

2023 - 2024

BOYS AND GIRLS

**E.C.I.C. BOWLING
STANDARDS**



2023 - 2024 E.C.I.C. Rules

VARSITY BOWLING - BOYS AND GIRLS

1. **N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Regulations:** Interschool competition in bowling should be conducted in the Winter Sports season. It is recommended that training shall precede the first match and that all competitors be in uniform. All competition shall be conducted under N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. and United States Bowling Congress (“USBC”) rules and regulations. The maximum number of team and interschool contests in a season is 20 plus Sectional and State Championships and games necessary to break divisional or league ties. Individuals are limited to a maximum of six (6) games per day. The foul line rules shall never be set aside.
2. **Standards of Conduct and Sportsmanship:** All matches shall be conducted under the E.C.I.C. Standards of Conduct Policy, and the Section VI Sportsmanship Policy. Coaches should refer to these documents for policies, procedures, and penalties for violations and infractions.
3. **Awards and Eligibility: AMATEUR Rule 400:** USBC Youth membership is available to individuals who have not reached their 18th birthday prior to August 1 of the current bowling season and have maintained compliance with item a below. Individuals who purchase Youth membership in a summer league and turn 18 prior to August 1 will be allowed to complete the summer league.
 - a. Except as provided in item b, a youth may not bowl, substitute or pace in any bowling activity which offers any of the following as prizes:
 1. Cash or bonds.
 2. Merchandise exceeding \$500 in value
 - b. Youth may bowl in SINGLES competitions (including side competitions/brackets) offering such prizes, provided, prior to bowling:
 1. The youth and parent /legal guardian sign the Consent Form (see BOWL.com/Rules)
 2. The competition agrees to award the youth’s prize in the form of a scholarship; or
 3. The youth waives his/her right to any prize in violation of this rule.

In youth competition, youth members may participate in side competitions/brackets provided all entries are returned 100% in the form of scholarships only and awards comply with item a.

Buying or selling of earned prizes is prohibited.

Any youth bowler deemed in violation of this rule is subject to disciplinary action including the potential loss of youth membership.

NOTE: USBC has no limits on:

1. Scholarship amounts
2. Entry fees (must be paid directly to the tournament director/manager)
3. Reimbursements of actual travel expenses into the next higher level of competition or any tournament or event. (Receipts must be provided upon request.)

4. Prizes authorized by a grade/state high school athletic association or a collegiate athletic association recognized by USBC and USBC Collegiate

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete participating in high school sports to know what prizes/awards could violate amateur status rules established by their high school athletic association.

The prizes authorized by a state high school athletic association or a collegiate athletic association recognized by USBC and USBC Collegiate are not subject to the limitations of this rule.

4. **USBC Sanction:** Highly recommended for all bowlers. Information can be obtained from the Greater Buffalo USBC. The phone number is (716) 668-4222 or email at contact@gbusbc.com.
5. **Rosters:** Each participating school shall provide a roster of no more than 16 bowlers. The roster and an accurate schedule should be sent to the appropriate E.C.I.C. chairpersons before the first match of the season. This information should include each bowler's full name, birth date and year in school. You may carry a total of 16 bowlers on your roster, but you can only travel a maximum of 12 bowlers to away matches. **As per NYSPHSAA regulations**, the only seventh and eighth grade bowlers allowed on the roster are those who qualified in the top eight bowlers in the nine-game tryouts.
6. **Number of Bowlers For Match Play:**
 - a. Each participating school will have two teams in each match, an "A" team and a "B" team. The "A" and "B" teams will each consist of three (3) bowlers competing for score. The practice / extra bowlers will be on the "C" team for use as substitution. The "C" team will also bowl three games (scores do not count).(Clarification: If a team has fewer than six (6) bowlers, the "A" team will be filled first. Teams must have a minimum of two (2) bowlers out of three (3) in order to compete. Fewer than two (2) bowlers will require forfeiture of points. Individual scores, however, will be allowed to count toward average, awards, etc. If both schools competing have fewer than two (2) bowlers on a team, then there shall be a double forfeiture of points.)
 - b. Note: Non-roster bowlers are not allowed to bowl during a match.
7. **Special Tryout Provision for 7th and 8th Grade Students Trying out for Varsity Bowling:**
 - a. Any 7th grade or 8th grade student may be given the opportunity to tryout for a varsity bowling team. At the completion of the tryout sessions, which must include 9 games bowled over a 3-day period, if the individual's bowling average puts him/her in the top 8 of your bowlers, he/she is eligible to be selectively classified. Every student must continue to meet the developmental screening requirement. Contact your Athletic Director for screening. Please refer to N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Handbook. [Make sure you keep a copy of your completed tryout averages.]
 - b. During the season, if you need to add a bowler, you can add a 7th or 8th grade student. This can be done by first checking with your Athletic Director for approval to add the student to the roster. Then he or she will need to bowl 9 games over a 3 day period.

Their average for the 9 games must be in the top 8 averages from your original try-outs. Then you can add them to your full time roster.

8. **Match Scoring and Standings:**

- a. Point System: One (1) point shall be awarded for each game won by the “A” team and one (1) point shall be awarded for each game won by the “B” team. One (1) point for the combined total pins for three (3) games for both the “A” and “B” teams shall also be awarded. The grand total for a match is 7 points. Any team which wins four (4) or more points shall have won the match. Team score of 3.5 to 3.5 shall be declared a tie match.
- b. Divisional Standings: Divisional standings shall be determined by the combined total of matches, wins, losses, and ties.

9. **Blind Scores:**

- a. If a blind score is necessitated, the blind score shall be either 100, or 20 pins less than the lowest opponent’s score on that team, whichever is less.
- b. If both teams have corresponding blind score, each team shall receive a blind score of 100.
- c. Partial Blind: If a blind score is necessitated for only part of a game, then 1/10th of the blind score, as determined above, shall be given per frame. If the total results in a score with a fraction in it, then the fraction shall be dropped. (Example: game with blind frames equals 159.9; the score recorded is 159 NOT 160).

10. **Lineups and Substitutions:**

Lineup Procedures

- a. At the beginning of a match, the coach of the home team will submit a scoresheet to the visiting coach. The score sheet must be filled out with the home team’s starting lineup for the first game for both “A” and “B” teams. With the exception of the first match of the season, the score sheet will also include each player’s current E.C.I.C. average. (In the event that a bowler has no previous E.C.I.C. average, the average category will remain blank.)
- b. The visiting coach will then fill out their starting “A” and “B” lineup on the scoresheet, also including each bowler’s current league average. At this point, the starting line-ups become official.
- c. At the beginning of each subsequent game, if either coach opts to change their starting line-up from the end of the previous game, the opposing coach will have the option to do the same. Once a starting lineup change is declared, it becomes official for that game.

Note: In the event that any attempt is made to misrepresent the average of a bowler, the match will be bowled under “protest” and will be referred to the “competition committee” for examination. If it is determined by the committee that the coach knowingly misrepresented a bowler’s average, that team will forfeit the match.

Substitutions

- a. Substitute bowlers may move from the practice lanes to the “A” or “B” teams at any time after the start of an E.C.I.C. game. Any time a coach initiates a substitution, the opposing coach will have the option to do the same. Once a bowler is removed from the “A” or

“B” teams, the bowler may not return to competition on either the “A” or “B” team until the beginning of the next game.

- b. If a player other than the original starters enters at the beginning of the second or third game, that player may take two (2) practice rolls on each lane prior to bowling.
 - c. Bowlers who enter during a game shall not receive practice rolls.
11. **Re-cap Sheets:** Re-cap sheets must be filled out completely and legibly. Information should include:
- a. Date
 - b. School names, and team class (“A” or “B”)
 - c. Name of bowling establishment
 - d. First and last names of bowlers and current average
 - e. A list of scores bowled including a clear indication of any partial games with the number of frames and the partial score indicated
 - f. Totals both across and down (sums should be equal)
 - g. Number of points won and lost by “A”, “B” and the entire team
 - h. Initials of the coaches after a thorough check of the addition
 - i. A copy of the score sheet must be e-mailed or faxed to the E.C.I.C. Division Scoring Chairperson. This must be done as soon as possible after the match.

12. **Rule 18 - Bowling Ball - Altering Surface**

While bowling in USBC competition, a bowling ball cannot:

- a. Have the surface altered by the use of an abrasive.
- b. Be cleaned with any liquid substance or cleaning agent.
- c. Have any foreign material on it including, but not limited to, powder, rosin, marker or paint.

All bowling balls so altered or cleaned must be removed from the competition.

Note: should a foreign substance appear on the outer surface of a bowling ball which cannot be removed with a dry towel, an approved cleaner may be used with consent from a league or tournament officer.

13. **Two Handed Bowling**

If a bowler uses a ball with no thumb hole, the bowler must **always** bowl with ball cradled in the dominant hand for both the initial release of the ball as well as for the spare (if needed.)

A bowler who doesn’t use the thumb during a delivery cannot have a thumb or a balance hole. If the ball does, it is illegal and games are subject to forfeiture. All holes drilled must be used for gripping purposes on every delivery.

Once it is discovered that a bowler is using equipment which is not within specifications, the ball must be removed from competition and corrected before it can be used during certified competition. If the bowler uses a ball that is non-conforming with knowledge that it is out of specifications, the scores are subject to forfeiture. Two bowling balls that cannot be used in competitive bowling are the Purple Hammer 2016 and 2017 and the Storm Spectre. USBC has decertified them.

14. **Smoking and Alcohol At Matches:** Coaches should make every effort (in cooperation with the House Management) to make sure that the rule prohibiting smoking and consumption of alcoholic beverages in any area which has a school match or practice taking place be strictly enforced.
15. **Uniforms:** All bowlers are required to wear team uniforms consisting of matching colored pants and school supplied shirts. No shorts, no head wear and no cutoffs will be allowed. Pants must be worn in the proper manner with no undergarments showing.
16. **Electronics:** No electronics shall be used by bowlers during a match. Example: head-sets, cell phones, ipods, ipads, etc. If bowler continues to use electronic devices after being verbally warned, he/she will be removed from the remainder of the match.
17. **Bowling Before Matches:** There shall be no bowling **anywhere** by **any member** of the Varsity team, including substitutes, on the day of a scheduled match. This includes matches, practice bowling, shadow bowling and physical education classes. The bowler in violation will not be allowed to bowl in that day's matches.
18. **Intentional Foul:** Any bowler who intentionally fouls to gain a scoring advantage will receive a zero for that frame. This violation will be determined by the coaches.
19. **Lane Choice:** The visiting team shall have the choice of starting lane.
20. **Warm-up Practice:** At the beginning of a match, all bowlers from both teams will be given a 10 minute practice time set up by bowling lanes. The warm-up period cannot start until both teams are ready. There will be no re- racks during this time except for mechanical problems.
21. **Starting Time:** All matches home and away will start at 4:00 PM or as soon as possible after the arrival of both teams. (NOTE: The home coach should provide timely notification to the visiting coach in the case that the schedule for the home lanes might mandate an earlier than normal finishing time, and therefore, starting time.)
22. **Late Arrivals:** If a team is unable to arrive on time at a scheduled match, for any reason (including, but not limited to, extreme weather conditions, bus mechanical problems, etc.), the Coach must contact the destination lanes to confirm that there will be enough time to complete the scheduled match. If the team cannot arrive on time to complete the match, said match shall be rescheduled.
23. **Lane Breakdown:** In the case of a lane breakdown during a match which necessitates an "A" or "B" team to move to a new pair of lanes, the competition shall be suspended while all competing bowlers involved roll two (2) practice balls on each new lane. (By mutual agreement of both coaches, this practice may be waived). All scores (if any) will be transferred from the vacated pair and competition will resume at the point at which it was interrupted.
24. **Incomplete Match:** In the event that it is impossible to finish all three games of a match (e.g. power failure, unsafe conditions, lane management refuses continuance due to late hour, etc.), then said match will be rescheduled and scoring resumed at the point where it was interrupted. If it is not possible to determine the scores up to that point (due to possibly,

failure of automatic scoring devices, etc.), then that game shall be re-bowled in its entirety. If for any reason games cannot be made up due to unforeseen circumstances, the attending school's athletic directors will determine the final outcome of the match.

25. **Divisional Ties:** Ties for 1st place in the division championship shall be declared co-Champions.
26. **All-Stars:**
 - a. Each division shall have an All-Star Team made up of the top four (4) averages within each division (Averages should be determined to the nearest hundredth of a pin and should comprise only games bowled in "A" or "B" competition in division matches, including partial games).
 - b. Bowlers must bowl 2/3 of the possible frames in league matches only in order to be eligible for All-Star selection or any league awards.
 - c. Patches will be awarded in all four divisions as follows: 1st place: blue; 2nd place: red; 3rd place: white; 4th place: green.
27. **The All-E.C.I.C. Team:** This team will consist of five boys and five girls with the highest averages in the E.C.I.C. league
28. **Sectional Competition:**
 - a. All teams which finish with a season record of .500 or better for Division matches shall qualify for competition at the Section VI Championships. In addition, all boys with a 190 average and all girls with a 150 average not on a qualifying team are eligible for sectional competition. In order to qualify, an individual must have participated in 50% of his or her team's divisional matches.
 - b. Section VI procedures shall be followed for all Sectional competition.
 - c. Sectional rules require that all individuals and teams must have a Coach present at the Sectional's in order to compete.
 - d. If a team has qualified at .500 and has more then 6 bowlers with averages of 150 for girls or 190 for boys the coach may opt to bring those bowlers as individuals.
29. **Roll-Off Tournament:**
 - a. Upon completion of all divisional matches, and before the Section VI Tournament, there will be an E.C.I.C. Roll-Off Tournament held separately for both boys and girls, and open to all bowlers who have bowled at least one complete game in divisional competition. Competition shall be individual and patches for high set and high game will be presented in each division. Seasonal awards for high average, high set and high game, as well as All-Star awards and announcement of Sectional representation from each division will normally be made at this tournament to the extent possible. Patches will be given to the coaches so they can hand them out at their end of the season banquets.