schools, other formats may be used, i.e. best-of-five baker match series, play five bakers with points awarded for head-to-head and overall pins, or best-of-three baker match series.

C. Substitution Rule – American 10-Pin Games

- 1. When a substitution is made that substitute must complete the remainder of the game. Two substitutions are permitted. The starting player once removed cannot return to bowl for the remainder of the game.
- 2. The opposing coach must be notified of a substitution before the substitute bowler throws his/her first ball. Failure to notify the opposing coach of a substitution will result in a zero pin-fall for those balls thrown by the illegal substitute.
- 3. A substitute bowler cannot enter a game to shoot a spare unless the original bowler is physically unable to complete the frame. If a bowler is substituted in the middle of a frame that bowler cannot bowl again for the remainder of the match.
- 4. Substitutes will receive no additional practice throws on the competition lanes prior to entering a game.

D. Substitution Rule – Baker Games

- 1. A coach may remove a bowler during a game and put in an alternate (this includes putting in a substitute in the middle of a frame). Once a bowler has been substituted for they may not re-enter during that game. However, they may re-enter during the next Baker game.
 - 2. The opposing coach must be notified of a substitution before the substitute bowler throws his/her first ball. Failure to notify the opposing coach of a substitution will result in a zero pin-fall for those balls thrown by the illegal substitute.
 - 3. Substitutes will receive no additional practice throws on the competition lanes prior to entering a game.
 - 4. A maximum of two substitutions are permitted in each Baker game.
- E. A bowler arriving late may be allowed to catch up in the game in progress if the last player for both teams have not completed the third frame of the first American 10-Pin game in the match. After this point, a tardy player may only enter the match at the beginning of the second American 10-Pin game or Baker games/

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- F. All competition is scratch, there is no handicapping.
- G. Standings shall be determined on a match won and loss basis. In the event of a tie in the standings, the following tie-breaking procedures shall be used in the order listed:
 - 1. Head-to-Head
 - 2. Total pins of head-to-head matches between the teams that are tied.
 - Ex (2 teams): Team A and Team B split during the regular season 1-1. The team with the most total pins from the two head-to-head matches would win the tiebreaker.
 - Ex (3 teams): Teams A, B, and C finish tied in standings. Team A defeated Team B, Team B defeated Team C, and Team C defeated Team A. The team with the most total pins combined from the matches against the teams they are tied with wins the tiebreaker. After that tie is broken, you revert back to Head-to-Head to break any remaining ties.
- H. Warm Up/Practice is allowed 5-10 minutes prior to the start of competition. Lineups must be exchanged prior to each game simultaneously. Practice is not allowed between rounds that occur on the same day.
- I. Rules for competition shall be those of the United States Bowling Congress. Rules contained within this document prevail in case of a conflict with standard USBC Rules.

Participants may join the USBC, but are not required to.

II. Conduct of Players

- A. No player shall be permitted to use any tobacco products on the bench or in the playing or spectator areas.
- B. All competitors shall remain in the seating and playing area of their assigned pair of lanes while competition is in progress. Non-competitors and spectators may not be in the area.
- C. All competitors are required to conduct themselves in an ethical and sportsmanlike manner. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to, profanity, abuse of equipment, and any outburst or show of unsportsmanlike conduct.

Any violation of the above mentioned rules will result in an automatic ejection from the game in progress plus suspension of the player for the remaining competition of that day.
- D. The use of electronic devices during a match is prohibited.

III. Rules and Equipment

- A. Team members are required to wear school issued, appropriate matching team shirts. This would include, but is not limited to, either collared shirts or mock turtle neck-style shirts. Other styles must be approved in writing by the State Office. A single manufacturer's logo/trademark, no more than 2 ¼ square inches with no dimension more than 2 ¼ inches is permitted. An American Flag may be worn on the team shirt, provided it does not exceed 2 x 3 inches.
- B. Slacks, jeans, and walking shorts are examples of proper attire for boys and girls. In addition, skirts are an example of proper attire for girls. Athletic pants and camouflage are not permitted to be worn during competition.
- C. No attire advertising tobacco, alcohol or containing profanity will be allowed. This includes bowling equipment advertising alcohol and/or tobacco.
- D. No head decorations and head wear are permitted unless it is for the following criteria:
 - 1. Medical
 - 2. Religious
- E. All bowlers are required to wear bowling shoes during competition. Shoes will be furnished by the bowling center where the match is being played, if needed, at no cost to the student athlete and shall be returned to the bowling center at completion of the match.
- F. Bowlers are expected to have their own ball for use in the matches. Balls furnished for use by the bowling center are for match play only and must be returned to the bowling center at the completion of the match.

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IV. Coaching

- A. Coaching of the players is permitted to be continuous throughout the match, as long as it does not interfere with play. It is understood that the purpose of such coaching is solely to offer advice to the player and not in any way to distract or annoy an opposing player.
- B. A coach is not permitted on the approach during competition.
- C. Coaching is allowed by any person meeting Article I, Section 9 of the TSSAA Bylaws.

V. Tournament Play – Division I

- A. In Division I, there shall be one classification for bowling competition. There shall be eight regions, with each region being divided into two districts.

B. Team Tournament (District, Region, and State)

- 1. Each district shall determine a champion and runner-up by any method the district membership selects. These two teams shall advance to the regional tournament.
- 2. Since each district sends two teams to the regional tournament, the Board of Control has approved a set single elimination bracket for tournament play as shown below:

Top Bracket	Bottom Bracket
Odd-Numbered District Winner	Even-Numbered District Winner
Even-Numbered District Runner-U	Odd-Numbered District Runner-Up

- 3. District coaches shall select their regional tournament site on a rotation basis. In odd-numbered years, the odd-numbered districts shall select the regional site and in even-numbered years, the even-numbered districts shall select the regional site.
- 4. Teams (boys and girls) in Division I who place first and second in the regional tournament shall advance to the sectional match. The region winner will host the region runner-up of an opposing region. The winner of the sectional match will advance to the state tournament.
- 5. The draw for the state tournament will be released following the completion of all sectional matches. Teams which qualify for the state tournament who placed in the top two in the previous year's state tournament, shall be drawn to the opposite sides of the bracket. The remaining teams shall be separated so that no team from the same region will be in the same side of the bracket.

The lanes will be oiled to the "sport shot." The sport shot pattern that is chosen for competition at the state tournament will be made available to schools on the Monday of NFHS Week 22. It will be a different "sport shot" pattern than the one chosen for individual competition.

C. Individual Tournament (Regional)

Individuals will qualify for the state tournament by competing in their respective Regional Tournament. In odd-numbered years, the schools within the odd-numbered district shall determine the date(s), site, director, and participant entry fee for the region tournament. In even-numbered years, the schools within the even-numbered district shall determine the date(s), site, director, and participant entry fee for the region tournament. The participant entry fee shall not be more than \$20. If an individual is a member of a school team, in order for them to be eligible to participate in the sectional they must have bowled in a varsity match by November 1.

Region 1 will be composed of Districts 1 and 2. Region 2 will be composed of Districts 3 and 4. Region 3 will be composed of Districts 5 and 6. Region 4 will be composed of Districts 7 and 8. Region 5 will be composed of Districts 9 and 10. Region 6 will be composed of Districts 11 and 12. Region 7 will be composed of Districts 13 and 14. Region 8 will be composed of Districts 15 and 16. Entry forms for each regional must be submitted at least one week prior to the start of the tournament. Schools that do not file a timely entry will be assessed a \$25.00 penalty per day in order to compete in the tournament. Schools that submit an entry form and their athletes do not show up for the tournament, shall be charged the appropriate entry fee in the TSSAA Portal.

Bowlers will be on a pair of lanes with each bowler bowling six games, moving to their next assigned lanes after bowling three games. Lane assignments will be done at the discretion of the tournament director. The lanes will be oiled using the same "sport shot" pattern chosen for the state tournament. The "sport shot" pattern chosen to be used for the individual tournament will be released the Monday of NFHS Week #18. The top six will advance to the state

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tournament based on total pinfall. If there is a tie for the last qualifying spot, a one game roll-off would take place between all those tied for the last spot.

D. Individual Tournament (State)

1. Semifinals

Bowlers will be on a pair of lanes with each bowler bowling six games, moving to their next assigned lanes after bowling three games. The lanes will be oiled to the “sport shot” pattern. The “sport shot” pattern chosen to be used for the individual tournament will be released the Monday of NFHS Week #18. The same pattern will be used for each round of individual competition and it will be a different “sport shot” pattern than the one chosen for team competition.

The top 6 girls and top 6 boys in each division will advance to the finals based on their total pinfall. If there is a tie in total pins for 6th place, there will be a one game roll-off between all those tied for 6th. If there is a tie for seeds, a ninth (9) and tenth (10) frame roll off would be used and continued until a winner is determined.

2. Finals

Finalists will bowl head-to-head matches in a “step ladder” format.

Match 1 – #6 vs. #5

Match 2 – Winner of Match 1 vs. #4

Match 3 – Winner of Match 2 vs. #3

Match 4 – Winner of Match 3 vs. #2

Match 5 – Winner of Match 4 vs. #1

If there is a tie, a ninth (9) and tenth (10) frame roll off would be used and continued until a winner is determined.

VI. Tournament Play – Division II

A. In Division II, there shall be one classification. TSSAA schools shall be divided into three regions: East, Middle, and West.

B. Team Tournament (Region & State)

- Each region shall determine their state tournament qualifiers by any method the region membership selects.
- The top two teams from the East Region, the top four teams from the Middle Region, and the top two teams from the West Region will qualify for the state tournament. The bracket in the state tournament shall be as follows:

Even Year	Odd Year
Upper Bracket	Upper Bracket
#1 Middle vs. #4 Middle	#1 Middle vs. #4 Middle
#1 West vs. #2 East	#1 East vs. #2 West
Lower Bracket	Lower Bracket
#2 Middle vs. #2 West	#2 Middle vs. #2 East
#1 East vs. #3 Middle	#1 West vs. #3 Middle

- The lanes will be oiled to the “sport shot.” The sport shot pattern that is chosen for competition at the state tournament will be made available to schools on the Monday of NFHS Week 22. It will be a different “sport shot” pattern than the one chosen for individual competition.

C. Individual Boys 'Tournament (Regional)

Individuals will qualify for the state tournament by competing in their respective Regional Tournament. The schools within the region shall determine the date(s), site, director, and participant entry fee for the region tournament. The participant entry fee shall not be more than \$20. If an individual is a member of a school team, in order for them to be eligible to participate in the regional they must have bowled in a varsity match by November 1.

Entry forms for each regional must be submitted at least one week prior to the start of the tournament. Schools that do not file a timely entry will be assessed a \$25.00 penalty per day in order to compete in the tournament. Schools that submit an entry form and their athletes do not show up for the tournament, shall be charged the appropriate entry fee in the TSSAA Portal.

Bowlers will be on a pair of lanes with each bowler bowling six games, moving to their next assigned lanes after bowling three games. Lane assignments will be done at the discretion of the tournament director. The lanes will be

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oiled using the same “sport shot” pattern chosen for the state tournament. The “sport shot” pattern chosen to be used for the individual tournament will be released the Monday of NFHS Week #18. State tournament qualifiers will be based on total pinfall, and shall be as follows:

East Region - Top 6
Middle Region - Top 12
West Region - Top 6

If there is a tie for the last qualifying spot, a one game roll-off would take place between all those tied for the last spot.

D. Individual Girls' Tournament (Regional)

Individuals will qualify for the state tournament by competing in their respective Regional Tournament. The schools within the region shall determine the date(s), site, director, and participant entry fee for the region tournament. The participant entry fee shall not be more than \$20. If an individual is a member of a school team, in order for them to be eligible to participate in the regional they must have bowled in a varsity match by November 1.

Entry forms for each regional must be submitted at least one week prior to the start of the tournament. Schools that do not file a timely entry will be assessed a \$25.00 penalty per day in order to compete in the tournament. Schools that submit an entry form and their athletes do not show up for the tournament, shall be charged the appropriate entry fee in the TSSAA Portal.

Bowlers will be on a pair of lanes with each bowler bowling six games, moving to their next assigned lanes after bowling three games. Lane assignments will be done at the discretion of the tournament director. The lanes will be oiled using the same “sport shot” pattern chosen for the state tournament. The “sport shot” pattern chosen to be used for the individual tournament will be released the Monday of NFHS Week #18. The top eight will advance to the state tournament based on total pinfall. If there is a tie for the last qualifying spot, a one game roll-off would take place between all those tied for the last spot

E. Individual Boys' & Girls' Tournament (State)

1. Semifinals

Bowlers will be on a pair of lanes with each bowler bowling six games, moving to their next assigned lanes after bowling three games. The lanes will be oiled to the “sport shot” pattern. The “sport shot” pattern chosen to be used for the individual tournament will be released the Monday of NFHS Week #18. The same pattern will be used for each round of individual competition and it will be a different “sport shot” pattern than the one chosen for team competition.

The top 6 girls and top 6 boys in each division will advance to the finals based on their total pinfall. If there is a tie in total pins for 6th place, there will be a one game roll-off between all those tied for 6th. If there is a tie for seeds, a ninth (9) and tenth (10) frame roll off would be used and continued until a winner is determined.

2. Finals

Finalists will bowl head-to-head matches in a “step ladder” format.

Match 1 – #6 vs. #5
Match 2 – Winner of Match 1 vs. #4
Match 3 – Winner of Match 2 vs. #3
Match 4 – Winner of Match 3 vs. #2
Match 5 – Winner of Match 4 vs. #1

If there is a tie, a ninth (9) and tenth (10) frame roll off would be used and continued until a winner is determined.

VII. Awards

TSSAA will award plaques to the team champion and team runner-up in the district and region in Division I. In Division II, TSSAA will award plaques to the team champion and team runner-up in the region. In the Division I individual regional tournament, TSSAA will award medals to the top three finishers and a plaque to the medalist. In the Division II individual region tournament, TSSAA will award medals to the top three finishers and a plaque to the medalist. In the state championships, TSSAA will award trophies to the team champion and runner-up, medals to members of the championship and runner-up teams, medals to the top six individual finishers, and a plaque to the individual medalist.