

This guide contains frequently asked questions regarding the OHSAA's adoption of bowling as an interscholastic sport. This guide is specific to the sport of bowling and the sport regulations associated with it. The constitution and bylaws of the OHSAA apply to bowling as they do to all of the other recognized OHSAA interscholastic sports.

**Q. As a member of a school sponsored team, can an individual continue to bowl on a non-school league team when also a member of a school team? Can a member of a school-sponsored bowling team bowl in a charity event during the school season? What about a scholarship competition?**

A. No. When a school has indicated to the OHSAA that it will sponsor bowling, no member of that school team can simultaneously bowl for a school-sponsored team and a non-school sponsored team. A team member cannot bowl in a non-school sponsored tournament, scholarship or charity competition. *Once a member of a school-sponsored team begins his/her season by participating in a contest, including bowling in any scrimmages, non-interscholastic competition is no longer permitted.*

**Q. If a team member wants to bowl in a league and join the school-sponsored team at a later date, is this permissible?**

A. Yes. There is a *Non-Interscholastic Participation Date* established for each sport recognized by the OHSAA. This date is 28 days prior to the Monday of the OHSAA state tournament for that sport. The non-interscholastic participation date established for the 2006-07 bowling season is January 29, 2007. In order for a student-athlete to participate in the OHSAA postseason tournament, the student-athlete must stop participating in non-interscholastic bowling by this date. It is important to remember that a student-athlete cannot participate in a non-interscholastic event while bowling on a school-sponsored team. Such 'dual' competition would render a student-athlete ineligible for interscholastic bowling.

**Q. Will my high school "club" team be permitted to participate in the OHSAA postseason tournament?**

A. This may be the most frequently asked question. The OHSAA does not label sports as club or varsity. Each spring the OHSAA sends a sports participation card to every member school. The principal (or designee) must designate on the card which interscholastic sports the school will sponsor during the upcoming school year. The deadline for the sports participation card is May 1. The school administrator must indicate that the school will sponsor bowling and whether or not the school will enter the OHSAA postseason tournament. The deadline date for entering (or withdrawing from) the OHSAA State Tournament is November 10. Schools that failed to indicate that they would sponsor bowling on the sport participation card can mail a letter, on official school letterhead, to the OHSAA indicating that they will participate in the OHSAA tournament. This letter must be received by November 10 in order to participate without penalty.

**Q. How does the OHSAA adoption of bowling as an interscholastic sport affect a team's regular season? For example, can a school participate in a contest with a non-interscholastic team?**

A. The OHSAA does not determine conference affiliation or which teams a school will compete against. OHSAA sports regulations prohibit more than 22 contests in a regular season. A school-sponsored team may bowl against a non-school sponsored team provided the non-school sponsored team is in compliance with the playing rules of the OHSAA. *Bylaw 9-Contests Requiring Special Attention* in the OHSAA Handbook addresses contests with non-interscholastic teams.

**Q. What will constitute an official regular season match?**

A. A regular season match will consist of a minimum of two regular games of tenpin regulation scoring followed by two Baker games. Total combined pins for all games bowled shall win the match. Regular season matches in which more than the minimum number of games are bowled (excluding tournaments) require the permission of the participating schools.

**Q. What is a Baker game?**

A. A Baker game consists of 10 frames, but each of the five participating bowlers only bowl two frames each. Bowler #1 bowls the first and sixth frames, bowler #2 bowls the second and seventh frames, bowler #3 the third and eighth frame, etc. until all 10 frames are bowled.

**Q. How many matches can a team bowl in a regular season?**

A. An interscholastic team and/or an individual can bowl in no more than 22 contests. Each interscholastic contest counts (with the exception of scrimmages). *Regular season tournaments with multiple teams count as one contest. However, a tournament that is designed to run more than one day shall count as the same number of matches as days of the tournament.*

**Q. Have some dates for the 2006-07 bowling season been established?**

A. Yes. Coaching/tryouts may begin on November 10, 2006. A maximum of two scrimmages may be bowled after November 10 and prior to the end of the season. Regular season competition begins on November 17, 2006. The non-interscholastic participation date is January 29, 2007. The sectional tournament will run from February 11-February 18, 2007. The district tournament will be held the following week. The Girls State Bowling Tournament will be Friday, March 2, 2007. The Boys State Bowling Tournament is scheduled for March 3, 2007.

**Q. Is a member of an interscholastic bowling team required to have a physical exam?**

A. Yes. All interscholastic athletes must have a physical and complete all required forms. These forms must be filed with the designated school administrator prior to any practice or competition.

**Q. What are the coaching requirements for Bowling?**

A. The requirements to coach interscholastic bowling are identical to those for other interscholastic sports. At a minimum a coach must obtain a Pupil Activity Supervisor Permit and CPR training as required by the Ohio Department of Education. Each Board of Education may determine if there are additional coaching requirements. For further information on the ODE Pupil Supervisory Permit, go to [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and click on Coaches Corner.

**Q. Who serves as the contest official?**

A. The home school coach shall serve as the contest official, enforcing all OHSAA regulations and USBC rules.

**Q. What kind of expenses should we plan on?**

A. Bowling is a relatively inexpensive sport. Team members must wear the same sleeved, bowling shirt, which conforms to school/OHSAA regulations. All players must wear the same color pants. Girls are permitted to wear skirts provided the skirts are of the same color as the pants. Bowling balls and bowling shoes are also required. Each Bowling Center determines its own fees; many Bowling Centers may reduce lane fees for interscholastic teams.

**Q. Are there any transportation issues with which we should be familiar?**

A. Transportation is a local school issue. All questions regarding transportation to and from practice and competitions should be directed to a school's athletic administrator. Please refer to the OHSAA Sports Regulations in the OHSAA Handbook (item #21) for more information regarding transportation to and from interscholastic contests.

**Q. How can I locate a Bowling Center near my school?**

A. You can locate a bowling center at [www.bowl.ohio.com](http://www.bowl.ohio.com). Click on "members" and you will be able to view a list of bowling centers and the city in which each center is located.

**Q. Who can I contact at the OHSAA if I have additional questions regarding Bowling?**

A. You can contact Roxanne Price, Director of Membership Services. Ms. Price can be reached at (614) 267-2502, ext. 124 or you can e-mail her at [rprice@ohsaa.org](mailto:rprice@ohsaa.org).

## General Playing Rules

These rules are not intended to be exhaustive. The sports regulations for bowling can be found in the OHSAA Handbook and more detailed playing rules can be found in the USBC High School Bowling Official Guide (USBCHighSchool.com). Some USBC high school rules have been modified by the OHSAA.

- **Lineups/Regular Games**—The team lineup (order of bowling) for all regular games will remain the same during the match. Exception: Substitutions (1.61 & 1.62 OHSAA sport regulations). Penalty: A score of zero shall be assessed for each frame of each player bowling one or more complete frames in the wrong lineup order and a lineup correction must be applied at the point of discovery. If discovered at the completion of the game, a score of zero (0) shall be assessed for each player who bowled in the wrong lineup order for the entire game.
- **Baker games**—A coach may change his team lineup (order of bowling) prior to the start of any Baker game.
- **Substitutions**—A coach may substitute a player prior to the start of any regular or Baker game. However, once removed from the lineup, the removed player(s) may not re-enter play until the start of the next regular game or Baker game. A player removed prior to the start of any game is re-classified as a substitute bowler and may be used as a substitute bowler in any spot in the team lineup upon legal return to play. Exception: a coach may substitute a player during any game for disciplinary or injury reasons. The player removed for such reasons by a coach is not permitted to return to the lineup for the remainder of the match and is not permitted to participate in any other match that day. The coach substituting a player under this exception must notify the match scorekeeper and the opposing coach at the time of the substitution and identify the injury or disciplinary situation that has resulted in the substitution. The partial game score bowled by the removed player and substitute shall not be computed in the individual average of either player. Penalty: an illegal substitute shall be assessed a score of zero (0) for all frames bowled.
- **Fill Ball Substitution**—A coach may utilize a non-participating team member to throw a fill ball on the third ball in the 10th frame of any regular or Baker game. Use of a non-participating team member for this purpose will not reclassify the fill ball bowler as a roster bowler in the lineup of that game nor will the fill ball bowler result in a violation of the substitution regulation. A non-participating team member may only throw one fill ball in any regular or Baker game. In a regular game, the pin count of the fill ball bowler will count in the average of the regular lineup bowler. A bowler used to throw a regular game fill ball may re-enter the match as a roster player prior to the start of any Baker game.
- **Legal Delivery**—A delivery is made when the ball leaves the player's possession and crosses the foul line into playing territory. Every delivery counts unless a dead ball is declared. A delivery must be made entirely by manual means. Each delivery must be made with the same hand with the exception of injury or disability. No device may be incorporated in or affixed to the ball that

detaches on delivery or is a moving part during delivery except those approved by the USBC. A permanently disabled player may use special equipment to aid in grasping and delivering the ball.

- **Changing Delivery**—If because of injury or disability a bowler finds it necessary to change delivery from right to left-handed or vice versa, the competition manager may permit the bowler to change delivery. If approval is obtained, the bowler must establish a new average.
- **Tiebreakers**
  - a. Team—ties for team match total pins and the advancement of teams in tournaments will be broken by a 9th and 10th frame roll-off between one player from each team selected by each respective head coach. This roll-off will be repeated until the tie is broken.
  - b. Individual—ties for advancement/awards in individual competition will be broken based on the high game bowled in the series being used to determine advancement/awards.
- **Dead Ball**—When a dead ball is called, the delivery does not count and the correct pins must be respotted. The player is allowed to rebowl that delivery. A ball shall be declared dead if any of the following occur:
  - a. After a delivery, attention is immediately called to the fact that one or more pins were missing from the setup.
  - b. A human pinsetter interferes with any standing pin before the ball reaches the pins.
  - c. A human pinsetter removes or interferes with any downed pin before it stops rolling.
  - d. A player bowls on the wrong lane.
  - e. A player is interfered with by the pinsetter, another player, spectator, or moving object as the ball is being delivered and before delivery is completed. In such case, the player has the option to accept the resulting pinfall or have a dead ball called.
  - f. Any pin is moved or knocked down as a player delivers the ball but before the ball reaches the pins.
  - g. A delivered ball comes in contact with a foreign object.
- **Lanes Used**—Two lanes immediately adjoining each other shall be used in each game. The first game of a series shall start on the lane where the team is scheduled with each succeeding game starting on the lane where the team finished its previous game. At the option of the teams competing, each game may be bowled on a different pair of lanes, but a full game must be bowled on each pair.

### Published for students and parents by:

Ohio High School Athletic Association  
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214  
**Telephone:** (614) 267-2502  
**Fax:** (614) 267-1677  
**Web Site:** [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)  
**Office Hours:** M - F 8:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

The complete text of the Bylaws and regulations is published in the *OHSAA Handbook* and is posted on the OHSAA web site ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)). Your school principal and athletic administrator have copies of the *OHSAA Handbook*, and they are also available from the OHSAA at \$5.00 each. Always check with your principal or athletic administrator if you have questions on athletic eligibility.

## Eligibility Checklist For High School Student-Athletes

Before you play, you must be eligible. Please review the following checklist with your parents. Unchecked boxes will likely mean you are **NOT** eligible. For questions, see your principal or athletic administrator.

- 1. I am officially enrolled in an OHSAA member high school.
- 2. I am enrolled in at least five one credit courses or the equivalent.
- 3. I received passing grades in at least five one credit courses, or the equivalent, during my last grading period.
- 4. My parents live in Ohio.
- 5. I have not changed schools without a corresponding move by my parents or legal guardian or by qualifying for one of the exceptions to the OHSAA transfer regulation.
- 6. If I have changed schools (transferred), I have followed up with my previous school and my new school to ensure that all proper forms have been submitted to the OHSAA.
- 7. I have not been enrolled in high school for more than eight semesters.
- 8. I did not turn 19 before August 1, 2006.
- 9. I have not received an award, equipment or prize valued at greater than \$200 per item.
- 10. I am competing under my true name and have provided my school with my correct home address.
- 11. I have not competed in a mandatory open gym/facility or mandatory instructional program.
- 12. I have not been coached or been provided instruction by a school coach in a team sport or cross country, track & field and wrestling other than during my sport season or for no more than 10 days (seven in football) between June 1 and July 31 (applies to team sports only).
- 13. I am not competing on a non-school team during my school team's season.
- 14. I have not been recruited to attend this school.
- 15. I am not using anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.
- 16. I have had a physical examination within the past year and it is on file at my school.
- 17. My parents and I have signed the OHSAA Authorization Form and the OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement and they are on file at my school.

## BOWLING

The OHSAA's  
Newest Interscholastic Sport  
A Guide for School Administrators,  
Coaches, and Student-Athletes  
2006-07 SCHOOL YEAR



Published by the  
Ohio High School  
Athletic Association

100 Years of Service  
To Ohio's Schools

Respect  
THE  
GAME