

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL

- 1.) What are the rules that participating schools in bowling activity should be aware of?
 - a. NMAA
 - i. <https://www.nmact.org/nmaa-handbook/>
 - b. NMHSBA – see Documents tab on NMHSBA website (<http://www.nmhsba.org>)
 - i. Coaches Guidelines
 - ii. By-Laws
 - iii. Policy
 - iv. Startup Info
 - c. NM State Public Education Department - <http://www.ped.state.nm.us>
 - d. School District – see district handbook. Cannot override State rule.
 - e. School – see school handbook. Cannot override District or State rule.
 - f. **Rule decision precedence order:** Lower level(s) cannot override previous level(s). Highest to lowest is perceived as: State, NMAA/NMHSBA, District, School, Head Coach.
 - g. USBC High School Playing Rules when there is no NMHSBA rule covering the scenario.

- 2.) How does a school get started in the bowling activity?
 - a. Refer to NMHSBA startup document located in our documents tab with a title of “NMHSBA Activity Start Info. The direct link is <http://www.nmhsba.org/newsletters/Steps-and-key-points-for-starting-bowling-activity.pdf> .

- 3.) Is there a Coaching licensure/certification required of HS Bowling coaches?
 - a. According to NM Public Education Department Licensure Bureau, <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/Licensure/2010/index.html> there is no reference to an Activity Licensure. There is one for Athletics and can be found here, <http://164.64.110.239/nmac/parts/title06/06.063.0008.htm>. See the definition, "Athletic coaching" means athletic services in grades 7-12 performed by a head coach or assistant coach, paid or volunteer, for any athletic sport, including cheer, dance or drill. In accordance with NMAA, Bowling is not an Athletic/Sport event, but an activity.
 - b. In accordance with the NMAA Handbook Section 8 (http://www.nmact.org/file/Section_8.pdf), Activities/Academic/Non-Competitive Spirit, only Non-Competitive Spirit identifies that it requires a Coaches Licensure.
 - c. NMHSBA has no requirements. Does recommend looking at USBC Coaching options. <http://www.bowl.com/USBCCoachingResourceCenter/>
 - d. You need to check district and/or school requirement.

- 4.) What is the Volunteer policy?
 - a. All district and/or schools have a volunteer program/requirement when helping with activities. Your school should be able to give you a hand in getting it accomplished. As of May 2019 state legislature approved House Bill 431 that identifies volunteers will get a FBI background check and finger printing as teachers do. It is done as part of the school or district process.

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- b. Head Coach or Sponsor will provide a copy of volunteer approval to NMHSBA when they add them to the list. NMHSBA determines that the documentation is of an acceptable form.
 - c. Any Volunteer may be required to present their background credential or school credentials to an NMHSBA staff member at any NMHSBA event to validate they are done.
 - d. USBC Registered Volunteer Program (RVP) does not substitute for the school/district program check and not required for volunteer to have for NMHSBA.
 - i. RVP Information and who is required to do it?
https://www.bowl.com/Registered_Volunteer_Program/RVP_Home/Information/
<http://usbcongress.http.internapcdn.net/usbcongress/bowl/rules/pdfs/SafeSportRVPandMinors.pdf>
 - e. USBC SafeSport program is only required by the volunteer, if we certify any of our tournaments with USBC and you are a USBC member 18 years old or older.
 - i. <http://usbcongress.http.internapcdn.net/usbcongress/bowl/rules/pdfs/SafeSportRVPandMinors.pdf>
- 5.) Where can I find Transportation guidance?
- a. State
 - i. http://www.ped.state.nm.us/div/fin/trans/regs/6.41.4nmac.html#Activity_Trips
 - ii. <http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/TransplIndex.html>
 - b. District
 - i. Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) –
 1. Section IX of APS Athletic Handbook
<http://www.aps.edu/athletics/documents/apsathleticahandbook.pdf>
 - 2.
 - ii. Rio Rancho Public Schools (RRPS) –
 - 1.
 - c. School
- 6.) What are the NMHSBA recognitions?
- a. See NMHSBA Results tab for idea of what has been done previously.
 - i. State Tournament – See flier on NMHSBA website for details.
http://www.nmhsba.org/newsletters/NMHSBA_State_Flier.pdf
 - ii. Senior Tournament – Scholarship funds.
<http://www.nmhsba.org/Documents.aspx?Fldr=SeniorTournamentResults>
 - iii. All-State – Patch and Scholarship funds for top 5 or 8 male and females in each division. <http://www.nmhsba.org/Documents.aspx?Fldr=AllState>
 - iv. Season – Scholarship funds for high game and series during season.
<http://www.nmhsba.org/Documents.aspx?Fldr=SeasonRecognition>
 - b. Check school policy on lettering.
 - c. USBC High School does have a lapel pin for students that bowl honor scores (298, 299, 300, 700, 800, or 900).
 - i. NMHSBA will fill out the form and submit.
 1. <http://usbcongress.http.internapcdn.net/usbcongress/bowl/highschool/pdfs/AwardApplication.PDF>

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- 7.) What are the rules for conducting raffles (50/50, bowling ball, etc)?
- a. Need to research for yourself, but this is what we understand.
 - b. Governance is with New Mexico Gaming Commission Board <http://www.nmgcb.org/> , and the Alcohol and Gaming Division <http://www.rld.state.nm.us/alcoholandgaming/> .
 - c. NMGCB Gambling
 - i. Overview -> <http://www.nmgcb.org/gambling-review.aspx>
 - ii. NMGCB Bingo and Raffle Act document
[http://www.nmgcb.org/uploads/FileLinks/abe1e927ad7340db9aee0003e7653e3b/The New Mexico Bingo and Raffle Act.pdf](http://www.nmgcb.org/uploads/FileLinks/abe1e927ad7340db9aee0003e7653e3b/The%20New%20Mexico%20Bingo%20and%20Raffle%20Act.pdf)
 1. Key points
 - a. An educational and/or charitable organization can conduct one per quarter without licensing.
 - b. Can conduct regularly with license. Cost involved.
 - d. Alcohol and Gaming Division (AGD)
 - i. New Mexico Administrative Code Title 15 Gaming and Liquor Control
<http://www.rld.state.nm.us/uploads/files/Alcohol%20and%20Gaming/NMAC%200AGD%20RULES%20and%20REGS%20book%2C%20issued%207JUNE2017%2C%20Revised%204%2025%2017%20and%205%2030%2017%20website.pdf>
 1. Page 23 Games of Chance
 - a. It is our interpretation that a game of chance is when a ticket is drawn before the skill occurs. So whatever is done needs to have the skill occur before it is drawn.
 - ii. In accordance with info from center
 1. Anyone selling tickets and/or the center may be cited.
 2. They can be fined \$10,000
 3. Center could lose alcohol license
 - iii. In accordance with email from AGD.
 1. The center is licensed to sale alcohol and therefore the facility is not allowed to have raffles conducted on their premises without doing a temporary suspension of license or addressing cutout within that can be allowed. We are working options now.
 - e. An option you can consider in lieu of 50/50 is fill a jar with an item (jelly beans, M&Ms, marbles, etc), sale tickets with the recipient putting a guess of the count on the ticket with their name and number. The one guessing closest wins. This ensures the skill occurs before the draw.
- 8.) USBC Youth Membership
- a. If we do certify our tournaments with USBC:
 - i. It does not require a student to get a youth membership.
 - ii. If a high school team member desires to be a USBC Youth member then they may do so. But, the entire team does not have to do it just because they do.
 - iii. If a student is 18 years old or older, then they must complete the USBC Safesport before bowling in an event.

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1. <http://usbcongress.http.internapcdn.net/usbcongress/bowl/rules/pdfs/SafeSportRVPandMinors.pdf>
- b. Refer to this link for benefits and how to obtain a membership.
 - i. https://www.bowl.com/High_School/High_School_Home/Membership/
 - a. You can obtain the ending average on NMHSBA website at any time by going to the results individual tab and looking up the person. We (NMHSBA) do post a mid-season (beginning of Jan) and end of season (after state tournament) list on the website under Results Yearly Average to get it as well.

PRACTICES

- 1.) When and where are HS bowling practices?
 - a. Practices usually begin the first Monday in October.
 - b. Practices are finished once the State event has occurred.
 - i. An exception that may occur is if a school decides to take their team to U.S. High School Nationals usually held in June. It is anticipated that at some point the team will want to practice before they go.
 - c. Practices at the bowling center(s) are scheduled, conducted, organized, and paid for by the school. Each center has different policies on cost and when it applies.
 - d. A school may have team meetings and fund raising events prior to practice sessions beginning.
- 2.) What are the practice times and/or rates for centers?
 - a. Each center has their own days and times of availability for school or individual practices. It is up to the school and/or individuals to work it out.
 - b. A set of stickers for listed eligible students is provided by NMHSBA to the school's head coach once they have filed their current season coaches form in the coaches guidelines, had their first eligibility form with student list completed and sent to NMHSBA by school administration, signed up to work one of the tournament squads.
 - c. At this time, the rates a member of a high school team varies from center to center. In the Albuquerque metro area we see \$1.00, \$1.33, \$2.00, and \$2.50 per game. Student may be required to have their student ID card with NMHSBA sticker attached to receive the discount.
- 3.) Can a high school team have weekend practices?
 - a. NMHSBA has no rule.
 - b. NMAA by-laws do not mention. However, in prior discussions it was noted that NMAA would not approve a Sunday event without special circumstances.
 - c. District or school may have restrictions.
 1. An example, Albuquerque Public Schools Athletic handbook (<http://www.aps.edu/athletics/documents/apsathletichandbook.pdf>) Section V Participation and Coaching prohibits Sunday practices and/or meetings unless approved by school principal/activity director and APS Athletic Director.

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TOURNAMENT

- 1.) Tournaments occur in a Bowling Center and NMHSBA supports the Bowling Center's policy of **no outside food and/or beverage**.
- 2.) Any particular playing rules to note?
 - a. NMHSBA rules http://www.nmhsba.org/newsletters/NMHSBA_Coach_Guidelines.pdf
 - b. USBC rules - All tournament are USBC certified and therefore they apply. http://www.bowl.com/Rules/Rules_Home/USBC_Playing_Rules/
 - i. Rules not usually known and important:
 1. **USBC Rule 400 – Youth (Amateur) eligibility**
https://www.bowl.com/Youth/Youth_Home/Eligibility_and_rules/
 - a. **May not bowl in any activity that offer cash, bond, or merchandise >=\$500.**
 - b. **May bowl in a singles event that offers these, however, need to sign a waiver to not accept them if they pay. Form must be signed before start of event.**
 2. Fouls (USBC rule 5)
 - a. The foul line is an infinite line that goes wall to wall. If the bowler crosses that line, no matter where they are, it is a foul. Example, 1) a person touches a wall beyond the foul line; 2) a person steps over the foul line onto the lane, a gutter, etc.
 - b. A ball crossing the line because it is delivered early, is not a foul. We want to prevent this when it may be so early that it may be affecting the approach area for other bowlers. (see item 5 below)
 - c. If something falls out of a pocket, off the head, etc. and lands on the lane, it in itself is not a foul. However, you cannot reach over to pick it up until you have requested permission to do so, and that should be after the ball has reached the pin deck and before the next person throws.
 - d. Coaches need to be aware of the foul light/buzzer system to ensure working properly. If not, then coaches need to monitor and correct as needed.
 3. Illegal Pin fall (USBC rule 6b)
 - a. When a foul occurs on the first ball, no pin fall counts, and the score is marked as a zero (0). You must reset the rack for a second throw at a full rack of pins.
 - b. When a ball leaves the lane, goes into the gutter, and returns out of the gutter to the lane; no pin fall counts. If this is the first ball then enter a score of zero (0) and reset the rack for a full rack. If it is the second ball then change the score to zero (0) and go to next bowler.

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- c. When a pin is touched by the pinsetter. This applies even if the pin appears that the pin(s) is leaning and would have fallen. You must correct the score if necessary and reset the pin(s).
 - d. A delivery is made while there is dead wood on the lane or in the gutter, and either the ball hits the deadwood or the deadwood hits pins. If allowed and happens then you need to reset whatever was standing and redo the throw. Our instruction is you will have any deadwood removed before throwing any ball to prevent this scenario.
4. Improperly set pins (USBC rule 7a)
- a. Bowlers, as well as coaches, need to check the pin deck to ensure there is a complete rack before the bowler throws the ball. The rack is accepted as is.
 - b. No change can be made in the position of any pin(s) left standing after bowler's first ball delivery, unless
 - i. The pinsetter moved or misplaced the pin, or
 - ii. Any standing pins are outside the range of the sweep bar.
 - iii. You cannot use the reset to clear deadwood in range of the sweep bar when there are remaining pins out of normal position. You need to request the pins be removed manually.
5. Dead ball (USBC rule 8)
- a. Attention is called immediately that one or more pins is missing in the rack.
 - i. This should not happen. Please reference item 1a above.
 - ii. If it does happen, for our purposes, immediately means enough time for others from both teams to validate. An after the pin deck is cleared call is not considered immediately.
6. Approaches Must Not Be Defaced (USBC rulebook rule 12)
- a. The application of any foreign substance on any part of the approach that detracts from the possibility of other players having normal conditions is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, talcum powder, pumice and resin on shoes, and/or soft rubber soles or heels that rub off on the approach.
 - b. Students using powder balls, easy slide for thumbs/fingers, or rosin bags need to take consideration to prevent it from being displaced on the floor.
 - c. NMHSBA requires you to wear bowling shoes, no street shoes.
7. Altering surface (sanding or polishing) of a ball (USBC rulebook rule 18)
- a. May not be done once ball has been delivered in competition.
 - i. Competition is defined as once practice is over.

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- ii. In our tournaments, there is no separation in events when bowling regular games or bakercs. Therefore, you cannot alter the surface between them.
 - b. When done it must be the full surface not just an area.
 - c. A cleaner must be on the approved USBC list to be used during events. You must consult NMHSBA before use.
 - d. If you decide to alter the surface during NMHSBA practice, you must contact a NMHSBA staff member to approve and watch.
8. Players (USBC rule 322)
- a. Not being present for your turn may result in a zero (0) score if it is determined to be a delay of game by a director.
 - b. If there is an emergency, please notify a board member immediately to ensure we can address it then. It still may not warrant a deviation to the rule.
9. Team Bowling Alone (USBC rule 325)
- a. Each player must complete a frame on one lane before the player bowling lead off starts the next frame on the adjoining lane.
10. Hand Delivery (USBC rule 328)
- a. Classified and Handicapped leagues must use the hand the average is based on and must be used throughout once event started.
 - b. NMHSBA events are considered classified events for the Intermediate, because the divisions are based on an average and therefore must follow this guidance.
 - c. The Advanced division is considered scratch and does not.
11. Bowling Ball specs (USBC chapter 8)
- a. A ball may have only one balance hole.
 - i. Therefore a person that does not use their thumb and they have a side weight hole, then they must fill either the side hole or the thumb hole.
 - ii. If a bowler is throwing some shots with and some without their thumb, then they need to ensure the driller knows so that they ensure the static weights are correct for both types of deliveries with the same ball.
 - b. A ball may have a hole for each finger. Not all finger holes are required to be used on all deliveries.
 - c. Due to the newness of this set of rules, it is possible that we (NMHSBA) will need to take a look at the bowlers

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throwing balls with and without thumbs to ensure specifications are being met.

- d. If you read the USBC rulebook, item 7b has an incorrect date. It is 8/1/2020, not 8/1/18.

3.) Is there a dress code for NMHSBA Tournaments?

- a. Yes. See Coaches Guidelines on NMHSBA website.
http://www.nmhsba.org/newsletters/NMHSBA_Coach_Guidelines.pdf

4.) When are HS bowling tournaments?

- a. Usually begins first Saturday in November and ends the week before state tournament around mid-February. See Schedule on NMHSBA website.

5.) What is the tournament schedule?

- a. It is posted on NMHSBA website at <http://www.nmhsba.org/Tournaments2.aspx>
- b. Usually consists of ten (10) or eleven (11) regular season events, one (1) Senior Individual event, and one (1) State Tournament.
- c. No events on major holiday weekends (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years)

6.) How does tournament scheduling of teams work?

- a. NMHSBA standard is to ensure all schools have the same opportunity to compete with as many teams/bowlers as any other school in an event and preferably the squad of their choice. Option 2 listed below is our current method. With an increase in number of schools or number of bowlers per school participating, option 3 or 4 may become the method.
 - i. Option 1-> First come, first serve. First come, first server limits the opportunity for all schools to get their preferred squad. For example, if a team was to put in 13 teams in a single squad before anyone else and we are at a 22 lane center, then the other 23 high schools participating would only have 9 lanes of opportunity for their teams in that squad.
 - ii. Option 2 -> School requests what they want. If there are too many teams scheduler reduces largest number request of a school until they are even with the next highest number. This maximizes the number of teams per school to participate. An exception for reducing team count is when board members are affected in support of running the tournament.
 - iii. Option 3 -> Limit number of teams that a school can submit.
 - iv. Option 4 -> Limit number of students on a roster.
- b. No one (coaches, parents, students, etc) should make any plans (time off work, schedule other activity, etc) until NMHSBA confirms coaches entry requests as noted below.
- c. Weekly events – Albuquerque Metro Area Tournament processing
 - i. Coaches submit their requests on-line via NMHSBA tool between Sunday 12 pm and Wednesday 7 pm. On occasions there are exceptions to this. It is noted at coaches meetings on Saturdays or via email.
 - ii. On Wednesday evening, we work the schedule to match number of lanes per squad available against all schools requesting.

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- iii. On Thursday morning, coaches will know the actual squad and number of teams by looking at the online info
 - d. Weekly events - Out-of-town processing
 - i. Handled differently because majority of teams are out of town, centers are usually smaller, bus accommodations, everyone wants the same squad, etc.
 - ii. NMHSBA maintains a file with all previously out-of-town tournaments with squad and number of teams for reference to ensure we are doing our best to rotate the squad assignments for these in order to be fair to all schools.
 - iii. NMHSBA sends an email two to three weeks in advance of the event asking for coaches to provide their requests by a cutoff date.
 - iv. NMHSBA reviews and puts together a plan.
 - v. The plan is emailed to the coaches for their acceptance to attend as planned. Unaccepted slots are available for other schools to take more teams.
 - vi. The coaches enter the plan when the time comes.
- 7.) Why does NMHSBA not use the last pair of lanes in an event?
- a. The last pair is not used in order to have a backup pair to cover for the possibility of breakdowns on other lanes.
 - b. If we put a team on that pair and there is a breakdown, then without a backup pair it will more than likely create a delay in completing a squad which causes a delay for one or both squads. This delay is an impact to the schools from out-of-town as they are billed for it by the bus company, and our contract with the centers to be out by 5:30 pm.
 - c. It is also not an acceptable option to make an agreement with the coach to pull any team off if a breakdown occurs. The team shall be allowed to complete the tournament in accordance with our events being USBC certified.
- 8.) NMHSBA does not normally allow anyone to sale or raffle non-NMHSBA items at NMHSBA events. This is primarily due to having to try and manage every possible type of sale that is acceptable to NMAA and school standards, managing opportunity for each school to do so, impact to NMHSBA sales/raffles, etc. On rare occasion we have considered special causes not related to the bowling activities. You may ask at least two weeks in advance for permission from the NMHSBA board.

OTHER

- 1.) Certification, Sanction, and Membership terms in reference to USBC.
- a. Based our review of the USBC Rulebook and website:
 - i. The words certify(ied)(cation) appears for these,
 - 1. A league or tournament may be USBC **certified**.
 - 2. A center may be USBC **certified**.
 - 3. Equipment are **certified**.
 - 4. A person may be a USBC **Certified** Coach.
 - 5. A USBC member may obtain a USBC **certified** average via being a USBC member and bowled in a certified league/tournament.
 - ii. A person may be a USBC **Member** via USBC **Membership** processes.
 - 1. This is the one that has been called certified or sanctioned, even by me due to my past experiences. Based on definition below, I believe sanction(ed) could be an appropriate

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terminology, but definitely not certify(ied). But note that the word sanction(ed) is not in the USBC rulebook. Sanction has been used when the local association sends out their paperwork.

2. Note your USBC card says member.
 3. USBC has find a "member", when look at a member it has a tab that says "Membership".
 4. Note you get a member ID not certification number/ID.
- b. Definitions that help us to understand these uses:
- i. Certification - the action or process of providing someone or something with an official document attesting to a status or level of achievement.
 - ii. Sanction - give official permission or approval for (an action).
 - iii. Membership - the fact of being a member of a group.
- c. Therefore going forward, NMHSBA will try to speak in terms of memberships and certifications as identified in this discussion.
- d.