

Indiana High School Bowling Advisory Board Meeting  
Woodland Bowl, Indianapolis  
1/11/2007

Present: Steve Kunkel, Scott Devers, Mark Schoch, Jim Bischoff, Paul LeMond, Charles Sasse, Heather Brownell,  
Guest – Blake Ress, IHSAA Commissioner

### **I. USBC Rule 400**

The Advisory Board spoke with IHSAA Commissioner Blake Ress concerning USBC Rule 400, which states that youth bowlers can win up to \$500 in merchandise and how it affects the Indiana High School Bowling program, which tries to follow the rules of IHSAA. However, IHSSA doesn't allow cash or merchandise other than 'symbolic' value, "within reasonable bounds". There is no stated dollar amount, but generally accepted is \$25.00.

If the Indiana High School Bowling program were to give more than trophies and medals, the amount could go over the \$25.00 limit. It was suggested that jackets be windbreaker types and fall closer to \$25, but under \$50.

IHSSA only awards scholarships to seniors. If IHSAA finds out that a student has received merchandise over the 'symbolic' value, they become ineligible to play their sport. The student is given a time to respond to the charge. If the IHSSA finds the student's response to be acceptable, the student can be re-instated to their sport if restitution is made. However, the school must forfeit the games the ineligible player participated in – even if the student is re-instated the forfeited games still stand.

Schools are allowed to set higher standards for grade eligibility as long as they meet the IHSAA minimum standard. Therefore, students shouldn't be bowling in the Indiana High School Bowling program unless they meet their school's eligibility requirements.

### **II. The Possibility of High School Bowling as an IHSAA Sport**

The following areas would need to be resolved before high school bowling could be considered for an IHSAA sport.

- A. During the contest season, students would only be able to compete for their high school bowling team. They couldn't be in another league or program during the high school bowling season if they made a high school bowling team. (A couple national events might be exempted.)
- B. Since schools don't own facilities, the costs charged by the centers to the schools for practice & meets would be an issue. IHSAA might want an across the state lineage agreement for high school bowling to be considered an IHSAA Sport.
- C. Alcohol in the centers would be an issue that would need to be addressed.
- D. Schools would probably want to pay the coaches to have that control. They would probably want to provide transportation, which is another cost.
- E. They don't have a membership fee. Their monies are raised through event admissions and sponsorships.
- F. They would not require USBC membership.

The IHSAA would not be interested in taking on another deficit sport. Bowling must break even or have a surplus. If a proposal were made to the IHSAA for high school bowling to become a recognized sport, the IHSAA would be interested in taking on both boys and girls' high school bowling. The local schools would be responsible for the local meets and their costs. The IHSAA would only be responsible for the playoff series.

### **III. 2007 Indiana High School Bowling Championship Series**

The rest of the meeting focused on the planning and making of arrangements for the 2007 Indiana High School Bowling Championship Series.