

# 2015-2016 High School Bowling GENERAL RULES AND PROVISIONS



## Administrative Responsibility

School Representative Must Accompany Team. Compliance required. In the case of a “club” team in which the Board of Education does not provide or require an “authorized” representative to accompany a team, a designated, responsible adult as assigned by the sponsoring bowling center must accompany the team to Maine High School Bowling (MHSB) competition.

## Student Eligibility

Amateur. A player who is a high school student and has not purchased an adult USBC card will be considered an amateur. **8<sup>th</sup> graders will be allowed to bowl in practice only. A center may allow their 8<sup>th</sup> graders to bowl at home, but not in competition.**

Academic. A player’s eligibility will be based on each school’s varsity sports eligibility guidelines.

Dual Sports. Bowlers must meet minimum eligibility requirements to participate in regional and state competitions. If schools have stricter participation standards, the school’s standard will be followed for that school. Eligibility for regional and state participation is contingent on the student’s participation in practices and scheduled matches. The student must participate in at least 50% of all practices sessions and 70% of all scheduled matches as a varsity or JV bowler. **A coach’s non-punitive decision for a bowler not bowling is not considered an absence.**

**Disciplinary decisions do count as absences.**

The Purchase of Memberships: USBC YOUTH membership or membership in any private bowling organization shall not be required to participate as a member of an MHSB Team.

## Sports Regulations

Official Contest Rules. The General Playing Rules of USBC as amended by MHSB will govern all MHSB contests.

### (i) Teams

- 1) Varsity – teams will consist of the top 5 bowlers (based on average, boy or girl) for each school. The exception will be Co-Op teams discussed below. Team membership can change based on bowler’s averages.
- 2) Junior Varsity – teams will consist of the next 5 bowlers (based on average). Most of the travel matches cannot accommodate all teams participating, the JV teams will bowl matches in their own centers. **A few substitutes will be allowed to bowl travel matches, but it is up to the center if full JV teams will be allowed to participate or not. Good communication is necessary for this to be possible.**
- 3) Co-Op – will consist of bowlers from schools unable to field complete teams (5 bowlers). Once a Co-Op team is formed it must remain intact for the entire season in order to compete as a varsity team and the team championships. Team is to be established by the first match. Bowlers can only be added if needed to make 5 bowlers. See **ii. Roster** for restriction for the end of the season.

(ii) Roster – A team will field five (5) players at a time in all contests. During the league playing season, the number of roster players per team is not limited and subject to the policies and practices of the school and coaching staff. The Maximum team roster in MHSB end-of-season state tournament(s) is limited to eight (8) players. The individual roster players of a team may be changed from regular season play to divisional to state tournament competition provided no new team members are added to the official team

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roster within 21 days of the MHSB State Tournament and are compliant with eligibility requirements. **In the pit area, coaches are limited to two (2) and bowlers six (6).**

## (iii) Legal Line-Up

- 1) Regular Season - A minimum of three (3) players must be present to constitute a legal line-up for regular season matches. Tardy bowlers will receive a score of zero (0) for any frame(s) missed. Absent or tardy bowlers will be prohibited from making up missed frames. Teams will be filled from the 5<sup>th</sup> spot with the highest average present for the team. This means with less than 5 bowlers, there won't be a #1 bowler. For the Baker game with less than 5 bowlers, bowlers must bowl in average order.
- 2) Conference and State Championships - A minimum of five (5) players must be present to constitute a legal line-up for Conference and State Championship matches.

(iv) Vacancy Score – There will be no vacancy score. If an individual or team bowls unopposed, the individual(s) must be within 10 pins of their current average to win the point(s).

## (v) Match Format

- 1) Regular Season - Two (2) regular games of 10-pin regulation scoring and one (1) Baker format game.
  - a) Individual games – Each team will bowl two (2) regular ten-pin games in a cross-lane format, which matches players in individual competition and total team score for each game. Players will bowl against the player slated across from them on the score sheet.
  - b) Baker game – The baker game will be bowled by five (5) players on the same lane, not cross lane.
  - c) Match Scoring – A 19-point scoring system will be used to determine the match winner. One (1) point will be awarded to the individual bowler with the highest score in head to head competition for a total of ten (10) points in the two (2) game match. Two (2) points per game will be awarded for the highest team score for a total of 4 points. Five (5) points will be awarded for the team who wins the Baker match. Ties are allowed during regular season matches.
  - d) Tie-Breaker – There will be no tie-breakers during regular matches
- 2) Conference and State Championship – Best three (3) out of five (5) baker format games for Regional (2 out of 3 for State).
  - a) Baker Game – The team will field five (5) bowlers who will bowl one (1) complete game on the same lane. The teams will swap lanes at the completion of each game. Each team may complete the baker game at their own pace, within reason. There is no requirement for the teams to match each other frame for frame.
  - b) Match Scoring – The team with the higher baker score will win a point for that game. The first team to win three (3) points wins the Regional match (2 for State).
  - c) Tie-Breaking – Any teams that are tied after ten (10) frames will bowl a five (5) frame roll-off, repeating frames 6-10. This will continue until the tie is broken.

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The tie-breaker will end before five (5) frames if one (1) team has been mathematically eliminated.

- (vi) Averages – Averages will be cumulative, consisting of all games (home or away) bowled. A practice day will be designated the week of November 30, 2015 to set averages. New bowlers must establish an average during practice before bowling in a match.
- (vii) Line-Ups
- 1) 10-pin Games -The team line-up (order of bowling) for all 10-pin games will remain the same during the game. Bowlers must match up in order of average - lowest to highest. Exception: Substitutions may occur between games not during.
  - 2) Baker Game -The team line-up (order of bowling) for all baker games will be set by the team's captain, coach and or representative and not restricted to the average restriction of lowest to highest. Exception: Substitutions may occur between games not during.
- (viii) Substitutions - A coach may substitute a player prior to the start of any regular game. However, once a player is removed from the line-up, the removed player(s) may re-enter play after completion of the game and prior to start of a new game.
- 1) Order: Substitutions between games, the playing order will be readjusted to ensure players are ordered lowest to highest average. **To make adjustment easier, the change in order may be done just on the scoresheet, as long as the bowlers are told who they are matched against.**
  - 2) Injury Exception: a coach may substitute a player during any game for an injury. 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 that has resulted in the substitution. The partial game score bowled by the removed player and substitute player will be combined for a complete game, but shall not be computed in the individual average of either player. The playing order will not be adjusted during the game.
  - 3) Disciplinary: A player removed for disciplinary reason(s) by a coach or official is not permitted to return to the line-up for the remainder of the match and is not permitted to participate in any other match that day. Any remaining frames in the player's game will be completed with zeros (0).
    - a) Order: disciplinary substitutions will bowl in the disciplined bowler's spot; the order will not be adjusted.
    - b) Substitution: The substitute will not bowl until the game after the disciplinary action takes place.
- (ix) Practice - Pre-match Practice: The host center will decide on the lanes available for practice prior to the match and assign lanes accordingly. There will be no pre-match practice within **thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled match time**.
- 1) During-match Practice: Substitute (bench) players may practice (Warm-up) for 10 minutes during a match on practice lanes assigned by the host-bowling center not assigned for match competition. Practice is not permitted for any player while participating in a match.

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- (x) Participation Limits- Players may be moved from varsity and junior varsity at the discretion of the coach.
- (xi) Conduct – A zero for a frame will automatically be assessed for unsportsman-like conduct during a match. This shall include, but not limited to, willful abuse of equipment, profanity, and/or obscenities. Further penalties may include disqualification. The head coach of a team is responsible for the behavior of their players and, along with their staff, is subject to the same conduct standards.
- (xii) Uniforms – Shirts: All players must wear collared shirts or mock turtlenecks. T-shirts will be allowed only until the bowler has been given their bowling shirt. **Teams should have a matching shirt of some sort.** Hats or other headgear are prohibited from being worn during any match play. A player out of uniform will not be considered part of a legal line-up. Pants and shorts that are acceptable for school are acceptable for high school bowling.
- (xiii) Referee – The home school coach or, if mutually agreed, a bowling center representative, will serve as referee, enforcing all MHSB and applicable USBC playing rules.
- (xiv) Players - Once a match begins, a player must remain in the bowling area unless explicitly excused by a team coach.
- (xv) Pace of Play – Play will be continuous with no delay between games. Teams may pause only briefly between games to assure that scorekeepers have recorded the individual and team scores, as required. No delay of play will be permitted for substitute bowlers.
- (xvi) Electronic Devices - Cellular phones and pagers of participants must be silent or turned off during a match. **Bowling centers and coaches are not responsible for lost devices.** **Phones should only be used in case of an emergency.**
- (xvii) Host Center Equipment – Re-racks: A coach will be permitted a maximum of two (2) first ball re-racks per game due to improperly set pins by automatic pin setting equipment. If the equipment problem persists, the lane pair may be re-assigned, subject to the agreement of the coaches of both teams and the bowling center. In the event that the lanes are re-assigned, no practice balls will be allowed on the re-assigned lanes, and the match will resume from the point of interruption.
- (xviii) Order of Bowling - Wrong Lane: In the event that a bowler bowls on the wrong lane, a dead ball will be called (not counted) and the bowler will re-bowl on the correct lane. Out of Turn: In the event a bowler bowls out-of-turn, a dead ball will be called (not counted) and the correct bowler shall then bowl.
- (xix) Fouls - See USBC General Playing Rules 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d.
- (xx) Legal/Illegal Pinfall – See USBC General Playing Rules 6a and 6b.

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- (xxi) Dead Ball -See USBC General Playing Rules 8a-8g.
- (xxii) Bowling Out – Bowling out by team(s) or individual team player(s) is prohibited.
- (xxiii) Pre/Post Bowling - Pre-bowling and/or post bowling by a team(s) is limited to home matches that do not involve travelling teams for the match. The rescheduled match must be completed prior to the next scheduled match.
- (xxiv) **USE OF ANY ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE IS PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES DURING HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING EVENTS (PRACTICES OR MATCHES).**
  - 1) First offense will result in a 1 week suspension or more if the school's substance policy is stricter.
  - 2) Second offense will result in a complete suspension from high school bowling

## **Un-sportsman-like Conduct**

- (i) Ejection of Players – Any player ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant abuse shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player shall remain ineligible for all contests at all levels of bowling until two (2) regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection. During this period of suspension, the player may not be affiliated with the team in any activity.
- (ii) A player ejected a second time shall be suspended from team participation and participation in any contest for the remainder of the season.
- (iii) A coach ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant abuse shall be ineligible to attend or participate for the remainder of that day and must leave the facility.
- (iv) The referee who ejects any player or coach from a contest must notify the league coordinator in writing of that action and state the reason for the ejection.
- (v) Spectators are encouraged to attend bowling matches. However, spectators (including parents) are subject to the same sportsmanship rules as participants and coaches. Team coaches are responsible for enforcement of this rule including, if necessary, empowerment to request the host-bowling center to remove spectators who are unresponsive to requests to honor this rule.
- (vi) **Disciplinary measures will be determined by the coach of the team, the coordinator of the region, and the center where the incident occurred.**

## **I. SEASON SCHEDULE**

- a. Maine High School Bowling will begin a tryout and practice session for all schools beginning the week of November 9, 2015. This tryout and practice session will be once or twice a week for each school depending on lane availability at your home center. Unofficial practice can start first week of November, with no coaching.
- b. Opening date for match play will be Thursday, December 3, 2015. There will be nine (9) weeks of match play followed by Individual and Team Championships.
- c. Exception: Make-up of cancelled, regular season matches may be scheduled on any date prior to the scheduled date of the MHSB playoffs.
  - I. If a date cannot be scheduled for the 2 teams to meet, they will be allowed to bowl the vacancy (iv), so they will not lose all points for the week.

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- II. A team that does not show up for a match will be considered forfeiting the match, and the opposing team will receive all 19 points. However, the location can be moved to an easier place for traveling, if both teams and the bowling center agree prior to the match. The coordinator must be informed as well.
- d. The Individual State Championships will be held February 13, 2016 at \_\_\_ pm in the Northern Conference at Family Fun Bowling Center in Bangor.
  - I. Each Region will submit 50% up to the top twenty (20) male and top twenty (20) female bowlers, based on their season average to compete in the State Individual Championships.
- e. Regional Team Championships will be held the week of February 22, 2016 at 3:30 pm.
  - I. Regional Championships will be held at a location within each region with the top four (4) teams competing for the State Team Championship.
  - II. North Region will be at a center to be determined.
  - III. South Region will be at a center to be determined.
- f. State Team Championships will be held on February 27, 2016 at \_\_\_ pm in the Southern Conference at \_\_\_.
- g. There will be no match play on:
  - I. December 24, 2015 (Christmas Break)
  - II. December 31, 2015 (Christmas Break)
 February 18, 2016 (School Winter Vacation Week)

### MATCH SCHEDULE

DATE	TEAMS	LOCATION
December 3	Skowhegan, Carrabec Newport Bangor Co-op, Hermon, Brewer	Augusta Bangor Bangor
December 10	Skowhegan, Carrabec Newport Bangor Co-op, Hermon, Brewer	Bangor
December 17	Skowhegan, Carrabec, Newport, Bangor Co-op, Hermon, Brewer	Newport
December 19 @ 3 PM	Baker Invitational	Augusta
<b>December 24</b>	<b>No Matches Scheduled</b>	
<b>December 31</b>	<b>No Matches Scheduled</b>	
January 7	Newport, Skowhegan, Carrabec Bangor Co-op, Hermon, Brewer	Skowhegan
January 14	Skowhegan, Carrabec, Bangor Co-op, Hermon, Brewer, Newport	Skowhegan Bangor
January 21	Skowhegan, Carrabec, Newport, Bangor Co-op, Hermon, Brewer	Newport
January 28	Skowhegan, Carrabec, Bangor Co-op, Hermon, Brewer, Newport	Skowhegan Augusta
February 4	Skowhegan, Carrabec, Newport Bangor Co-op, Hermon, Brewer	Bangor
February 6 @ 3 PM	Southern Regional Individuals	Augusta

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February 11	Skowhegan, Carrabec, Newport, Bangor Co-op, Hermon, Brewer	Skowhegan
February 13 @ 1 PM	State Individual Championships	Bangor
<b>February 18</b>	<b>No Matches Scheduled</b>	
Feb 25 @ 3:30 PM	Regional Team Championships	
	North Region Team Championships	Skowhegan
	South Region Team Championships	Lewiston
Feb 27 @ 3 PM	State Team Championships	Portland

For travel matches, contact the regional coordinator concerning availability for JV teams. In the case of an odd number of varsity teams, the highest ranked JV team may fill the vacant varsity spot.

## I. Responsibilities

### Center Coordinators

- i. Center coordinators are responsible to deliver a complete copy of these rules to all schools, coaches, and bowling centers and to review these rules with all participants, coaches, and host centers.
- ii. To compile, collect, and provide reports, division results and other requested information to the MHSB Director.

Note: Center Coordinators are expected to have an E-mail address and regular E-mail access to receive and reply to MHSB office E-mails on a timely basis. The MHSB office uses Microsoft WORD and EXCEL as its primary letter and spreadsheet attachment(s).

### Coaches:

- A. The host team coach is responsible for reporting the result of matches to the Region Coordinator immediately after its completion. A copy of the results must be provided to the visiting team coach and should also be left on file in the bowling center.
- B. Coaches should have their line-ups turned in to the host center no less than ten (10) Minutes prior to the start of the match. The host team is responsible to enter the team line-ups on the scoring equipment.
- C. The number of school coaches permitted in the bowling area during a match is **limited to two (2) coaches per team. Bowlers are limited to six (6) bowlers.**
- D. Coaches are encouraged to designate a responsible individual as the match scorekeeper to facilitate the accurate record keeping of scores to maintain the pace of play.

### Host Centers:

- A. The host-bowling center shall be prepared for the scheduled start time for matches and will provide clean, suitably conditioned lanes. Automatic scorers should be

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- ready for teams to enter their line-ups no later than ten (10) minutes prior to warm-ups.
- B. The Center is responsible for removing uncooperative spectators from the facility if requested to do so by the match referee.

## Regional Team Format (single-elimination)

Teams will be seeded based on cumulative season points earned during matches (home and travel).

Each round will be a best three (3) of five (5) baker format match, with the winner determined by the first team to three points.

If the next round results in an odd number of teams the team that is the highest seed from the previous round will receive a bye into the next round. A team cannot receive consecutive byes.

The Championship round will consist of the Championship round as well as a consolation match between the teams tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> to determine actual 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place.

## State Tournament Team Format (double-elimination)

Teams will be seeded based on based on their regional placement.

Each round will be a best two (2) of three (3) baker format match, with the winner determined by the first team to two points. The winning round or rounds will be best three (3) of five (5).

The eight teams advancing to the Championship Round will be seeded (1-4 for each region) based on Regional scores.

The #1 seeded team South Region will bowl the #4 seeded team North Region **(M1)**

The #2 seeded team North Region will bowl the #3 seeded team South Region **(M2)**

The #1 seeded team North Region will bowl the #4 seeded team South Region **(M3)**

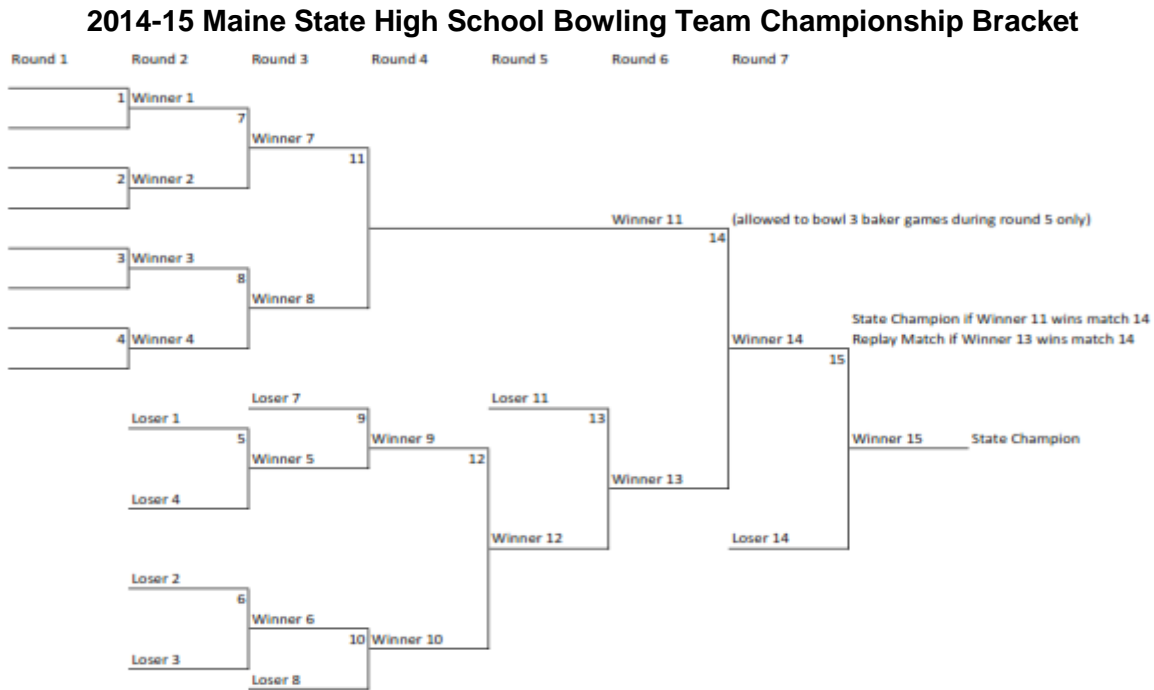
The #2 seeded team South Region will bowl the #3 seeded team North Region **(M4)**



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There will be 6 rounds (round 7, if necessary)



## Regional Tournament Individual Format

All participants of the Maine High School Bowling, that have bowled at least 70% of matches, will be considered for State Competition based on their season average within their conference. Bowlers' averages will be tracked season long and must be submitted to the appropriate region coordinator by the appropriate coach/representative. The top 50%, up to 20 boys and 20 girls within their conference, will compete during the State Individual Championships.

## Championship Tournament Individual Format

There will be a Boys Division and a Girls Division in the Individual Championships. The divisions will compete simultaneously. All bowlers will compete in a two game qualifying format, with the top fifteen (15) scores or half (which ever is greater) boys and girls advancing to round 2. Round 1 scores will carryover to round 2. The top four will be seeded according to 4 game qualifying scores.

The Individual Finals will be a one game stepladder format.

**Match #1** will be seed # 1 vs. seed # 4 and seed # 2 vs. seed # 3

**Match #2** will be the winner of 1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3

**Match # 2 winner will be designated the  
Maine High School Bowling State Individual Champion**

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## MAINE HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING REGIONS

### ***NORTHERN REGION***

Coordinator – Donna Smith

Family Fun Bowling Center  
Central Maine Family Fun Bowling Center  
Newport Entertainment Center

Bangor Co-Op, Hermon, Brewer,  
Carrabec, Skowhegan  
Newport

### ***SOUTHERN REGION***

Coordinator – Darren Forkey Sr.

Sparetime Recreation - Augusta

Sparetime Recreation - Lewiston  
Meadow Lanes

Spare Time - Portland

Kennebec Valley Co-Op, Kents Hill  
Messalonskee, Waterville, Lawrence  
Andro Valley  
Spruce Mountain, Western  
Mt. Abraham  
Casco Bay