

## 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 <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](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. Be advised that Volunteer programs usually require a background check. It is done as part of the school or district process.
  - b. Any Volunteer may be required to present their background credential or school credentials to validate they are done to an NMHSBA staff member at any NMHSBA event. NMHSBA determines that the documentation is of an acceptable form.

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- c. You do not have to be a member of the USBC Registered Volunteer Program (RVP) and the RVP does not substitute for the school program check.
- 5.) Certification
- a. Does the High School team have to certify students with USBC because NMHSBA certifies their tournaments?
    - i. No. However, be aware that one reason to certify a student is that if they bowl 12 or more games in our tournaments, then they will have an average and may be eligible to bowl in their local USBC tournaments without having to bowl scratch. This also helps students who do not have the time to join a USBC league to obtain one. A second reason is if they throw an honor score during a tournament they will receive recognition from USBC.
  - b. How does a student certify?
    - i. They can do it through NMHSBA or on-line
      - 1. NMHSBA
        - a. We file certification form and cards with local USBC.
          - i. This prevents each school from having to do this.
        - b. We inform the coaches to provide the certification cards to us.
          - i. If student is already certified this year, then they only need to file the card with indication of where they certified.
          - ii. If they have not yet certified, they provide the same card with the appropriate fee (\$4).
        - c. We will provide local USBC the average list at the end of the year.
      - 2. On-Line
        - a. Go to this link  
<https://apps.bowl.com/AssociateMembership/main.aspx>
        - b. Follow the prompts and pay.
- 6.) 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](http://www.ped.state.nm.us/div/fin/trans/regs/6.41.4nmac.html#Activity%20Trips)
    - ii. <http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/TranspIndex.html>
  - b. District
    - i. Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) –
      - 1. Section IX of APS Athletic Handbook  
<http://www.aps.edu/athletics/documents/apsathletichandbook.pdf>
      - 2.
    - ii. Rio Rancho Public Schools (RRPS) –
      - 1.
  - c. School
- 7.) Are there 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](http://www.nmhsba.org/newsletters/NMHSBA_State_Flier.pdf)

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- 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.
- 8.) What is 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%20AGD%20RULES%20and%20REGS%20book%2C%20issued%207JUNE2017%2C%2020Revised%204%2025%2017%20and%205%2030%2017%20website.pdf>
      - 1. Page 23 Games of Chance
    - 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.

## **PRACTICES**

- 1.) When and where are HS bowling practices?
  - a. Usually begin the first Monday in October.
  - b. They are finished once State event has occurred.
  - c. They are conducted and organized with bowling center(s) of the school's choice.
  - d. A school may have team meetings and fund raising events prior to practice sessions beginning.

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- 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 standard rate for a student who is a member of a high school team varies from center to center of \$1.00 to \$1.33 per game. Student may be required to have their student ID card with NMHSBA sticker attached to receive the discount.
  
- 3.) Can we 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.

## 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](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/](http://www.bowl.com/Rules/Rules_Home/USBC_Playing_Rules/)
    - i. Rules not usually known:
      1. **USBC Rule 400 – Youth (Amateur) eligibility**  
[https://www.bowl.com/Youth/Youth\\_Home/Eligibility\\_and\\_rules/](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. USBC rulebook rule 12 – Approaches Must Not Be Defaced
        - a. Nothing applied to bottom of shoe (Talcum powder, resin, easy slide, etc). If unsure, then ask NMHSBA tournament director BEFORE using.
        - b. NMHSBA requires you to wear bowling shoes, no street shoes.
      3. USBC rulebook rule 18 – Altering surface (sanding or polishing) of a ball

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- a. May not be done once ball has been delivered in competition.
      - i. Competition is defined as once practice is over.
    - 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.
    - d. If you decide to alter the surface during NMHSBA practice, you must contact a NMHSBA staff member to approve and watch.
  4. USBC rule 328 – Hand Delivery
    - 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.
- 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](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 or Coaches Guidelines 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 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.

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- 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 – Metro Area process
    - 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.
    - 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 process
    - 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.