

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Bowling Committee Meeting Minutes

East Lansing, March 22, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Members Present

Deb Alexander, Flint (Finals Manager)
Brian Bannasch, Rogers City
Judy Jaeger, Livonia (Finals Manager)
Dave Kowalski, Bay City (MHSIBCA President)
Tracy Long, (Finals Manager)
Brandon Malinowski, Detroit

Eric Painter, Flat Rock (MIAAA)
Michael Roach, Battle Creek
Roger Schildroth, Grand Rapids
Cody Smith, Macomb
Robert Tubbs, Davison
Jim Valentine, Mason

Members Absent

Greg Ambrose, Wayne
Dan Macha, Ithaca
Paul Marcon, Dearborn
Tom Stockton, Sterling Hts.

Staff Member

Cody Inglis

The MHSAA Bowling Committee met at the MHSAA office to review policies and procedures for boys and girls bowling. Agenda items included correspondence received, staff input and items from the Michigan High School Interscholastic Bowling Coaches Association.

A review of the 2016 Bowling Committee meeting minutes was completed with special attention given to the two proposals that were forwarded to the MHSAA Representative Council in May of 2016. This included the approved reduction in the team roster from 8 to 7 participants at Regionals and Finals levels. After its first year of implementation, the response from coaches and others has been positive for this change. The bowling committee concurred and agree that it was a positive change for bowling venues, especially those struggling for space in smaller centers.

The committee also reviewed the proposed bowling substitution rule that did get approved. The committee revisited the reasons why this rule did not garner support. This included potential issues with scoring procedures and logistical and travel concerns with roster sizes potentially increasing. The MHSIBC board also discussed this proposal at length and did not support its implementation. After review the bowling committee still favors the current MHSAA bowling substitution rule which will continue for the 2017-18 bowling season.

TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The committee reviewed MHSAA Tournament policies and procedures in both the Regional and Finals venues. This included format, participant policies, time and date schedules, venue locations, coaching privileges review, dress code, entry materials and school divisions.

The MHSAA Regional and Final Tournament locations and venue selection process were reviewed by MHSAA staff. MHSAA bowling finals in each of the 4 bowling divisions require at least 50 lane centers which puts MHSAA bowling finals in direct competition for lane space with non-school adult tournaments popular around Michigan including the Elks, Men's state and Women's state. There are only about 10 or so bowling centers in Michigan that can hold the MHSAA bowling finals. This number is reduced when you add in geography concerns, tournament administration coordination

and finding venues that will agree to MHSAA protocols and rules. These facts limit the ability to establish a designated rotation of MHSAA bowling finals venues. The committee did discuss the potential of having a two-year rotation for venues in each division and the MHSAA staff will strongly consider this option dependent upon center availability in future tournament assignments.

A review of the "Allen Pattern" was discussed by the committee after its second year of use in the MHSAA bowling tournament as a Kegel challenge series pattern. Given that this year is the second year of use of the Allen pattern, it continues to gain popularity among centers, coaches and players alike; the adjustment this year was much easier for all. The committee will look at other Kegel challenge series patterns going forward but continue with the Allen pattern for the 2017-18 bowling season.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS/UPDATES

Several topics regarding overall regular season regulations were reviewed. Suggestions for changes and clarifications for the Coaches Manual include: Amateur status and awards section clarifications, adjustment of the electronic policy language to allow coaches to use tablets for scoring programs, review of the coaching restrictions for regionals and finals and additional clarifying language in the uniform and dress code section. The Limited Team Membership rule restricting outside events during the school season was also analyzed and reviewed by the committee.

A proposal to increase the limit of bowling balls allowed by bowlers in the bowlers area was considered. The current rule of 2 balls per bowler allowed on the lanes was established to take away the issues of space that are encountered in several venues. There is no limit on the number of balls allowed to be used by a bowler as they can be stored in the paddock area of each center. The proposal that was considered would allow for an increase to 3 balls for singles participants at each lane. While there was much discussion of this proposal, the committee felt that space issues at centers and the fact that each center has a paddock area were reasons to keep the current rule in place. No recommendation was forwarded on from this discussion.

The MHSIBCA brought forward a proposal for discussion regarding the increase of the roster size for singles from its current 6 participants per school to 7 participants per school. This increase of one bowler would match the roster size of the team roster allowed for regionals and finals and would allow coaches to use the same roster for each day of the bowling tournament. Coaches association support from a statewide survey was given as supporting evidence. The challenges associated with this potential increase include the large number of bowling venues that use 24 lane centers and the possibility that an additional bowler in singles could add up to two more bowlers per pair in some cases increasing this number to 7 or 8 which could add significant time to each regional and final. Lane availability would then become a major issue in some areas of the state and bowling centers could limit the time and space needed to adequately conduct bowling tournament. The committee felt that while there were several reasons to forward a proposal to the Representative Council that at this time, the potential negative effects of a change outweighed the positives and did not recommend a change to the current 6-person roster for singles from each bowling school.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

No recommendations to the Representative Council