



Nebraska High School Bowling Federation

The purpose of the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation will be to provide high school students with an opportunity to experience the spirit of team competition and community pride while participating in a sport they can enjoy for the rest of their lives.

A team-bowling program, available to both girls and boys, will bridge barriers of size, age, and race, providing opportunities for young people who choose not, or may not be able to compete in, other sports. Bowling is a unique sport, providing its participants with unique challenges and test of skill.

Name of Organization

The name of the organization shall be the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation (NHSBF).

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Commissioner, two Nebraska Bowling Proprietors (BPAA or non-BPAA centers), two coaches from the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation, and one other member. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of twice per year, once before the start of the bowling season, and once at the conclusion of the bowling season. The Board of Directors shall, at least once per year, review policies and procedures, re-evaluate and/or recalculate allowances (lineage, transportation, etc.) and audit financial records. The Board of Directors will be appointed by the Commissioner.

Commissioner

The Commissioner of the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation will be the current chairman of the Nebraska Bowling Proprietors High School Committee. If no standing committee, the Commissioner will be appointed by the Nebraska Bowling Proprietors Association President. The Commissioner's responsibilities include but are not limited to coordination of personnel, management policies and procedures, maintenance of the program, and assistance in settlement of problems and disputes that may arise.

The Commissioner will also be responsible for the coordination and communication with School Boards and Associations that will be involved in the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation. These responsibilities shall also be of the Commissioner to sanction the High School Bowling Federation in accordance with NSAA (Nebraska School Activities Association) and DOE (Department of Education) guidelines.

Finances

The bowling federation will incur all financial obligations in the operation of the program. Costs and expenses will include but are not limited to:

1. Bowling lineage fee for district and state events.
2. Secretarial and record keeping costs
3. Scholarship awards

There shall be limited monetary expense incurred by any school or school district participating in the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation until such time as the schools adopt the program.

Bowling Centers

The bowling centers involved will follow the guidelines and policies established by the Nebraska High School Federation. The team franchise is assigned to the bowling center by the Commissioner, and may be revoked at any time by the Commissioner. As the franchise holder, the bowling centers have full authority over the operation of the program, with decisions including, but not limited to; coach selection, practice times, and match times.

Amendments

An amendment must be brought before the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation's Board of Directors at one of its regularly scheduled meetings. Any amendment, if passed, will take effect at a time designated by the Board. An amendment must receive a majority affirmative vote from all members of the Board of Directors in order to be passed. Roberts's rules of order will be followed. During the first ten years of operation, the NHSBF founders will have the power to waive such requirements deemed necessary to help develop the organization.

GUIDELINES FOR THE NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING FEDERATION

1. School Classification

- 1.1. Competition in bowling is permitted for students in 9th through 12th grades in all participating high schools.
 - 1.1.1. All students must adhere to the NHSBF Code of Student Ethics.
 - 1.1.2. All students must provide extracurricular eligibility verification at a minimum of three times per season, December 1, January 1 and February 1.
- 1.2. Teams may co-op to form teams in conjunction with NSAA rules and guidelines.
 - 1.2.1. The NHSBF Commissioner will authorize all co-ops annually.
 - 1.2.2. Teams officially combined with a co-op must re-apply for a co-op each year.
 - 1.2.3. Co-ops will utilize the combined enrollment of each school to determine class assignment.

2. Eligibility(Coaching and Participant) and entry fees

- 2.1. A participation fee for non-member (BPA and/or Federation) bowling centers may be added and centers notified prior to the start of the season. Where applicable, the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation shall abide by the Nebraska Department of Education and the NSAA eligibility rules.
- 2.2. Effective November 1, 2010, all participants must have a physical waiver indicating that participant is physically able to compete in the NHSBF.
- 2.3. Effective November 1, 2010, the NHSBF head coach from each team must:
 - 2.3.1. Be a registered member of the USBC RVP program.
 - 2.3.2. Complete ASEP certification (prior to districts).
 - 2.3.3. Have a minimum coaching certification of one of these coaching programs;
 - 2.3.3.1.USBC Bronze Level
 - 2.3.3.2.Dick Ritger Academy Level I
 - 2.3.3.3.NHSBF Coaching Certification
 - 2.3.4. The NHSBF Commissioner has the authority to waive said requirement on a case by case basis.
- 2.4. All NHSBF participants must be members of the United States Bowling Congress High School division.
 - 2.4.1. USBC High School Division certification fees are the responsibility of the individual/team and are not covered by the NHSBF.
 - 2.4.2. All NHSBF roster members must be certified by the USBC prior to December 1 of the current season.

3. Conference Structure

3.1. The goal of each individual school shall be to field a minimum of one boys and/or one girl's varsity and junior varsity team (a total of four teams per school). However, a school will be allowed to participate in the program with less than recommended number of teams. It is recommended that each school field teams solely from their eligible student body. In the event that the above is not possible a conference or high school may elect to allow a co-op team consisting of students from more than one school to participate. The High School Bowling Conference District President/Commissioner and the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation state office must be contacted in writing for approval of this variation prior to the start of competition each season.

4. Team Structure:

- 4.1. Classes are to be determined by enrollment. The NHSBF Board will determine school Class participation prior to the start of season competition. The NHSBF board will also be granted full power to change these classes at any time during competition.
- 4.1.1. Classes A & B -A Varsity and Junior Varsity team shall consist of no more than seven traveling bowlers (five bowlers and two substitute bowlers). A team may have an unlimited number of bowlers. A lineup consisting of no more than seven players will be submitted to the opposing coach prior to competition and no changes to the lineup are allowed once the first ball of the match has been thrown. The five member team is mandatory and will bowl each game with all five scores being used to determine the team that wins the standing point. (See Substitutes)
- 4.1.2. Classes C & D - Varsity and Junior Varsity team shall consist of no more than six traveling bowlers (four bowlers and two substitute bowlers). A team may have an unlimited number of bowlers. A lineup consisting of no more than six players will be submitted to the opposing coach prior to competition and no changes to the lineup are allowed once the first ball of the match has been thrown. The four member team is mandatory and will bowl each game with all four scores being used to determine the team that wins the standing point. (See Substitutes). During Baker competition, the team will follow this progression; 1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4,1,2.
- 4.2. A legal lineup will consist of at least ½ of the regular roster (Classes A & B– 3 members, Classes C & D– 2 members). (See Forfeits)
- 4.3. The Commissioner (district or state) may, at any time, ask for the bowler to present his/her student identification card for verification purposes.

5. **Point System:**

- 5.1. The Match Point System will be used (1 point for each individual game; 3 points for each team game; 5 points for the Baker match) with the winning team receiving 1 conference point. All bowling will be done on a scratch basis. Each match will consist of three games (2 regulation and best 2 of 3 Baker). Conference standings shall consist of the sum of all matches. Half points will be used in the case of tie situations with specific exceptions (see Absentees and Vacancies). In the event of a split decision (team points are equal after the baker round), a 'sudden death' frame will be conducted. Sudden Death will be one 10th frame roll-off. The coach will decide what player participates. The lane assignment will be the lane the team finished the regular baker game on. In the event of a tie after sudden death, the teams will repeat sudden death until a winner is decided, alternating lanes each round of sudden death.
- 5.2. **Classes A & B** – 21 Point System – 8 points per team game (5 individual and 3 team – 16 points maximum) and 5 points for the baker match.
- 5.3. **Classes C & D**- 19 Point System – 7 points per team game (4 individual and 3 team – 14 points maximum) and 5 points for the baker match.

6. **Competition Playing Rules:**

- 6.1. Team Presentation: A team is expected to present a legal lineup on the lanes at the scheduled starting time for each match. If a team cannot attend a meet due to weather or other extreme emergency, the team match must be made up before the conference playoff. Teams not making up games within that time will forfeit those games.
- 6.2. Practice Balls: There will be 10 minutes of practices, either with or without pins (proprietors discretion). A team will only practice on one lane, after 5 minutes the teams will switch lanes. Substitutes will not be allowed to practice on any extra lanes. Bowlers are not permitted to bowl on the same day, prior to competition, in the bowling center where the competition is to be held with the exception of PE classes, school sponsored events, and USBC certified leagues (prior to NSAA inclusion).

- 6.3. Lineups: The visiting team is to enter their lineup first, within the first 5 minutes of practice. The home team must enter the home team lineup prior to the end of the practice session.
- 6.3.1. Eligibility: It is the responsibility of the coaches to insure that all bowlers meet academic eligibility requirements as established by their local high school. Coaches allowing ineligible students to bowl in competition may forfeit all matches that the ineligible student competed in. Students bowling in the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation must maintain amateur status, meaning that they cannot participate or substitute in any type of bowling activity where money or merchandise awards are offered to any participant on the basis of bowling score, bowling skill or position. This includes bowling as a regular or a substitute on any adult bowling league. Students may, until or unless in violation of Nebraska Department of Education rules, participate in outside USBC youth-certified bowling leagues and/or tournaments during the school-bowling season. DOE eligibility rules apply in those areas not covered in these rules. Any question regarding eligibility should be referred to the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation.
- 6.3.2. Substitutes: A coach may substitute a bowler at any time during the game or match. Once a bowler is removed from a game, he/she cannot return to bowl during that same game. If a bowler is replaced by a sub, the credit for the game score will go to the bowler that started the game. A maximum of two substitutions will be allowed **during** a game.
- 6.3.3. Absentees: There shall be no absentee score. Players without a full roster will receive '0' for each missing player. A player arriving late may enter the game at any time, but will receive '0' for missed frames.
- 6.3.4. Roster: Coaches are to submit the roster for each match to the opposing coach prior to the first ball of competition. Roster changes or additions will not be allowed after competition begins. A student is limited to five games of competition against the same opponent on the same day. The exception to this rule is during district or state tournament play in which the double elimination format is used to determine the champion. Varsity rosters must be submitted prior to the district playoffs and will remain in effect throughout the playoffs. No changes to the roster are allowed without the written consent of the NHSBF State Commissioner.

6.4. Baker Format:

- 6.4.1. In centers without automatic scoring (or centers so-equipped), each team will bowl five frames on one lane, and the remaining 5 frames on the other lane of the pair.
- 6.4.2. In centers with automatic scoring (and no such ability), the team will bowl the entire game on one lane.
- 6.4.3. The NHSBF Commissioner may mandate which format is used within any conference, district, or state championship match.

6.5. Maximum amount of play:

- 6.5.1. No team may schedule more than 3 conference matches (either JV or Varsity) on any single day.
- 6.5.2. No individual player may bowl more than 5 games against the same opponent within any single day. Baker matches count as one game.

6.6. Forfeits: A team which forfeits will lose all standing points for a series, team and individual. However, the scores of all eligible players shall be included in the conference records will qualify for all conference and individual awards. When a match is declared forfeited, the members present must bowl as if the match were actually contested. Teams missing a match due to weather or other emergency must notify the host center as soon as possible prior to the meet. Cases in which teams that, due to emergency must notify the center prior to the meet will be handled on a case-by-case basis (see Team Presentation).

- 6.6.1. A team game will be declared forfeited if one team fails to appear by the time the opposing team has completed its third frame of bowling, providing the opposing team started bowling at the scheduled starting time of the match.
- 6.6.2. The match will declared forfeited if one team fails to appear with in the first three frames of each game of the match. NO score for frames missed.
- 6.6.3. A game or match will be declared forfeited if one team fails to field at least three team members under the provisions of paragraphs A and B above.

6.7. Conduct of Coaches and Players:

- 6.7.1. No coach, player, or other person officially connected with the team shall be permitted to use any tobacco products on the bench or in the playing or spectator areas.
- 6.7.2. No tobacco or consumption of alcoholic beverage will be allowed in the bowlers and spectator area during match play.
- 6.7.3. All bowlers will remain in the immediate bowling area while competition is in progress.
- 6.7.4. No handheld or portable electronic devices may be used by student athletes during competition. Such devices would include cell phones, game devices, mp3 players or laptop computers.
- 6.7.5. Bowlers will be expected to follow the previous bowler promptly and will be required to bowl as soon as the one lane to their right is clear.
- 6.7.6. Un-sportsman-like conduct, including but not restricted to deliberate foot fouls, vulgar language, or abuse of equipment or facilities is not permitted.
 - 6.7.6.1. Conduct enforcement policy: Coaches of all participating schools are responsible for the enforcement of the following penalties. The

Commissioner (or the NHSBF board in his/her absence) shall have the final say on enforcement when coaches cannot agree on the penalty that should be handed down. (See Protests)

6.7.6.2. Behavior of Players: The Conference coach, or District Commissioner, may suspend a conference member for infraction of a conference rule, for a period not to exceed 3 weeks.

6.7.6.3. All coaches are required to report any disciplinary action taken against a student athlete to the NHSBF office within 72 hours of informing the student athlete of their discipline action.

- 6.8. Authorized Personnel: The coach(s), league officials, participating bowlers and center staff as needed, are the only persons authorized to be in the bowlers area during a match. Spectators and other interested parties must remain behind the area defined as the bowler's area.
- 6.9. Scorekeeping: a computer/automatic-scoring unit in centers so equipped will perform scorekeeping. If a center is not equipped with automatic scoring, an independent, non-biased third party will perform scoring. It will be the responsibility of team captains to verify that scores are complete and accurate.
- 6.10. Vacancies: There are no 'vacancy' scores. Absent bowlers receive 0 for any frames missed.
- 6.11. Foul Line: The foul line shall be observed during match play. Awards will not be issued if automatic foul detecting devices or a human foul judge is not used. When a player deliberately fouls, the player shall receive zero pinfall for the entire frame.
- 6.12. Protests: The coach, as representative of the bowling team, must file any protest within 24 hours after the match series in which the infraction occurred. If no protest is filed within 24 hours, scores shall stand as bowled. If the infraction occurs during the final meet of the season or during the conference playoffs, the protest appeal of eligibility must be made at least two days prior to the next level of district or district competition. Protests shall be filed with a representative of the Advisory Committee who will coordinate a brief conference.
- 6.13. Concept Testing: The Commissioner may authorize the testing of trial formats and events, as well as, 'scrimmage' matches with non-federation teams, for the purpose of improving the program. The NHSBF board may authorize the results of such events to be considered a part of the regular season standings.

7. Conference Playoffs and District Tournament:

- 7.1. Conference and District tournament format to be determined by the NHSBF. Rules and information regarding Conference, District and State Finals will be furnished to all participating centers 48 hours in advance of the district event. All ties must be broken on a Conference and District level to determine the advancing team or individual.
- 7.2. To be eligible for the Conference, District and State Final(s), a player must have bowled at least once in the regular season. High Schools not participating in conference play must have competed in at least two (2) qualifying district and or district tournament(s). The NHSBF Commissioner may waive the qualification rule.
- 7.3. Teams not participating in a Conference will qualify for the State Tournament via entering the District event in their geographical location, by receiving an invitation from the NHSBF Commissioner. Entry fees for such non-conference teams to be determined by the NHSBF Board.
- 7.4. Teams will not be allowed to participate if the head coach from the team does not meet the following requirements;
 - 7.4.1. USBC RVP Certification
 - 7.4.2. ASEP Certification
 - 7.4.3. NHSBF Coaching certification, or equivalent, as determined by the Commissioner
 - 7.4.4. Hardship Waiver – For any team not meeting the playoff requirements, the head coach from said team may request a hardship waiver, in writing, from the Commissioner, by January 15th of the season year. Detailed explanation regarding the request should be provided.
 - 7.4.4.1. The decision regarding any waiver made by the Commissioner is final.

8. Conference and District Event Formats:

- 8.1. District Event Format: The NHSBF Commissioner will determine the format, location, and teams participating in each district event.
 - 8.1.1. In the event of a tie for first place at the end of the event, the conference competition “sudden death” rule will be utilized to break the tie. (*see rule 10.6*)
- 8.2. District event locations will normally be assigned on a rotation basis to a different center, if possible.
- 8.3. Admission will be charged at the district event per the NHSBF Commissioner’s discretion.
- 8.4. Teams will normally be assigned based on class and geographical location, however, teams may compete in district events across classes using the ‘wild card’ format.
- 8.5. The ‘wild card’ format will be utilized to insure equal competition statewide to assist in determining the ‘wild cards’ awarded to state. The NHSBF Commissioner will determine the teams that advance to states based on the number of district events statewide.

8.6. 'Wild Card' awarding will be determined by the NHSBF Commissioner utilizing, but not limited to, the following criteria;

8.6.1. Total team score at the district event

8.6.2. Win-Loss record in conference and non-conference competition

8.6.3. Overall team average

9. **District Singles Event Format:**

9.1. Players will compete simultaneously during the team district event for the district singles championship. The individual players score, based on the first 3 games bowled, will be used to determine the players final position. The top 10 scores, both boys and girls, will advance to the state finals.

9.2. If a player qualifies to the state event, but the team does not, the team will not advance to the state finals, only the individual player.

9.3. If a player qualifies for the state event, and the team does as well, the qualifying spot will NOT 'push' to the next highest individual qualifier.

9.4. A player may also voluntarily decline their invitation to the state finals, but must notify the district commissioner immediately following district competition, if possible.

10. **Season Ending State Tournament:**

10.1. The state tournament will utilize a standard qualifying and a Baker format to determine the champion. Teams will be assigned lanes and squads according to class. The class assignment, center(s) used, squad times, and lane assignments will be determined by the NHSBF Commissioner prior to competition.

10.2. State Tournament Roster:

10.2.1. A State Tournament roster, with a maximum of seven individuals, must be submitted to the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation on a date predetermined by the NHSBF in order to compete in that tournament.

10.2.2. A student must be enrolled in 9th-12th grade to participate in the state high school varsity championships.

10.2.3. Participants will be required to present a school form of identification for team check-in and gaining admittance to the host venue.

10.2.3.1. A student ID or report card with photo ID are acceptable forms of ID.

10.2.3.2. The NHSBF Commissioner may determine additional forms of ID, if required.

10.3. The NHSBF Commissioner has the authority to move or coordinate the event in such a manner that uses two or more bowling centers.

10.4. Admission will be charged at the state event for all spectators.

10.5. Singles Event: All participants will compete simultaneously for the state singles championship, based on the first 3 games bowled during team qualifying.

10.5.1.1. The high series (first 3 games), both boys and girls, will determine the state singles champion.

10.5.1.2. The top 10 boys and girls will receive awards.

10.6. Ties – There are no "ties" in the team event. In the event of a tie, either after qualifying, or any Baker game, a "sudden death" one-ball roll-off will be used to break the tie.

- 10.6.1. The higher qualifying seed picks the lane for sudden death, with the opponent bowling on the opposite lane of the pair.
- 10.6.2. In the event of a tie after sudden death, a new player, from the game immediately prior to the tie, must be used.
- 10.6.3. In the event of multiple ties, all players from the game must be rotated until the tie is broken. In the event a substitution was made during the game, all the bowlers that played in the game are required to be in the rotation for sudden death.
- 10.6.4. No player may repeat in sudden death until all eligible players have competed in sudden death.

11. Bowling Practice:

- 11.1.1. In Meet or Tournament Host Center: A team member or substitute may not use the bowling lanes within the bowling establishment for practice on the day of any match or tournament outside of what has been established within these guidelines. A bowler that violates this provision will not be allowed to compete in the given event. Exception: school sponsored events or classes, USBC certified leagues (prior to inclusion into the NSAA).
- 11.1.2. Prior to the Start of Each Match or Tournament: No more than 10 minutes of practice (with or without pins – proprietors discretion) for any one scheduled match.
- 11.1.3. Required Practice Sessions: It is the responsibility of each head coach to conduct at least one formal practice session each week during the Nebraska High School Bowling Conference season. This session will be at no cost to bowlers and coaches and must be pre-arranged with the participating bowling centers to insure lanes are reserved and available.

12. Uniforms:

- 12.1.1. All participants should be professional in groom and appearance. During competition all participants may not;
 - 12.1.1.1. Have piercings visible in any other location than the ear lobes.
 - 12.1.1.2. Have tattoos visible.
- 12.1.2. Teams and coaches will provide their own uniforms that meet the following criteria;
- 12.1.3. Team competitors and coaches shall appear in shirts approved by the Commissioner for all matches and tournaments.
- 12.1.4. The entire team must wear the same color shirts. No denim pants (coach or player) will be allowed at any time during NHSBF competition. Coaches must be in team uniform, or generally accepted “business casual” attire.
- 12.1.5. Girls may wear skirts or skorts, meeting these requirements;
 - 12.1.5.1. All team members must be in like uniforms.
 - 12.1.5.2. No skirt or skort may raise above four inches from the top of the knee cap.
- 12.1.6. All shirts must be the uniform guidelines listed below;
 - 12.1.6.1. Shirt must have a collar (no t-shirts). Mock collar shirts acceptable.
 - 12.1.6.2. The back and front may only have the school name and/or logo.

- 12.1.6.3. Players name may be imprinted in small print on the front and/or back of the shirt.
- 12.1.6.4. Effective November 1, 2010, all uniforms must have Jersey numbers. Jersey numbers must be applied with the following criteria;
 - 12.1.6.4.1. Jersey numbers must be one or two digits.
 - 12.1.6.4.2. Jersey numbers must be permanently affixed.
 - 12.1.6.4.3. Jersey number must be in screen-printed, embroidered, or patch form.
 - 12.1.6.4.4. Jersey numbers must be located on the back of the shirt and visible during competition.
 - 12.1.6.4.5. Jersey numbers must be a minimum of 2", but no more than 3" in height.
- 12.1.6.5. No advertisements are allowed on the front or back of shirt.
- 12.1.6.6. Sponsors may be located on the left shirt sleeve according to the following guidelines;
 - 12.1.6.6.1. Sponsors logos cannot be more than 2" x 4" in area.
 - 12.1.6.6.2. There cannot be more than 2 sponsors on the shirt, excluding the NHSBF logo.
- 12.1.6.7. The NHSBF logo must be permanently attached on the right shirt sleeve.
- 12.1.6.8. The NHSBF logo may be screen-printed, embroidered or in patch form.
- 12.1.6.9. No sponsor may promote smoking, alcohol, or any other activity deemed inappropriate by the NHSBF Commissioner.
- 12.1.6.10. All shirts must be matching in color/style. Teams must have matching uniforms by January 1 of each season.
- 12.1.7. The NHSBF Commissioner has the authority to negotiate on behalf of the organization. These sponsorships may require an additional logo to be attached to the shirt. The NHSBF and/or sponsoring organization is to provide such logos when deemed appropriate.

13. Transportation:

- 13.1. It will be the responsibility of each participant in the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation to arrange for his/her transportation to and from practices, matches or tournaments. It will be required that all participants sign waivers of liability, stating that they are assuming full responsibility for their transportation and will hold the school districts, coaches, and bowling centers harmless for any actions arising as a result of travel in connection with Nebraska High School Bowling Federation activities.

14. Awards:

- 14.1. A first place plaque will be awarded to the team that wins the district event. Those players earning 'first-team' status in districts will receive a certificate indicating this achievement.

15. Scholarships:

15.1. Scholarships will be awarded in accordance with all NCAA and Department of Education rules. The scholarships awards will be determined by the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation Scholarship Committee, and will be awarded to the Youth of the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation. All scholarship monies will be held in escrow in the USBC SMART account.

16. **Authorization:**

16.1. By participating in the NHSBF, all coaches and student-athletes waive any claim of damage or injury against the NHSBF, bowling center, and coach from injury or harm. All participants authorize the use of their image, photo or likeness for photographic or video use, in accordance with NHSBF requirements.

17. **Contingencies:**

17.1. The NSAA, the USBC High School Division Rule Book and or the NSHBF Commissioner shall cover any situation arising that is not covered by these Guidelines.

17.2. The ruling of the NHSBF Commissioner will be binding in all matters. Appeals may be made to the NHSBF Board of Directors within 48 hours of ruling.