

Rules Committee Meeting, 05/28/09

Attendees: Steve Kunkel, Ken Howard, John Downing, Scott Devers, Mark Schoch, Tim McCoy, Curt Morrison and Sue Kendall. Missing: Nancy Hoover. IBCA In-School Director Cathy Sumner attended and helped take notes.

- We agreed to go to the Free USBC Team Registration Program. This program offers certification to everyone without a cost. It will eliminate the need for the individual certification applications and payments. The coach will fill out the info online. The downside is it's only good for the HS season. The averages will not be recognized for other events. There are jacket pin awards for only the top scores: 298, 299, 300, 700, 800, 900 and Baker 300. The committee didn't think the other 'patch' awards were that valuable anyways. We discussed the idea of having our own 300, 800 & 900 rings designed. We would give those instead of the standard USBC awards. Curt Morrison works for a jeweler. He is going to get a quote. He thought it would be around \$99. We would award just one ring per year, like USBC. We will still encourage kids to get a standard membership to be eligible for other USBC events.
- We want to go to an online registration. We want to eliminate work and paper. This ties in with the top item. I am going to see if we can set up our registration and be able to link it to USBC to give them the info they need for the Free Team Membership Program. We get what we want and they get what they want. The coaches will have to go online to register their teams. This registration form can offer a drop down list of all IHSAA HSs. The coordinators and I will be able to access our lists and see who has and hasn't registered. We can ask for all the info that we need and add boxes to check for tournament roster, 'Code of Conduct' & 'Travel Waiver' forms and etc. We will still have to offer forms to the coaches to gather the needed info. We will still need an actual paper form for the kids' and parents' signatures on the waiver forms. I will need to set the dates that the registration and other forms are due. The coordinators need to get the waiver forms to the commissioner before the kids compete in their first match. They will need to set a due time to get them to me before they bowl. The school can have both boys' and girls' coaches fill out their respective registration form.
- We are not sure about the \$50 per school rebate that was offered by IBCA last year. If it is again awarded we will need the coordinator's SS # to issue the check. The earnings won't be reported to IRS on a 1099 unless it's over \$600. If it's over \$600 the conference should arrange for tax considerations.
- The head coach needs to be at least 21 years old. Assistant coaches can be younger. We strongly recommend that every coach register for the RVP. As of August 1 an individual can register for the RVP on his own. We also encourage all RVP coaches to wear their lanyards during competition. The head coach works with the center and/or school. He/she is approved by them and has ultimate responsibility of rules, conduct and play of his bowlers. Like in other sports, parents may have their say, but the coach has the authority to make the final decision.
- We want to make more coaching clinic/seminars available to more coaches. We discussed the idea of seeing what is available on DVD. We discussed actually making an IHSB DVD and offering it to our coaches. The info we are looking to pass on is how to organize practices, spare shooting drills, etc. We can make this info available online. Another idea would be to offer 'web-i-nars' to offer info to the coaches. If we could offer something like this at various times it should allow more coaches to fit it into their schedules.
- We discussed our substitution rule. We are keeping the same rule for conference play. Substitutions can only be made at the completion of a game, before a new game. Substitutes will take the place of the bowler they are replacing. Other lineup changes are not legal. However, we will allow 'free' substitution during tournament play. A sub may enter any game

at any frame. Only one substitution per bowler per game is allowed. Lineups may be changed after each game. This will allow bowler changes but not affect individual averages. This also allows coaching moves to help the 'team' during tournament. There were no changes made to the Baker Game rules. Substitution will not be allowed during a game. Lineups may be changed each game.

- We discussed our 'bye rule'. We still encourage conferences to make schedules that eliminate unopposed bowling. If however, the conference decides to have everyone bowl every week and there is an odd number of teams; the following rule applies. The team that has the bye will bowl against the team that is in the middle of the standings. That is, if you have a nine-team conference, the team that has the bye will bowl against the team in fifth place that week. If the team is the middle team they will bowl against the team directly under them in the standings. For the first week of competition the team bowling the bye will bowl against the team that draws the middle number. In the case of the 9-team conference it would be team #5.
- If a kid is in violation of any part of Rule #400 he will be ineligible until/if he is reinstated by USBC.
- Our eligibility rules are not hooked to IHSAA. To be eligible a bowler has to meet the same criteria as any other athlete at his/her school (grades, attendance, etc.). We will not allow schools to combine for full teams. We will not allow home school students.
- We don't feel we need a rule to limit the number of matches. Each area will limit their schedule by finances involved including lineage fees by centers. We will have a start date and finish date. We still feel that the winter sport season is the best for HS bowling. Both IHSAA fall and spring sports involve more kids.
- We discussed our jewelry rule. We are going to allow any jewelry that is not depicting foul language or gestures. Conference coordinators and/or tournament directors will decide on questionable items. Coaches have the authority and responsibility to limit their teams' jewelry.
- We discussed our uniform rule. We are going to ask teams to wear the same basic color pants/slacks: black, khaki or whatever. Blue jeans and cargo pants are not allowed. The commissioner may allow exceptions for religious beliefs. Skorts were discussed and it was decided that with kids buying clothes individually, it would open the door for a lot of inconsistency in color, style, length, etc. We decided NO.
- We briefly discussed allowing the new PBA shirts, but decided that we didn't want to allow clothing with the advertising.
- We briefly discussed the idea of creating patches for letter jackets. Our thoughts were round patches for conference, sectional and regional patches and state shaped patches for semi-state and state finals patches. Several kids have already purchased similar patches from local vendors. This is permissible, but Classic Products is the only vendor that can use the official IHSB logo on these patches. Use of our logo without permission is subject to penalty. We will work with Classic to make these available for the whole state.
- We talked about our tournament site selections. We are going to get the bids out sooner than in the past. After we get back the initial bids we are going to present those bids to the conference coordinators. They will then be able to solicit area centers that they feel could host an event. We will require at least 16 lanes. We want to keep the finals in the center of the state. We suggest that we give the MS finals to the HS finals center if they are active in that program and want the event. We don't have a problem with using the same centers, but we would like to move the events around to other qualified centers. To do this we need more centers to bid.
- There is no limit on the number of bowlers on the tournament roster. Everyone that meets the minimum requirement of 1 conference game is eligible. However, teams can only take 7 players to any event. It could be a different 7 eligible players at each event.

- After limited discussion it was determined to not change our present tournament format. We will continue to bowl team in the morning and singles in the afternoon at regional, semi-state and state. We didn't see the cost effectiveness for bowlers or proprietors to go to a two-day event. We believe the bowlers that qualify for both events need to condition themselves for the competition. We saw no need to add another week into the schedule. Again we didn't feel as though we could ask centers to hold 2 days on their schedules for us.
- Another issue we discussed was having an odd number of teams at regional and semi-state competition. It was the common belief that it was important for competitive measure to have an even number of teams so no one had to or got to bowl unopposed. After the normal ratios are applied and an odd number of teams are routed to an event, we will make the number even by taking the team that was closest to qualifying for that event. That is, if 3 sectionals are feeding into a regional and we have an odd number team; the team that comes closest to qualifying will earn that last spot. Team A missed by 50 pins, team B missed by 42 pins and team C missed by 14 pins; team C will advance.
- We talked about using some kind of 'sport or competitive' shot for our tournament. Some were in favor and some were hesitant if we didn't use it during conference play. Illinois is working with USBC and Kegel to come up with a shot that can be put out by all machines. They plan to use it for conference and tournament. We are going to wait and see what they get before we make a decision.
- We did decide to have the teams move lanes after the first regular team game during tournament. It makes sense to try and balance the playing field every way we can. The exact move wasn't discussed.
- We will allow girls to bowl with the boys' team during tournament if they bowled with them during the season. Singles competition will still be by gender.
- Check in time at regional, semi-state and finals, will be closed at 15 minutes prior to starting time. Available alternates will replace scheduled bowlers not present at that time.
- Medals and awards weren't discussed in detail. There was no overwhelming desire to have one over the other. The commissioner will appoint a committee to make the selection.
- In discussing the All State teams we decided the following: 1) We will have a minimum of 5 bowlers per team. If there are ties all will make the team. 2) We will award points at the finals to the top 10 singles only. Places 11-18 will not receive additional points. 3) We want to limit the number of points possible at conference to 40, just like tournament. One method we discussed was doing away with the baseline points and awarding 40 points to the conf rank and reduce 4 points to each place. This would further take the conditions out of play. (We decided to have Steve put these numbers together in last years file to see how it looks before we decide.) The point totals need not be published, but not kept secret if anyone asks. The commissioner should ask for help in computing and verifying point totals. We didn't have time to discuss the venue for awarding the All State recipients.
- Academic All State is for 'seniors'. It awards them for their entire high school academic achievements.

We had a follow up conference call on June 11, 2009 to further discuss some unresolved items. Those attending the call: Steve Kunkel, Ken Howard, John Downing, Scott Devers, Mark Schoch, Curt Morrison, Nancy Hoover and Cathy Sumner. Absent were Tim McCoy and Sue Kendall.

- We found the Free USBC Team Membership programs offers rings for just \$75. We agreed to award bowlers the USBC High School rings for 300, 800 & 900 (Subject to IBCA Board approval). These are available under the USBC Free Team Membership Program. The other

rings will be available for purchase: 298, 299, 700 & state champions. We will award one ring per bowler per category per year.

- The USBC Free Team Membership Program covers high school competition only. Averages from this program aren't acceptable by other USBC events. Bowlers that wish to compete in other events will need to purchase either USBC Standard or Basic certifications. The ISUSBCYA State Tournament will no longer use our High School averages.
- We are proceeding with the online registration. Coaches will have to register their teams online prior to their first match. We will still need signatures of parents and bowlers on a waiver form. The conference coordinator MUST have these signatures before the bowler competes. Any team that uses bowlers prior to providing necessary signatures stands to forfeit those games. The coordinator MUST send the signatures on to the commissioner within a week of that first match. This MUST be done so WE ALL have some protection in case of an issue.
- We reversed our decision on the bye rule. Since we already give the conference permission to use the bye or schedule to eliminate it, we decided to allow the conference to decide how they would determine the bye team (as long as it meets the USBC criteria). Conferences using the bye must notify the commissioner prior to the start of competition of their bye rule.
- We decided to leave it up to the coaches to determine if their team wears their shirttails in or out, it's strictly a matter of appearance. Everyone on the team must do the same. As with any rule, the conference coordinator and/or tournament director has the final say of any questionable issue.
- We are going to use this year for transition (grace period). We strongly recommend that all coaches participate in the 'Registered Volunteer Program'. Next year it will be mandatory. USBC has a couple coaching DVD's available for purchase. There are also several free coaching tips available on www.Bowl.com. The USBC Level I training is available online as are schedules for Bronze and Silver Level Clinics. We again strongly encourage coaches to seek some kind of formal training.
- We want to get more centers involved in the tournament program. The rules committee may seek additional bids after the original bids come in.
- Teams will move after the first regular game in the tournament. The teams on the left lane will move left one set and teams on the right lane will move right one set.
- If bowlers are late for the tournament and no subs are available, they may start when they arrive. They will not be allowed to make up any frames and they receive zero for any and all missed frames.
- We will eliminate the 'Baseline Points' for figuring the All State teams. Instead we will go strictly by conference rank. The top bowler will receive 40 points and each succeeding place will receive 4 points less (40, 36, 32, 28, etc). We didn't come to a definite decision, but are leaning to awarding the academic all state team at the HS finals and the all-state teams at the Woodland Pro Am, just like we have in the past.
- The commissioner will work with Curt Morrison, Nancy Hoover, Sue Kendall and Tim McCoy to determine which awards to purchase for the tournament. The same committee will work on selecting stock chenille letter jacket patches.
- We discussed a couple Middle School issues.
 - All coaches MUST have a background check to coach in the Middle School Program this next season.
 - We will review the first season's averages to determine the brackets for next season.
 - All other decisions will be made at a later date.