

**Indiana Middle School Bowling**  
**GUIDELINES & RULES FOR GRADES 5, 6, 7 & 8 – IMSB 2016**  
**(www.indianagobowl.com)**

1. The purpose of the Indiana Middle School Bowling Program will be to provide all school students, grades 5, 6, 7 & 8, the opportunity to experience the spirit of school competition and community pride. The program, available to both boys and girls, will provide opportunity to compete with other grade 5-8 bowlers from across the state. The program can also prepare the athletes for the local high school team. Students may compete individually and there is no limit on the number of participants from their school. Home school students may participate, but cannot field a tournament team.
2. We are going to provide a program with basic guidelines for centers (schools) to use and implement a feeder program for the IHSB program. We will spell out basics, but allow each center to determine particulars as to how it will best work for them at the local level. The local competition may be singles or teams (any number) and they may bowl any number of games. It is suggested to not allow pre or post bowling. All bowling should be done in competition. Competition may be scratch or handicap. Local competition will take place from **February 22 – April 30, 2016. We will spell out the rules for the 3-week (Saturday) tournament series. The tournament will run the three weeks prior to the Memorial Day weekend (May 7, 14 & 21, 2016).**
3. Center information forms are due **February 13, 2016**. There is no charge for Indiana Bowling Center Association (IBCA) members to participate. **Non-members need to pay a \$100 deposit to participate in the program.** Participating centers may request as many IMSB posters as they need. 'How To' manuals are available upon request. The local center will set a player's fee (\$100? – only suggested) that may provide the following: Bowling Lineage (Practices & Meets), Coaching, Banners, Awards and Secretarial Services for the 9-week program (**February 22 – April 30, 2016**). The center will forward **\$40 per student** to the IBCA (**THIS IS THE EARLY BIRD PRICE IF PAID BY MARCH 13, 2016**). This will cover the cost of an official IMSB T-shirt, participation ribbon and singles entry into a regional tournament. The T-shirts will be provided by Classic Products and will sport our official Middle School Logo. Each school can choose their own color of T-Shirt, but lettering must be either white or black. If the center gets all the same color shirts, any color or print is available. Shirts will be ordered and sent to centers as soon as monies and numbers are received. **Coaches' shirts are \$10. The cost after March 13 will be \$50 for students and \$20 for coaches' shirts. Bowlers may be added, but THERE WILL BE NO ADDITIONS AFTER APRIL 9.** Local fundraisers may supplement program needs
4. Centers may schedule no more than 1 school practice per week. Centers may schedule up to 10 meets (May have more than 1 per week to accommodate spring break, etc.). Competition will typically be scheduled after school. Some weekend competition might be necessary, based on lane availability and weather conditions (Competition will be allowed on Sunday after 1pm.). We will allow centers to determine practice time and meet schedule within the allotted calendar time. (One option would be to schedule the practice prior to the meet so transportation is needed just once per week.) Competition may start **February 22, 2016**.

5. To be eligible to compete, students must meet the following requirements:
  - a. They must be in grades 5, 6, 7 or 8.
  - b. They must be a certified USBC Youth. The program will abide by USBC rules as well as those set forth here. Bowlers must have a \$4 Youth membership.
  - c. They must meet the minimum academic guidelines to participate in athletic activities for their particular school.
  - d. They must sign & follow the IMSB “Rules of Conduct & Uniform”, and “Transportation Waiver of Liability”,
6. Each participant and coach must arrange for his/her own transportation to and from practices, matches and tournaments. In some cases, school policy may dictate the transportation policy. In which case, the head coach would have the responsibility to conform to the school policy. **‘Transportation Waiver’ MUST be on file before the student may participate (this includes practice).**
7. IMSB events are Smoke-Free events. There will be no smoking allowed in the area designated for competition. Participants are subject to their school’s policy on tobacco, alcohol and drugs. Anyone caught with any of the substances will be immediately suspended from the day’s activities and become subject to school discipline.
8. Coaches must also sign and follow the IMSB “Coaches’ Responsibilities” form. They are not permitted to use tobacco or alcohol in the competition area. All coaches are required to enroll in the USBC RVP and wear their lanyards and badges at all competitions and practices. **They must wear slacks (No cargo pants, blue jeans, shorts or Capri’s) and the IMSB T-shirt to be in bowling area.**
9. Un-sportsmanlike conduct, including but not restricted to deliberate foot fouls, vulgar language, or abuse of equipment or facilities, is not permitted.
10. **Bowlers must wear the official ‘IMSB T Shirt’ and slacks (No cargo pants, blue jeans, shorts or Capri’s) to participate in local competition. Center official has final say on any inappropriate dress or jewelry. The dress code will be strictly enforced at all tournament sites (Regionals, Semi-States and Finals).**
11. CONTINGENCIES: IHSB Rules Committee will rule on any situation arising, which is not covered specifically by the IMSB Guidelines or the USBC Rule Book. This program is organized and operated by the Indiana Bowling Centers Association.

## **IMSBowling Tournament Format - 2016**

We will run a tournament at the conclusion of local competition. **It will be the three Saturdays prior to Memorial Day Weekend (Regionals May 7, Semi-States May 14 and Finals May 21, 2015).** Everyone may bowl in the regional singles tournament. Bowlers must have at least 6 games on the final average sheet to compete in the regionals. Tournament roster forms must be submitted by **April 23, 2016** to allow scheduling. The total number of bowlers in the program will determine the number of regionals. (We have scheduled 8 regionals in areas across the state where the program is being run. Additional sites may be added if needed.)

Bowlers **and coaches** must wear the official IMSB T-Shirt and slacks to participate in the tournament. Cargo pants, blue jeans, shorts and capris are not allowed.

Everyone will bowl 4 games, and keep all 4 for their final singles' score. Bowlers will compete against their gender (boys against boys and girls against girls) in their school grade (5, 6, 7 & 8). There will be no stepladder finals. We will advance a ratio of at least 1 – 6 into two semi-state sites. We will advance a ratio of at least 1 – 3 to the finals with a target of 80 bowlers. We plan to use at least a 32-lane center in a central location for the finals. The winning singles at the regional will receive medals. The top two in each division at the semi-state will receive medals. All other advancing bowlers will receive certificates. The top 4 at the finals will receive medals. Home school students may participate, but cannot field a tournament team. Any ties affecting advancement will be broken by rebowling the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> frames.

The top 4 bowlers' scores from each 'school' (and each successive group of 4) will be totaled to recognize the school team champions (the teams can be composed of either gender). We will plan to advance a ratio of at least 1 – 6 teams to the semi-states and a ratio of at least 1 – 3 to the finals. If any member of an advancing team doesn't qualify for singles, he/she will advance to bowl team event only. We will award medals to winning team members as well as a trophy for the winning team(s) at regionals and the top two places at semi-states. All other advancing teams will receive certificates. The top 4 teams at the finals will receive medals. **In the tournament students will bowl for the 'school' they will attend in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. All schools that flow into that school will be eligible for that team, grades 5-8.** Any ties affecting advancement will be broken by the top bowler on each team rebowling the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> frames.

We will use the same format at the regional, semi-state and finals. The 4 games will count for both singles and team. After the teams are determined at the regionals, they will bowl together for the next two events.

We will plan to make the finals an event, more than just the bowling. We plan to have food, music, etc.

Lineage will be set at \$3 per game for the regionals and finals. Bids will be received from participating centers. This fee is paid by initial entry fee. No fees will be charged for tournament. This program is run by the Indiana Bowling Centers Association.

There will be a door admission charge for the tournament. **Regional fee: \$3 students \$5 adults; Semi-State fee: \$4 student, \$6 adults; Finals fee: \$5 student, \$7 adults. Children under 6 are free.** Players and coaches are Free.

## 2015 INDIANA MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

IBCA Member Center information due	February 13, 2016
Non-Member info and \$100 deposit due After February 14, \$150 due.	February 13, 2016
Competition starts	February 22, 2016
Player waiver forms due to coach Player/coach waiver forms due to state	Prior to starting practice March 13, 2016
Center roster due	March 13, 2016
Player entry fees due \$40 bowler and \$10 coach	March 13, 2016
Late fee \$50 bowler and \$20 coach	After March 13, 2016
Final date to add players	April 9, 2016
Tournament Roster form due	April 23, 2016
Competition ends	April 30, 2016
<b>Regionals</b> (Other sites may be added) Plaza Lanes II, Crawfordsville; Crest Lanes, Marion; Franklin Lanes, Evansville; Rose City Bowl, New Castle; Bowl 32, Noblesville; Camelot Bowl, Portage; JRs Country Lanes, Rochester; Kingpins Bowl, Seymour.	May 7, 2016
<b>Semi-States</b> Championship Lanes, Anderson and Chippewa Bowl, South Bend.	May 14, 2016
<b>Finals</b> Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl, Lafayette.	May 21, 2016

*\*This schedule is tentative and may be changed by the IHSB Rules Committee if necessary.*

**2016 Indiana Middle School Bowling  
Student Rules of Conduct & Uniform**

1. Students must be in grades 5, 6, 7 or 8. **In the tournament students will bowl for the 'school' they will attend in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. All schools that flow into that school will be eligible for that team, grades 5-8.**
2. All bowlers must be USBC certified and be able to show proof of membership. The cost of certification is \$4. Once a bowler is certified in any league he/she is eligible for any and all leagues.  
Students must abide by USBC Rule #400. Members 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. Bowlers may bowl in SINGLES events that award cash prizes if they file a waiver form prior to bowling in the event.
3. Bowlers must meet their school's grade criteria for athletic competition. This is for local or state competition. It is up to school/center policy if they can attend practices.
4. All middle school matches are to be non-smoking events. Players caught using tobacco, alcohol or drugs on the center grounds will be immediately suspended from that day's activities. They are then subject to their school's policy for discipline.
5. All bowlers are subject to their school's policy for athletic participation and discipline.
6. Un-sportsmanlike conduct, including but not restricted to deliberate foot fouls, vulgar language, or abuse of equipment of facilities, is not permitted.
7. Team competitors must wear the T-Shirt with the 'Official IMSB Logo' and slacks for all matches, local and tournament (No cargo pants, blue jeans, shorts or Capri's). If a team member is not in uniform, the individual will not be allowed to participate.
8. The conference coordinator or tournament director will have final say as to inappropriate dress or jewelry.
9. It will be the responsibility of each participant in the IMSB to arrange for his/her own transportation to and from practices, matches and 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 as a result of travel in connection with IHSB activities.

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**THIS NEEDS TO BE FILLED OUT AND TURNED INTO COACH/CENTER PRIOR TO PRACTICE/BOWLING.**

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**2016 Student Travel Authorization, Waiver & Release**

My Child, \_\_\_\_\_, has permission to attend all scheduled Indiana Middle School Bowling Conference events. **BOTH STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN ASSUME AND ACCEPT ALL RISKS** related to transportation to and from each IMSBowling event. I understand that participation in the IMSBowling events involves potential risks of injury, both minor and serious. **BOTH STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN ASSUME AND ACCEPT ALL RISKS** associated with participation in IMSBowling events.

In consideration of IMSBowling permitting participation in IMSBowling events, **BOTH STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN HEREBY AGREE TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS OF WHATEVER NATURE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE, ARISING FROM PARTICIPATION AND TRANSPORTATION RELATED TO IMSBowling EVENTS** against Indiana Bowling Centers Association and Indiana Middle School Bowling (Board, Rules Committee, and Individual Members), All Participating Middle Schools, All Participating Bowling Centers, All Assigned Coaches, and each & every officer, employee, and agent of them.

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I have read the Rules of Conduct. I agree to abide by all eligibility rules of the Indiana Middle School Bowling Program. I understand and agree that if I am in violation of any of the rules, I will be asked to comply or I may be removed from competition. I have read the Travel Authorization, Waiver & Release and agree to its terms.

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Student Name - Printed \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female (Circle one)

Center \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

USBC # \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Class in School 5 6 7 8 (Circle One)

Parent/Guardian Name – Printed \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone # (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_ Second # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The coach **MUST** have this completed form before the athlete is allowed to practice. This form **MUST** be forwarded to the State Office (PO Box 66, Camby, 46113) by **March 13, 2016**.

## 2016 Indiana Middle School Bowling Coach Responsibilities

1. The host bowling center provides the coaches and the middle school may need to approve the center's coaches.
2. A coach must not be suspended by the USBC to be eligible to coach a middle school program.
3. The coach is responsible to see that his team plays within the rules of IMSB. He is subject to suspension if his team violates any of the printed rules.
4. Coaches need to make sure the students attend the school for which they bowl. **In the tournament students must bowl for the school they attend. There will be no consolidation of school district schools. To form a team, all bowlers must come from the same school building. Exception: If the school uses two or more buildings and the students attend classes in both/all buildings they would be considered one school.**
5. Coaches must make sure their leagues and bowlers are certified by the USBC. The cost of youth certification this year is just \$4 per bowler.
6. Coaches are required to participate in the USBC Registered Volunteer Program and wear their badge/lanyard at all practices and matches. Coaches can register at [www.bowl.com](http://www.bowl.com) and the cost is \$21.25 for two years.
7. They must verify grades of bowlers either by contacting the school or physically seeing the report card. Students must meet at minimum the school's academic criteria to participate in other sports. Coaches may enforce a stricter rule.
8. Bowlers will be declared ineligible at any time that it's determined and verified that they aren't certified or haven't met minimum grade requirements. They will be disqualified and will receive zero score for matches they competed in. Bowlers may participate in practice if acceptable by center and school.
9. Coaches and other persons officially connected with the team shall not use any tobacco products or consume alcohol during competition.
10. Un-sportsmanlike conduct is not permitted. Coaches need to be a model and promote it to their bowlers.
11. Coaches will make sure their bowlers meet the uniform and jewelry rules.
12. **Coaches must wear slacks (No cargo pants, blue jeans, shorts or Capri's) and the IMSB T-shirt to be in the bowling area, local and tournament.**
13. There is no stated jewelry rule. Coaches and centers are to determine appropriate standards for their bowlers. Tournament directors will decide on unacceptable jewelry at their event.
14. The coach may schedule no more than 1 formal practice per week during the season. He must arrange those practice times with the center to assure lanes are available.
15. Coaches must submit all forms and monies to the state office (HS commissioner) by the appointed times. Those forms include: Center information, Center and Tournament Rosters, Student waiver form and Coaches responsibilities form.

Anything not covered specifically under the IMSB or USBC rules will come under advisement of the IHSB Rules Committee. This program is organized and operated by the Indiana Bowling Centers Association.

**2016 Indiana Middle School Bowling  
Coaches Travel Authorization, Waiver & Release**

I understand participation in Indiana Middle School Bowling events involves potential risks of injury, both minor and serious. I **ASSUME AND ACCEPT ALL RISKS** related to my participation in each IMSB event. I understand that transportation to and from each IMSB event shall be the sole responsibility of each participant. I **ASSUME AND ACCEPT ALL RISKS** related to my transportation to and from each IMSB event.

In consideration of IMSB permitting participation in IMSB events, I **HEREBY AGREE TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS OF WHATEVER NATURE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE, ARISING FROM PARTICIPATION AND TRANSPORTATION RELATED TO IMSB EVENTS** against Indiana Bowling Centers Association and Indiana Middle School Bowling (Board, Rules Committee, and Individual Members), All Participating Middle Schools, All Participating Bowling Centers, All Assigned Coaches, and each & every officer, employee, agent of them.

I have read the Coach Responsibilities. I agree to abide by all eligibility rules of the Indiana Middle School Bowling Program. I understand and agree that if I am in violation of any of the rules, I will be asked to comply or I may be removed from competition. I have read the Travel Authorization, Waiver & Release and agreed to its terms.

Coach Name – Printed \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Center \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone # (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Every coach **MUST** complete this form before participating in practices. This form **MUST** be turned in to the State Office (PO Box 66, Camby, 46113) by **March 13, 2016.**

## **Local Budget (Sample)**

TOTAL COST PER STUDENT	\$120.00 (May collect up front or weekly)
Forwarded to IBCA	\$40.00 if by Mar 13 (For T-shirt, ribbon, reg entry)
Practice lineage	\$30.00 (10 weeks available)
Meet lineage	\$40.00 (10 weeks available)
Coaches	\$4.00
Secretary	\$1.00
Awards	\$2.00
Banquet	\$3.00

You have 9 weeks available for competition. You don't have to bowl 9 weeks.

## **Why Establish a Middle School Bowling Program?**

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To have a successful middle school program, start at club level first. There are benefits for the center, the school and community:

### Center

- Developing additional young bowlers who are the future of the center
- Great public relations throughout the community
- Develop a closer relationship with the school
- Once the middle school program is established, the opportunity for high and elementary school programs are available
- Provides other USBC Youth sanctioned leagues
- Many student bowlers will bowl in addition to the club with friends, family or in USBC Youth leagues
- Develops additional income from leagues, open play, pro shop and food sales
- Sets the stage for, or provides additional support for, the high school team
- May provide additional free and easy publicity for the center
- Your adult league bowlers will enjoy and support it

### School

- Provides another activity in which students can participate. If formed as a club, the sport is not different from other clubs (i.e. German, Chess), except that it always meets at the center. If started as an additional sport, it provides an additional extracurricular activity for students.
- No work on the part of the school
- No cost for the school or school corporation

- The students are required to follow the school's rules or policies on **athletic competition**.
- The center provides all organization, record keeping and management
- School develops trust and a relationship with the center based on the quality of your program and your communication with the school

### Community

- Youth being involved in other activities is very important to the youth, their families and the community
- The community will have a good perception of the center for providing additional activities for community youth
- Provides an increased positive perception of the school for providing additional activities for community youth
- Makes future fundraising a little easier

## **Incorrect Assumptions and Expectations**

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There are several incorrect assumptions and expectations one may have when considering or attempting to establish or organize a middle school bowling club and/or program. They are:

- Your middle school(s) will come to you and embrace it.
- The idea of a bowling club/program will be well accepted when you approach the school.
- All your middle school bowlers already bowl in youth leagues.
- The middle school will provide financial support to your center.
- By agreeing or deciding to participate, you have no further obligations.
- It will make money immediately.
- Once organized, the club will take care of itself.
- This is easy and doesn't take much time.
- It's my program and I don't have to worry about what the school thinks.
- After all the work, the middle school will support it.

## **It Takes Work**

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It takes work for a good club. Things you, the proprietor, *must do* to make the club successful:

- You must want to set up the club and be willing.
- Organize the club looking at it from the school's perspective. What would they want?
- Approach the school with the club first as an additional activity for the student. Let the team evolve from that.
- If you have teacher groups that bowl (active or retired teachers), talk to them about what you want to do, who you should approach and how you should approach them.
- You must approach the proper people at the middle school or school corporation. Be persistent, your first contact may not be the right one.

- Talk with the person that takes care of clubs or club sports. It may be the athletic director, the principal, another individual or staff member. The school board may even have to give its authorization.
- You must be able to show the benefits to the school and students. They will not care about the benefits to your center. This includes no cost or effort to them. Cost and time are important considerations when something new is being started at a school.
- Make sure detailed information about how the club works, costs, USBC Youth sanctioned rules, starting date and expectations are provided to students and the school.
- Have other information available about middle school bowling from the IBCA office and website. What and how do they want to be kept up to date?
- Ask the school if they would make announcements or hang posters.
- Have references available of other schools' programs for your school official to check out.
- Use the local newspaper to announce the formation of the club, information meetings and a short overview, including schedule.
- Ask to have sign up or informational meetings at the school at specified times, during or after school.
- Provide the school with a complete list of club members for school records.
- Abide by school rules and policies. Have students, if required by the school, sign forms acknowledging that they have read and understand the policies and penalties.
- Prove to the school that you can have and run a quality program.
- Set up a separate account within your current account, or by itself, to handle the finances. Consider a tax-exempt status. The school may offer to handle it through its accounts. Do it on your own if possible.
- Have the account audited each year by a professional. If possible, and to save on cost, ask an accountant that bowls if they would do it as their donation to the club.
- Who could help run the club? Look for a person(s) within your center to help you that enjoys bowling, is enthusiastic, likes working with youth and would get excited about this opportunity for the youth. USBC Youth-certified coaches are a good starting point. You may not have the time it takes to set up and run the program. Make sure to explain this to the school.
- Have all students sign waiver of liability and conduct forms (*samples attached*). Have the school verify the forms can be used with its students.
- Get the school yearbook and/or newspaper to take pictures or do an article.
- Communication, Communication, Communication!

### **What If the School Wants Nothing to do with a Bowling Club and/or Team?**

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Regardless of the effort put in and the quality of the club organization, there is a possibility the school will not want anything to do with a bowling club or program. There are schools around the state that have no interest in participating or communicating with centers about a club or a program. This makes it more difficult to organize. It does not keep you from doing it.

What YOU can do in these cases:

- Be persistent.
- Advertise you are forming a bowling club or program for middle school students only. Contact the local newspaper or radio station.
- Form it as a USBC Youth league.
- Set up rules for the league.
- Adhere to the same rules of clubs and sports as the school currently has. Obtain a current handbook from the school from a student, if possible.
- Continue to work to get other bowlers interested.
- Send information to the school to keep them updated. Enclose standing sheets, lists of bowlers, etc., so that they know who is involved. They will tell you if they do not want to receive the information.
- Talk with parents about the school involvement (or lack thereof).
- Get the students involved in fundraisers or civic activities. Take pictures and get them into the newspaper. Communities enjoy youth that get involved. This will put added pressure on the school.

## How to Start

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To form a new program, you need to follow these steps:

1. If you currently have students from local schools participating in your youth program, talk with them to see if they would be interested in bowling in the Middle School Bowling Program.
2. Once schools have been identified, set up a meeting with a school representative (athletic director, principal or vice principal). You can also contact the IBCA office to help with this process. Remember that when approaching school(s), your first contact may not be the right person. If the athletic director isn't interested in the program, approach the person, who is in charge of club programs, typically the vice principal. Use your resources, if you have a teacher or school representative who bowls at your center, ask them for help getting your foot in the door at the school.
3. Present information regarding the program to school representatives.
4. Once the school is on board, contact the IBCA office for more information and important paperwork.
5. If school is not supportive of the program, *don't give up*. A program can be started without school support. (See *previous section*—"What if the School wants nothing to do with a Bowling Club and/or Team?")

## **Middle School Bowling Program Points to Remember**

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The IBCA facilitates the Middle School Bowling Program. The program follows the following rules and guidelines.

- 1. Students must be in grades 5, 6, 7 & 8.**
2. All students must meet **athletic** academic requirements set forth by the school. Each school has their own academic requirements. If you are uncertain what those requirements are, contact the school directly.
3. Students must be enrolled as a full-time student.
4. All bowlers must have a USBC Youth sanction number.

### **Booster Club Guidelines**

*The following was excerpted from the University Interscholastic League and can be reprinted in its entirety at <http://www.utexas.edu/admin/uil/>.*

Be they music, fine arts, academic or athletic, booster clubs should exist to enrich students' involvement in extracurricular activities without endangering their eligibility.

### **The Role of Competition**

Participation teaches that it is a privilege and an honor to represent one's school. Students learn to win without boasting and to lose without bitterness.

Self-motivation and intellectual curiosity are essential to the best academic participants. Physical training and good health habits are essential to the best athletes. Interscholastic competition is a fine way to encourage youngsters to enrich their education and expand their horizons.

Leadership and citizenship experiences through school activities help prepare students for a useful and wholesome life. Plus, competition is fun!

Role of Booster Clubs. School patrons form booster clubs to help enrich the school's participation in extracurricular activities. The fundraising role of booster clubs is particularly crucial in today's economic climate.

Written Policies. Booster clubs should develop and annually review policies to cover:

- How to obtain administrative approval before beginning projects;
- How to plan and publicize meetings;
- Bookkeeping and fund administration, including process to obtain superintendent's approval prior to raising funds.
- Election of officers (suggestion: one president, one secretary, one treasurer and three vice presidents; one vice president to oversee fall, winter and spring sports);

- Taking, distributing and filing minutes;
- Public communication;
- Proper interaction with fine arts directors and academic and athletic coaches through the lines of authority as established by the school board;
- A sportsmanship code governing behavior of booster club members and fans at contest, treatment of officials, guests, judges, etc.; and
- Plans to support the school regardless of success in competition, keeping the educational goals of competition at the forefront of all policies.

## **Club Finances**

### Relationship with the School

- The superintendent or a designee who does not coach or direct a contest has approval authority over booster clubs and should be invited to all meetings. All meetings should be open to the public.
- Booster clubs do not have authority to direct the duties of a school district employee. The schedule of contests, rules for participation, methods of earning letters and all other criteria dealing with inter-school programs are under the jurisdiction of the local school administration.
- Minutes should be taken at each meeting and kept on file at the school.
- School administration should apprise booster clubs of all school activities.
- Booster clubs should apprise school administrators of all club activities.
- Periodic financial statements itemizing all receipts and expenditures should be made to the general club membership and kept on file at the school.

### Fundraising/Spending

- Money given to a school cannot be earmarked for any particular expense. Booster clubs may make recommendations, but cash or other valuable consideration must be given to the school to use at its discretion.
- Fundraising projects are subject to state law. Nonprofit status may be obtained from the Internal Revenue Service.
- Community-wide sales campaigns should be coordinated through the school administration to minimize simultaneous sales campaigns.
- Sales campaigns should be planned carefully to insure that the projects provide dollar value for items sold, and that most of the money raised stays at home. Otherwise donations are often more rewarding than letting the major part of the money go to outside promoters.
- Fundraising activities should support the educational goals of the school and should not exploit students. Activities and projects should be investigated carefully before committing the school's support.
- Individuals who actively coach or direct an activity should serve in an advisory capacity to the booster club and should not have control or signature authority over booster club funds, including petty cash or miscellaneous discretionary funds. Coaches' wish lists should have received prior approval from school administration before submission to boosters.

- The district may pay a stipend, fixed at the beginning of the year, as part of the annual employment contract. The amount of the stipend can't depend on the success of a team or individual. In other words, a coach can't receive more money if a team or individual qualifies to region or state.
- Funds are to be used to support school activities. To provide such funding for non-school activities would violate rules and the public trust through which funds are earned.

## **What you can do...**

### Parents

- Remember: The classroom comes first!
- Help conduct fair and equitable competition. Adhere to rules, uphold the law and respect authority.
- Remember that officials are human. Respect their decisions.
- Delegate authority to the school, then support its decisions.
- Set standards by which you expect children to conduct themselves and live by those standards yourself.
- Be aware of capabilities and limitations of young people. Don't have unrealistic expectations.
- Allow your children to live their own lives.
- Be involved in areas in which your own child is not involved, thus contributing to school unity and spirit.
- Show respect to the opponents of your children.
- Praise. Don't criticize. Urge others to do the same.
- Help your children and their friends develop integrity through the intensity of competitive activity.

### Coaches

- Work with the Administration
- Positive and direct communication can prevent most problems. Keep the superintendent informed of all activities.
- Make sure your local administration has a copy of all club publications.
- Invite administrators to all booster club meetings.
- Have an officer meet with the school administration regularly.
- Have a chain of command for communication with the administration.
- Clear all activities through your administration.
- Be sure your booster club wish list has been approved by your supervisor before it goes to the booster club.
- Work with your administration to determine what your club can provide.
- Make your request to the club benefit as many students as possible.
- Attend the booster club meetings and /or know what the club is doing.

- Understand that your advisory role to the boosters is without vote.
- Support other programs within your district.
- Meet with parents regularly and make them aware of relevant rules.
- Involve your staff with your booster club. Let the booster club know who your staff is and what duties they perform.

## **Making Your Middle School Bowling Program Successful**

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So, you've built your program. There are coaches and student athletes. The conferences are all aligned. The state championship tournament has been scheduled. There are even fans in the stands. What's next?

### **Creating Success, Continuity and Longevity**

To create it, we need to define it first. Everyone should be having fun, feel as though goals are being attained, contributing in whatever way they can. Lots of people should be involved and the finances are important as well. Sharing the work and fiscal responsibility creates that success.

Build a Booster Club. Most schools financially support their extracurricular activities through this method. Additionally, the schools view this as another method to teach the students responsibility and accountability. Instilling students with the work ethic prepares them for the challenges of life after high school.

- Approach the school sponsor for the requirements; most schools have brochures available detailing the procedures to follow.
- Consider using a non-profit entity to make donations and fundraising tax deductible.
- Invite as many people as possible to participate. Don't forget to include your league bowlers and all the customers from your bowling center.

Encourage an Active Advisory Committee. You should have already appointed an advisory group, so you have people readily available. Include them and utilize their talents and specializations. Keeping them busy gives everyone something to do and will encourage better "buy in" for the program.

Involve Other Membership Organizations. The entire industry is supporting this initiative, so be sure to contact the local USBC representatives. These people volunteer because they love bowling and because they enjoy working with young bowlers. Work together and make them feel welcome and your program will reap the benefits of a wealth of talent.

Establish a Solid Financial Base. One of the goals of this program should be to make it financially self-sufficient. If you are paying most of the costs, devising new funding methods will turn those expenses into new sources of revenue. Schools will appreciate this as well and recognition as a varsity level sport will be more readily received if the schools have minimal expenses.

### **Business Scholarships**

Canvass the community to find businesses that would be willing to underwrite some of the expenses. Although schools are very strict in some matters, in the area of sponsorships they are very encouraging. The schools understand the expense involved in extracurricular activities (that's why you're paying most of the costs!) and have been willing to accept outside funding sources. The local

car wash, hairdresser, auto maintenance facility, bank, grocery, etc., can be good sources of "community coalition" funding.

## **Fundraisers**

Bowling has long been a vehicle for charities to create funding. Bowling raises more funds than any other sport. Remember: Charity begins at home!

Some of the tried-and-true fundraising ideas include:

- Car washes
- Bake sales
- Bowl-a-thons
- Candy Sales
- Raffles
- Wrapping paper and card sales
- 50-50 Sales (please check your state gaming laws)

Out-of-the box ideas include the following:

- Game Cards. Set a price for the card to include a specific number of games (10 games for \$10). Be sure to offer a decent discount. Set a time frame for use. Tennessee sold cards during April and May for redemption in June, July and August. This also helps increase open play during a normally slow period. Ancillary food and beverage revenue is another result! Donate half the cost of the card to high school bowling and keep the other half for your center's revenue.
- Bowling Clinics. Schedule a professional coach for a one-day session and add a small additional fee to the cost of the clinic to benefit your high school bowling program. You can even ask the team and its current coach to participate, giving even more credibility to the event.

These ideas have just scratched the surface! There is no limit to what can be offered if you use your imagination! And when you do find a neat, new idea, let us know so that we may include it on the website.

## **Bowlers are Athletes**

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Everyone knows bowling. It's a game in which you roll a ball down a lane to try to knock down 10 pins. Anyone can play it. Anyone! Young, old; male, female; the highest caliber athlete, the most out-of-shape couch potato. Just like golf and tennis, the game of bowling is usually experienced as a leisure pastime. And this creates the age-old question: Is bowling a sport or recreation? Every professional player resoundingly votes sport! Unfortunately, many people outside the bowling industry vote recreation.

I would like to re-introduce you to the sport of bowling and challenge the concept that renting shoes and rolling a three-holed ball down a lane makes you a bowler. Maybe it does—as much as renting golf clubs to hit a dimpled ball and ride around 18 holes makes you a golfer!

People believe sports participation requires specific physical prowess. Bowling is not shackled by any such requirement. Possibly because a bowler need not be big and muscular, strong or tall, the term athlete is grudgingly accorded. But before a certain contemporary golfer hit the scene several years ago, few people considered golfers elite athletes. Through physical training and mental discipline, that new younger player demonstrated the correlation between excellent conditioning and great playing. Some premier football, baseball and basketball players don't fulfill the visual perception of being "in shape." With the advent of specialized responsibilities, these athletes need only to meet the challenge specifically presented to them. Which defines the athlete?

The ultimate goal of bowling, a perfect game, is achieved by swinging a ball gripped by three fingers and rolling it down a lane 60 feet long and 42 inches wide so precisely so that it knocks down ten 3.8 lb. wooden pins twelve different times to score 300. Just like a hole in one, the achievement of a perfect game is difficult and rarely enjoyed. Focusing on the performance rather than the result explains the complexity and demonstrates the required coordination.

The delivery of a bowling ball requires the use of 137 muscles. After only three games most recreational bowlers will experience a sore shoulder, hand, knees, quads and sometimes even backside! Proper technique is crucial to prevention of muscle discomfort. But due to the accessibility of bowling, most people never realize the need for instruction in even the most basic principles.

Does a golf ball fly 300 yards or a baseball fly 400 feet only because it was propelled by brute strength? A spiraling football is more easily caught than one that has been rifled and bounces off a receiver's chest. Hand-eye coordination, timing and many other such nuances are far more important than sheer strength alone.

The misconception that throwing a bowling ball hard, fast and straight is best dispelled by observing an elite female player. Today's top ranked female player, Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, reaches 5'5" only when wearing high heels. And if she weighs in at 120 lbs., it's because she is wearing a dripping wet sweat suit!

Yet, thru proper timing and execution, the ability to recognize the playing condition on the lane and choose the proper equipment, the adjustment of speed, ball rotation and angle of impact, Carolyn is capable of competing with, and beating, any player in the sport.

Leaving the athletic side of bowling, observation of the social aspect of bowling might explain the lack of sporting acceptance—it's just too darn accessible! It's not exclusive enough. It obviously appeals to and is played by the masses, since it is one of the top participatory sports around. Since it's so much fun, no one realizes its building teamwork abilities and refining social interaction skills, too.

So even if recreational enjoyment of this sport is the end goal, would inclusion of instructional principles in the early formative years be logical? Considering that bowling offers a "cradle to grave" opportunity, this lifetime sport can't be beat for everything it offers its aficionados!

The bowling industry has recognized that it is time for us to toot our own horn. We offer great value to those who participate. We'll remind all those who have ever enjoyed bowling and teach those who've never had the pleasure. We already start with the youngsters in our own facilities by

offering coaching and competition through youth programs. We've designed a six-week curriculum for elementary school physical education classes. We are willing to take the responsibility to ensure continuation through middle school into high school participation.

We also recognize there are people better trained and prepared to deal with the high school population than we are. We've developed a program to deliver our product and are requesting partnership with the schools so that the high school students are the ultimate benefactors. We've researched and investigated the other high school athletic offerings and utilized many of your own Athletic Directors as resources.

We are not beginning implementation with the understanding that state-to-state, even school district to school district, changes will be made to meet specific local requirement. The request we are making of you is an opportunity to make our program presentation and that you look at bowling somewhat differently than you may have in the past.