

2020-21 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, 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 in TSSAA tournament play. 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 game. The remaining members, if any, will act as substitutes. Averages, vacancy, or absentee scores are not allowed.
- C. Substitution Rule**
1. When a substitution is made during a game, that substitute must complete the remainder of the game. Two substitutions are permitted each game. 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. 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.
 3. If the starting bowler completes at least 4 frames and is removed from competition then that player receives the game score. However, if the starting bowler completes less than 4 frames the substitute will be credited with the game score.
 4. Substitutes will receive no additional practice throws on the competition lanes prior to entering a game.
- D.** 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 game in the match. After this point, a tardy player may only enter the match at the beginning of the second or third game.
- E.** All competition is scratch, there is no handicapping.
- F.** Competition is based on a 27-point scoring system. One point per game, per individual bowler for each of three games. Total eighteen points. Two points for team total per game for three games. Total of six points. Total pin count for the series receives three points. Total points possible during the three game competition is 27 points.
- 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.
- I.** If there is a tie at the point level the match will be awarded to the team with the highest pin fall.
- J.** 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.

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- 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.

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 – Team (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 an appropriate number of districts.
- B. Teams (boys and girls) who place first and second in the district tournament shall qualify for the regional tournament. 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.
- C. Each district shall determine a champion and runner-up by any method the district membership selects.
- D. In Division I, the odd-numbered districts shall determine the region site in odd-numbered years and the even-numbered districts shall determine the region site in even-numbered years.
- E. 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.

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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.

VI. Tournament Play – Team (Division II)

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

- C. 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.

VII. Individual State Tournament – Division I

- A. Individuals will qualify based on their averages compiled during the regular season.

Coaches must submit score sheets to a “District/Region Coordinator,” or someone selected to be in charge of compiling the information throughout the regular season. The top two qualifiers must be submitted to the state office no later than the Wednesday of NFHS Week 27.

- B. The top two averages in the district/region and the top 20 averages of competitors who did not automatically qualify from the combined districts/regions will qualify having bowled a minimum of 2/3 of the regular season games available. If there is a tie for the second place or the final at-large spot, then the averages shall be compared two places after the decimal point. Example: 196.60 would be a higher average than 196.59.

C. Quarterfinals

Bowlers will be on a pair of lanes with each bowler bowling four games, moving to their next assigned lanes after bowling two games. 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 at the meeting held prior to competition on the first day of the state tournament. The same pattern will be used for each round of individual competition.

The top 24 girls and top 24 boys will advance to the next round based on total pinfall. If there is a tie in total pins for the 24th place, there will be a one game roll-off between all those tied for 24th.

Pin totals will carry over to the semi-final round.

D. Semi-Finals

Bowlers will be on a pair of lanes with each bowler bowling four games, moving to their next assigned lanes after bowling two games.

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.

E. 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.

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VIII. Individual State Tournament – Division II

A. Individuals will qualify based on their averages compiled during the regular season. The East Region and the West Region will send 6 individuals to the state tournament and the Middle Region will send 12. Qualifiers must have bowled a minimum of 2/3 of the regular season games available. State qualifiers must be submitted to the state office no later than the date bowling regions must be completed.

B. Semi-Finals

Bowlers will be on a pair of lanes with each bowler bowling four games, moving to their next assigned lanes after bowling two games. The sport shot pattern that is chosen for competition at the state tournament will be made available at the meeting held prior to competition on the first day of the state tournament. The same pattern will be used for each round of individual 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.

C. 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.

IX. Awards

TSSAA will award plaques to the champion and runner-up in the district and region champion in Division I. In Division II, TSSAA will award plaques to the winner and runner-up in each region. 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 finishers, and a plaque to the medalist.