

2023-24 TSSAA Handbook

UNIFIED BOWLING REGULATIONS

I. Regular Season and Tournament Play

- A. Unified Bowling shall follow the TSSAA Sports Calendar for Bowling, with September 25, 2023 being the earliest date of first competition. Sectional tournaments will be held in December and January to determine the eight qualifying teams for the Unified Bowling State Championship on Friday, January 19, 2024 at the Smyrna Bowling Center in Smyrna, TN.
- B. Rosters will have a minimum of 3 and maximum of 10 players for each tournament. A maximum of 6 players may play each individual game (including subs). The 6 active players may change between games only.

Unified teams shall follow, at minimum, the one athlete to two partner ratio during trio games. Teams may choose to have a ratio of two athletes to one partner. Teams must always have at least one athlete and one partner actively playing at all times. The athlete:partner ratio must remain the same throughout the course of a game, but may change between games and matches. An athlete must always bowl frames 1, 4, 7, and 10. If two athletes are used, athlete 2 will bowl frames 2, 5, and 8.

Athlete	Partner	Partner	Athlete	Partner	Partner	Athlete	Partner	Partner	Athlete
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8 -	5 /	3 5	8 1	7 1	X	9 /	X	X	8 / 6
8	21	29	38	46	66	86	114	134	150

Competition will consist of two Baker Trio games with total pinfall determining the winner. A coin flip will be called by the lower seed. Winner of the coin flip will choose their starting lane for game one. Lanes will be switched for game 2. There shall be 2-minutes between each Baker game.

In the event of a tie, the athlete who finished game 2 for both teams in position "athlete 1" will bowl head to head. Bowlers will remain on the lane where they completed game 2 of the match. Each bowler will bowl a 9th and 10th frame. Highest total score wins the tiebreaker. There will be no substitutions during the tiebreaker.

C. Substitution Rule

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 the 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 the game.

D. All competition is scratch, there is no handicapping.

E. Warm Up/Practice is allowed 5-10 minutes prior to the start of the competition. Lineups must be exchanged prior to each game simultaneously. Practice is not allowed between games or matches taking place on the same day.

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 this area.
- C. All competitors are required to conduct themselves in an ethical and sportsmanlike manner in alignment with the vision of Unified Sports. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to, profanity, abuse of equipment,

2023-24 TSSAA Handbook

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 remainder of the competition 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 shirts or jerseys. Other styles must be approved 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 the completion of the match.
- F. Bowlers are encouraged to have their own ball for use in 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.

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 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

- A. There is only one Unified division which will be made up of all Unified teams in the state.
- B. Sectionals
 - 1. Each team will be required to register for the sectional that they deem is the shortest travel distance from their campus. Teams that register after the deadline are not guaranteed a spot in the sectional.
 - 2. Bracket alignment will be determined in this order:
 - a. Seed score submitted by the head coach.
 - b. Blind draw for those teams that do not have a seed score.
 - 3. Sectional representation at State will be determined by percentage of schools hosted at each sectional. No sectional will advance less than 1 or more than 3 teams.

2023-24 TSSAA Handbook

C. State Tournament

1. An eight-team bracket with consolation matches will be used to determine first through fourth place.
- 2.
3. Bracket seeds will follow these guidelines (if possible):
 - a. Each sectional champion will go head to head against a different sectional's two seed.
 - b. Sectional champions first round opponents will be determined by blind draw.
 - c. In the event that a sectional only has one qualifying team, the sectional allotted three qualifying spots will use their three seed to fill the bracket. No team will compete against a school from the same sectional in the first round.

VI. Awards

TSSAA will award plaques to the team champion and team runner-up at each sectional. TSSAA will award plaques and medals to the team champion and team runner-up as well as plaques for the team champion and runner-up coach at the State Championship.