



# MIDDLE SCHOOL BOWLING CLUB

## Policies and Procedures

Approved 6/28/19

### 1. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

Competition in bowling will be held for all students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Teams are no longer required to be formed based on individual middle schools. See 6A1 below regarding team formation.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY FEES

Where applicable, the Wisconsin Middle School Bowling Club (WI MSBC) shall abide by United State Bowling Congress (USBC) Playing Rules. The WI MSBC district coordinators shall receive, before the first conference meet, the names of all individuals of each club team. The WI MSBC strongly recommends that all bowlers be USBC members. Student participation and scholarship tournaments fees will be determined by each district. These fees will be paid in accordance with district policy.

To bowl on a middle school team, all students must be in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. MSBC will permit 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in the MSBC Program, but such teams will be deemed ineligible to participate in the WI MSBC State Championship Tournament. Students on the team who are otherwise grade eligible (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade) will be allowed to qualify for the state tournament in the singles event. Students are eligible for three years of middle school bowling. Middle school bowlers are eligible to participate in the singles event at state as long as they meet all eligibility requirements.

- A. Home Schooled or on-line students are no longer considered as a “co-op” player/team as long as they are on a team based on their residency.
  - 1. Students participating in a home school or online education program are eligible to participate with proof of the middle school for which the student would attend based on residency requirements for that middle school.
  - 2. A completed home school or on-line education residency form must be sent to BCAW office, one week prior to start of district competition.
- B. Entry Fees  
As established by the BCAW Board of Directors all middle school teams will pay a registration fee of \$50 per team for teams bowling at a BCAW member center. Middle school teams bowling at a non BCAW member center will pay a registration fee of \$75 per team. District coordinators are to send in a list of all teams competing in their district and the bowling center each team bowls at with a check made payable to the BCAW for each registered team. Payment is due after the first week of competition. Payments will not be accepted from individual teams or bowling centers.

### 3. DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Each district must have the following administrative positions: District Coordinator, President, Vice President/Statistics and Treasurer. Positions may not be combined. Each individual must be approved through the USBC Registered Volunteer Program and wear their ID lanyards at all WI MSBC activities, including practices, district matches and the WI MSBC State Championships. NOTE: The BCAW Board of Directors has agreed to accept unexpired RVP badge holders whether or not the individual has successfully completed the SafeSport program. All RVP holders must complete the full RVP process including SafeSport when their current RVP credential expires.
- B. Teams will remain in the same/host center and conference each year unless the BCAW MSBC Committee approves a move. If the team has reason to move centers, its representative must first petition the host center with the request to move along with the reasons. If that center agrees, that proprietor and the new proprietor simply sign a transfer form. If the original host proprietor does not consent, the district coordinator must arrange a meeting within two weeks. He will attend with a member of the BCAW MSBC Committee, the district coordinator, the host proprietor and the school representative to hear the reasons for the move and make a decision.
- C. The BCAW MSBC Committee reserves the right to dictate realignment of conferences. The BCAW Executive Director will work with district coordinators in areas seeking realignment. All realignments are subject to review and approval of requests for realignment.
- D. Matches, district coordinators shall do their best to schedule all matches in centers that have a team that practices out of that center.

- E. District coordinator may allow exceptions due to religious beliefs. If the district coordinator approves an exception to a uniform rule, he must put it in writing and forward to all the coaches. The same procedures would apply if a bowler has a health issue where the district coordinator approves an exception to the uniform rule.
- F. All team rosters must be on the WI MSBC website no later than seven days from their first district completion. If a team's complete roster is not on the website the team and individual players may be ineligible to compete at the WI MSBC State Tournament.

#### 4. COACHES SECTION

- A. Depending upon the status, the host bowling center and/or middle school must approve coaches before they are eligible.
- B. All head coaches must have attained the age of 21. HSBC bowlers may serve as assistant coaches.
- C. Anyone currently suspended by the USBC is not eligible to coach a MSBC team.
- D. Any coach caught falsifying scores may lead to an indefinite suspension from participating in the WI MSBC and the WI HSBC.
- E. All coaches age 18 and older must be approved by the USBC Registered Volunteer Program and wear their ID lanyards at all practices, matches and the WI HSBC State Championships. An exception is granted to school personnel who have an official school issued ID, where a background check has been performed. Anyone discovered not wearing their RVP credential or acceptable school issued ID will not be allowed to be in the bowlers' area. NOTE: The BCAW Board of Directors has agreed to accept unexpired RVP badge holders whether or not the individual has successfully completed the SafeSport program. All RVP holders must complete the full RVP process including SafeSport when their current RVP credential expires.
- F. HSBC players who are under the age of 18, do not have to comply with the USBC RFP requirement. At the point they turn 18, they must however, complete and be approved by the USBC under their Registered Volunteer Program to continue their involvement with the WI MSBC.
- G. Coaches and other persons officially connected with the team may not consume alcohol immediately prior to or during competition. Smoking, or use of other tobacco products, is limited to outside before or after, but not during competition. Coaches convicted of any felony charges will not be allowed to coach.
- H. Coaches allowed in the settee area: A maximum of two coaches are allowed in the bowling settee area during all matches and the WI MSBC State Championships (team event). For the singles event of the WI MSBC State Championships only one coach is allowed in the bowling settee area with the player. Coaches must be in uniform and be wearing their USBC RVP Badge or official school issued ID that meets with 4E above. A scorekeeper is considered a coach if in the settee area.
- I. It is the responsibility of the school's head coach to ensure all bowlers meet their school's eligibility requirements for athletic competition and that they attend the school they are representing.
- J. It shall be the head coach's responsibility to verify their bowlers continued academic eligibility at the end of each grading period.
- K. Schools that bowl ineligible bowlers shall forfeit all matches in which the ineligible student competed from the date it is documented that the bowler was determined ineligible.
- L. It shall be the responsibility of the coaches to collect the signed Conduct/Waiver & Travel Authorization Forms and submit them to the district coordinator prior to the established deadline(s). THESE FORMS SHOULD BE COLLECTED PRIOR TO ALLOWING BOWLERS TO PRACTICE.

#### 5. DISTRICT COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- A. Districts must schedule and teams bowl seven baker game matches, with the winner of four or more games receiving one point.
- A. District competition will follow the dates of November 1, 2019 - April 19, 2020. With the state tournament held on May 2, 2020 at Bowlero Wauwatosa in Wauwatosa.
- B. Practice may begin no earlier than two weeks prior to the official start of district competition. District coordinators must advise the BCAW office of their scheduled playing season at least one week prior to the start of district competition.

#### 6. DISTRICT COMPETITION RULES

- A. Team Structure
  - 1. Teams may be formed by school district or town/village/city. There is no limit to the number of teams that may be formed within a school district or town/village/city.
  - 2. In areas where there are not at least five bowlers to form a team from either a single school district or town/village/city, a team may be formed with surrounding school districts or town/village/city, in order to form a legal team as defined below.

3. No team may cut or deny any student a roster spot.
4. Teams from the same district may combine and apply for co-ops for the sole purpose to form a separate girls and boys team.
5. All co-op applications MUST be in BCAW's office **one week** prior to the start of their district's competition.
6. Approval for a co-op team is for one bowling season. No team will be grandfathered from year to year.
7. Copies of team co-op applications must be sent to district coordinators for their review and input before BCAW approval.
8. Co-op team names will include names of all towns/villages/cities involved.
9. A legal team consists of five to ten bowlers. Up to ten players may be on each roster and allowed in the bowling area.
10. A legal lineup consists of three bowlers.
11. Girls will be allowed to bowl on the boys' team only if there is not a girls' team. If there are six girls trying out for a team, you must form a girls' team.
12. If there is a girls' team, there may not be girls on the boys' team.
13. If a student or team is ineligible to bowl on middle school team, said team or student cannot compete at the district or state competition.
14. Team name shall be the name of the **school district or town/village/city**
15. If a team has a sub from another school, the team forfeits the team and baker points but the individual's scores count toward fill rates.

**B. Playing Format**

1. A team is expected to present a legal lineup on the lanes at the scheduled time.
2. Bowlers will receive ten minutes practice on their scheduled lanes before competition.
3. **All teams will bowl in competition with one other team. There is to be no group or pool play where multiple teams from one school compete with multiple teams from another school, taking the highest game from within the school group to determine match wins.**
4. Teams will bowl in open play format alternating lanes every other game.
5. Absentee: If less than a full lineup and no subs are available, that team shall select the line up order where they will receive a zero for their score during baker competition.
5. Forfeits: A team which forfeits will lose all points for that game. When a game is declared forfeited, the team that is present must bowl as if the game was actually contested, and all scores will count toward individual averages and team points
6. Ties: Teams that tie for a game or series each team wins  $\frac{1}{2}$  (one-half) of points earned averages.
7. Strike and fill percentages will be established the first session that a bowler participates. The 10<sup>th</sup> frame only counts frame ten for fill percentage; (11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> balls do not count).
8. Substitutes: A legal lineup consists of five bowlers with unlimited alternates within the roster of ten. A coach may remove a bowler during a game and put in an alternate. Once that bowler has been substituted for they may not be re-entered during that game. However, they may be re-entered during the next team game/baker game.
  - a. Substitute in mid frame: First bowlers get credit for the open or fill of frame.
  - b. Substitute in individual game: Bowler who starts the game will get credit for the game
  - c. Substitutions – You must notify the coach of the opposing lane or pair when substituting mid-frame or game. If notification is not made, a zero will be entered for that frame. The original bowler will go back in for the 2<sup>nd</sup> frame of that game for that position if the substitution was not properly done.
9. Conduct of Coaches and Players (Players must abide by his/her School District Athletic code)
  - a. No coach, player or other person officially connected with the team shall be permitted to use any tobacco products on the bench or in the playing area. Bowling area consists of settee, concourse.
  - b. No consumption of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products by anyone in the settee or concourse area during practice or match play. Note: In larger centers a four lane buffer area on each side will be appropriate.
  - c. All bowlers will remain in the immediate bowling area while competition is in progress unless excused by coach.
  - d. Bowlers will be expected to follow the previous bowler promptly and will be required to bowl as soon as the lane to their right is clear.
  - e. Unsportsmanlike conduct, including deliberate fouling, unusually loud or vulgar language or abuse of equipment and facilities is prohibited. Coaches or center officials will have the authority to remove anyone from competition for any of the above reasons from their teams.
  - f. Conduct Enforcement Policy: Coaches of all participating schools are responsible for the enforcement of the following penalties. The district coordinator or assigned district official at the match shall have final say on enforcement, when the two coaches cannot agree on the penalty that should be handed down.
 

Violation 1: Will result in a verbal warning.

Violation 2: Will be removal or said bowler from all competition. Coaches may substitute a roster bowler for any player removed for conduct violations.
  - g. The coach(s), league officials and the bowlers bowling in a match are the only persons authorized to be in the bowlers' area during the match. Substitutes or any other interested parties must remain behind the area defined

as the bowlers' area. A maximum of seven people will be allowed in the settee area plus the coach, during the match.

10. Food and Beverage: All food or beverage must be purchased from the bowling establishment. No carry-ins of food or beverage will be permitted.
11. Scorekeeping: Scorekeeping will be performed by the players or coach if there is no automatic scoring system in place. It will be the responsibility of each team captain to verify that scores are complete and accurate.

## **7. BOWLING PRACTICE**

- A. At a district match or tournament host center: None of the bowling lanes within the bowling establishment may be used for practice by any team member or substitute on the day of any match or tournament except for sanctioned USBC YOUTH scheduled matches. A bowler that violates this provision will not be eligible to compete in the given event that day.
- B. Prior to Start of Match and Tournament: Ten minutes of practice is allowed on each lane. (Exception: When a team is late for the match.) Tournament practice will be defined for each individual tournament.
- C. Required Practice Sessions: It is the responsibility of each head coach to conduct at least one formal practice session each week during the WI MSBC season. The bowling center will determine if there is any cost to the students or the school for the practice sessions. These sessions must be pre-arranged with the participating bowling center to insure lanes are reserved and available.

## **8. UNIFORMS**

Teams must have the same color and style shirts and same color and style pants (t-shirts are allowed). All shirts must have finished sleeves for all competition. Females may wear a sleeveless shirt with a butterfly collar only if the sleeves are finished. All apparel worn by competitors shall be loose fitting and not made of Lycra/spandex-like material. No writing on or defacing of the bowling shirt will be permitted at any time. No head covering or sunglasses may be worn while practicing or competing (hats, caps, or bandannas, etc.). Headphones can only be used in the settee area and cannot be used while bowling. The WI MSBC State Championships Tournament Director must approve any/all exceptions prior to the event.

Sponsor logos on left sleeve ONLY. No Bars, but can have bowling centers, restaurants are OK, as long as it doesn't say Bar & Grill, tavern, anything with implications to bars, taverns, smoking, etc. On left sleeve, approximately three and a half inches in diameter, keep printing tactful & small. We will allow advertising to be on shirts not to include any alcohol or tobacco on left sleeve. The WI MSBC logo is not required on shirts. The city or school name can be on shirt, on the back or front. Shirts can be numbered but start with 11, bowlers' name optional.

Male participants are required to wear loose fitting full length slacks. Slacks must not contain drawstring waists or elastic bottoms. Yoga pants, leggings, blue denim jeans and athletic pants are not permitted.

Female participants are required to wear loose fitting full length slacks, skirts or skorts. Slacks must not contain drawstring waists or elastic bottoms. All skirts and skorts must be below the competitor's fingertips when they are standing and their arms are hanging loosely at their sides. Yoga pants, leggings, blue denim jeans and athletic pants are not permitted.

Team competitors and coaches shall appear in uniforms approved by the district coordinator in accordance with WI MSBC guidelines for all matches and tournaments. USBC RVP badge and lanyard or a School ID, where a background check has been performed must be worn at all practices, matches and the WI MSBC State Championships. Anyone discovered not wearing their "ID" will not be allowed in the bowlers' area.

The entire team, including coaches, must wear the same color uniform (pants and shirts). Bowlers out of uniform may not compete until they are in compliance. Coaches may not be in the bowler's area until they are in compliance.

First offense in violation of uniform requirements:

1<sup>st</sup> offense will be a verbal warning and the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense the bowler would be unable to bowl.

Coaches in violation will not be allowed in the bowler's area.

## **9. TRANSPORTATION**

It will be the responsibility of each participant in the WI MSBC 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 arising as a result of travel in connection with WI HSBC activities. This policy will not supercede any school district travel policy.

Transportation will be provided in accordance with the school district's policy.

## 10. POLICY AND PROCEDURE RULE CHANGES

All MSBC policy and procedure changes brought before the BCAW MSBC Committee prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> will be reviewed for consideration with final decisions being effective for the following MSBC bowling season.

- A. The BCAW MSBC Committee is a standing committee as per the BCAW bylaws. The three person committee shall be comprised by two BCAW member proprietors appointed by the BCAW President, who are actively involved in middle school bowling, plus the BCAW Executive Director or BCAW staff designee. In cases where a member of the BCAW MSBC Committee is from a district involved in the protest/grievance, the member will abstain from voting on the issue. The current members are: Dick Zierke (chair) plus Diane Mallow and Yvonne Bennett.

## 11. TEAM & INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE TOURNAMENT

- A. To be eligible for individual awards and all-district selection, bowlers must bowl in at least 50% of the games bowled by his or her team.
- B. Teams will bowl a minimum of six matches within their district.
- C. District competition will follow the dates of November 1, 2019 - April 20, 2020. Organizational meetings can begin sooner, but practice may not begin earlier than two weeks prior to the start of district competition. Practice may continue right up to the start of the WI MSBC State Tournament.
- D. Exceptions will also be made for home school and online education students. See Section 2A above.

## 13. SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships (if awarded) will be in accordance with all NCAA, USBC and BCAW rules and will be deposited with SMART at USBC for administration.

## 14. CONTINGENCIES

Any situation arising which is not covered by the WI MSBC Policies and Procedures, shall be governed by the BCAW MSBC Committee with advisory from USBC Rules. All rulings by the MSBC Committee are final.

## 15. DISTRICT AMENDMENTS

Requests for approval of district specific policies and procedures must be submitted to BCAW one month prior to the start of district competition. In an effort to standardize competition throughout the WI MSBC, the BCAW MSBC Committee will be restrictive in terms of district policies that deviate from the WI MSBC Policies & Procedures.

## 16. STATE TOURNAMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. All WI MSBC State Championships spots for teams and singles shall be awarded by districts based on full season district competitions; team standings for team and individual fill rate percentages for singles. No spots to the WI MSBC State Tournament (team or singles) may be awarded by districts as a result of end of season or other district competitions.
- B. All girls are eligible whether bowling in the boys or girls division. To qualify for singles: girls averages from both boys and girls division will determine advancing players in the girls' singles.
- C. If a team is going to substitute a bowler mid game/frame a coach must tell designated tournament official before substitution is made. If an illegal substitution is made all balls thrown by illegal bowler will be considered "dead balls" and will follow USBC rule, (USBC Rule 8. Dead Ball or USBC Middle School Bowling Rules Art. 10 – Dead Ball), accordingly. A zero for the frame.
- D. Team event has two divisions – boys/coed and girls.
- E. Singles event has four average divisions for boys and three average divisions for girls, using the bowler's current average. In the event a bowler does not have a verifiable youth league average, coaches are encouraged to use the player's fill rate in determining an approximate entering average.

	BOYS	GIRLS
<b>A</b>	175 & above	155 & above
<b>B</b>	161-174	136-154
<b>C</b>	146-160	135 & below
<b>D</b>	145 & below	

### Eligibility Rules: To be eligible to compete at the 2020 State Tournament

- 1. Teams must have competed in at least six BCAW organized bowling matches in their district. To be eligible for singles event,

bowlers must bowl in at least 50% of the frames bowled by the team. Formula is matches bowled x number of games bowled x two frames. For example, a team bowls six matches x seven games x two frames = 84 frames. 50% of the frames = 42 frames, so a bowler would need to bowl 42 or more frames in this example to meet the eligibility requirement.

2. All state qualifiers must be in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Teams with 4<sup>th</sup> and/or 5<sup>th</sup> graders are ineligible.
3. All complete tournament entries must be in the BCAW office by April 23, 2020.
4. BCAW will invoice districts for the cost of team and singles entries to the WI MSBC State Tournament.
  - A. BCAW member center is \$100 per team / \$20 per individual
  - B. Non BCAW member center is \$250.00 per team / \$50.00 per individual
  - C. Districts will be responsible for paying state tournament invoices by April 23, 2020. BCAW will not accept checks from individual teams, bowling center, etc.
5. All teams from a school district or town/village/city are eligible to qualify to go to WI MSBC State Tournament.

#### **Rules:**

1. A team is expected to present a legal line-up on the lanes at the scheduled time. Up to ten players on a roster. No more than ten roster players and two coaches in the bowlers' area. A team cannot have more than ten players in the bowling area for qualifying and finals, plus two coaches.
2. For the singles event, one coach per player may be in the bowlers' area. All coaches 18 years or older must be RVP approved and wearing their USBC RVP badge and lanyard.
3. Please refer to Section 4 Coaches, above, regarding RVP requirements.
4. In the event a team qualifies for the WI MSBC State Tournament and cannot field a team of five bowlers the coach may add one bowler from a second middle school team from the same school district or town/village/city. If that option is unavailable; the coach may add a player from another team from their MSBC district who has not qualified to go to state in the team competition. The coach will choose a player with a similar fill percentage (within 5-9 percentage points) as the player the coach is replacing.
5. Bowlers will receive ten minutes of practice before the start of competition.
6. If less than a full team is present the team will receive zero for the absent bowler(s).
7. Team event ties: In the event teams tie for first place where awards or medals are distributed; a 6<sup>th</sup> frame-10<sup>th</sup> frame baker game be bowled until the tie is broken. For all other position ties where awards or medals are distributed; the last qualifying game will break the tie. If tied again the next to last qualifying game bowled will break the tie and if tied again the next prior game bowled will be used to break the tie until the tie is broken.

Singles event ties: In the event bowlers tie for first place where awards or medals are distributed; a 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> game roll-off will be bowled to break the tie until the tie is broken. For all other position ties where awards or medals are distributed; the 3<sup>rd</sup> game score will be break the tie. In the event the 3<sup>rd</sup> game tie breaker results in a tie, the tie will be broken by the bowler's second game score and if a tie again, the first game score will be the tie breaker. If the bowlers are still tied, a 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> frame roll-off will be bowled.

8. Substitutes: A coach may remove a bowler during a game and use a roster bowler. Once a bowler has been substituted out that bowler may not re-enter that game, however the bowler may re-enter the next game. Substitutions can be made mid-frame. If an illegal substitution is made all balls thrown by illegal bowler will be considered "dead balls" and will follow USBC rule number 8, Dead Ball.
9. Conduct of Coaches and Players:
  - A. No coach or player may use alcoholic beverages or any tobacco products (to include vaping) on the bench, playing area, concourse or paddock room and/or use any equipment with alcohol or tobacco logos or names on it.
  - B. All bowlers will remain in the bowler's area or paddock room at all times during the competition.
  - C. Bowlers will be expected to follow the previous bowler promptly and will be required to bowl as soon as the lane is clear. (One lane courtesy only).
  - D. Non sportsmanship like conduct, including deliberate foul, usually loud or vulgar language or abuse of center equipment is prohibited.
    1. Violation One: Will result in a verbal warning.
    2. Violation Two: Will be removal of said bowler from all competition. Coaches may substitute a roster bowler for any player removed for conduct violations.
10. All food and beverages must be purchased from the bowling center. No carry-ins are allowed. Food & drinks are not allowed in the bowlers' settee area.
11. All bowlers are allowed two bowling balls in the bowler area. All extra equipment, including bowling bags, must remain in the designated paddock area.
12. All score corrections will be done by a designated tournament official. All score sheets must be verified by a coach on an opposing pair & signed.

13. See WI MSBC P&P Section 8 regarding dress code for the WI MSBC State Tournament.
14. No practice will be allowed in the host center on the day of competition.
15. Bowling equipment must meet USBC specifications, no abrasives are allowed during competition.
16. All other rules will be followed in accordance with USBC Youth rules.
17. There will be no refunds of entry fees for missing teams or singles.
18. District's that are missing bowlers may substitute qualified bowlers from their district. If no qualified bowlers exist the spot will remain vacant. If a replacement bowler is chosen that selection is final after practice has started. Once a substitution is made by the missing player's coach or district coordinator, that decision is final.
19. No flash photos will be allowed during tournament competition.
20. Leave score sheets on scoring unit at all times unless directed otherwise by a tournament official.
21. BCAW, the WI MSBC and the bowling center are not responsible for lost or stolen apparel or equipment.

**CURRENT STATE TOURNAMENT FORMAT:**

- ) Team & singles allocations calculated by BCAW staff based on roughly 40% of all teams, with four singles spots provided per team advancing to the WI MSBC State Tournament
- ) WI MSBC State Tournament – Single Day (Saturday) Event
  - Morning – singles event bowlers to bowl 3 traditional games, total pinfall to determine standings/awards
  - Afternoon – team event with teams to bowl 12 baker games, total pinfall to determine standings/awards

**Addendums**

**WI MSBC Code of Conduct**

**District Position Descriptions/Duties (to be created)**