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NJCAA Committee Proposal Submission Form

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Submitting Committee Bowling

Proposal Title/Topic Tournament Format Change & MISC

Type of Proposal Tournament/Championship Format Change

Proposed Effective Date of Proposal August 1, 2026

Rationale for Proposal

Rationale: The bowling coaches and coaches association have long requested a review of the format of the national tournament events. This new tournament format would allow for a total team pinfall to determine an 8-team elimination bracket. It would maintain singles and doubles along with team games to allow for all participant's to compete in the same manner they had in years past. It changes the Baker game portion to only apply to the top 8 teams, setting up a single elimination tournament based on total pin fall seeding. The new format also allows for all Americans to be determined before the Banquet and to be honored in front of all at this event. It also adjust the ball limit to be in line with other national tournaments along with requiring entries to be in no later than one week prior to the National Tournament. In addition, lane assignment rules are clarified in Section 5.

Please specify the NJCAA Handbook section(s) affected

Sport Code - 11. Bowling - Sections 3, 4, & 5

11. BOWLING – MEN’S & WOMEN’S

Section 1. Tournament Dates

A. The tournament shall be scheduled for the weekend of the first Saturday in March. The tournament dates may have to be adjusted based on host’s availability to secure adequate facility to conduct the tournament.

March 5 -7, 2026 at Royal Scot Golf & Bowl; Lansing, MI

March 4 -6, 2027 at Royal Scot Golf & Bowl; Lansing, MI

March 2-4, 2028, 2025 at Airport Lanes; Cheektowaga, NY

B. All Region Tournaments must be completed no later than 10 days prior to the start of the National Tournament (February 22, 2026)

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. Invitations to participate must be extended to all member colleges of the NJCAA.

B. The Tournament Director will send official entry blanks to the interested teams and will notify them of the events, their order, the

time schedule, the deadline for entries and other pertinent information.

Section 3. Participation Requirements

A. Entries are due one week prior to the National Tournament. (February 26, 2206)

B. No contestant shall be permitted to enter an NJCAA Championship Bowling Tournament unless accompanied by (1) a coach or faculty member of the sending institution or (2) a designated supervisory coach or faculty member from an NJCAA member college.

Designation of a supervisory person in (2) above must be in writing. It shall bear the seal of the college and signatures of the Athletic

Director and President or Dean of the sending institution. It shall be sent by certified mail to the Tournament Director. All contestants

must remain under the supervision of their coach or the designated supervisory person throughout the tournament and until

departure from the site.

C. Participants in the NJCAA Bowling Championship should be dressed appropriately:

1. Must have team shirts with the college name on the back.

2. Participants may wear skirts, shorts or dress slacks.

3. No jeans allowed.

4. Violators of dress decorum will be asked by either the Tournament Director or NJCAA Representative to alter dress to comply with the stated dress decorum. If they don't comply, the incident will be referred to the Championship Events Committee for possible sanctions.

D All coaches, athletes and support personnel are expected to be familiar with and follow the NJCAA Code of Conduct. This code may be found under Article XX of the NJCAA bylaws.

Section 4. Tournament Events

A. Each member college is allowed to enter up to eight participants. A maximum of six players per team must be designated to

count for team scoring in Doubles/Singles competition prior to the start of the tournament. Any college may enter as few events as they wish.

B. The tournament shall consist of the following events:

1. Doubles Event - two team members are paired together to bowl three games. Combined pin fall per doubles team will determine doubles competition. If a team has an odd number of players, the odd player may bowl three games during doubles competition but shall not be eligible for that award. Players may not be paired with members from another college.

2. Singles Event - all entrants will bowl three games. This pin fall will be used to determine singles competition.

3. Five Man/Woman Event - there will be two, three game blocks in this event. Teams will be seeded for each block of three games. Teams may only bowl up to five members of their team during this format. Any additional players may only be used as substitutes.

4. Baker Games - nine games shall be bowled in the Baker format (three, three-game blocks). Teams will be seeded at the start of each three-game block. Up to three substitutions per Baker Game will be permitted. Founded by the American Bowling Congress Secretary Emeritus, Frank Baker, the Baker System of scoring utilizes all five players in a single line of scoring with the lead-off player rolling the first and sixth frame, the second player rolling the second and seventh frame, and so on, with the anchor (fifth) bowler rolling the fifth and tenth or final frame.

5. Team scoring will be determined by total pin fall as follows:

i. At the conclusion of doubles and singles competition, the top five highest pin falls (of the maximum designated six players) shall be counted towards the team total.

ii. The six games bowled in the Five Man/Woman format will count towards team total.

iii. Nine Baker games will count towards the team total.

C. In case of a tie for first place, the teams will be declared co-champions.

Section 5. Rules and Officials

A. USBC Collegiate Division rules shall be followed.

1. Lane Assignments- Lane assignments will be determined by the tournament director and provided prior to the start of play. The "move" consisting of new lane assignments will occur after the double's events. Individual bowlers must stay within their groupings and cannot switch out of their groups and associated

assignments once tournament play begins and the same groupings must be kept after the "move".

B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for securing the services of all necessary officials, judges, etc. to satisfactorily conduct

the tournament as determined by the NJCAA Committee on Bowling.

C. All teams will abide by the five-ball limit rule at both regional and national championships. Balls will be registered with the Tournament Director who will be responsible for administering this rule.

D. There is to be no practice session (bowling) of any type once tournament play begins.

E. Ball registration sheets must be turned in prior to the start of warm-ups on the beginning day of the tournament. No equipment may be changed after that point.

F. Lanes shall be re-oiled after the Doubles and Singles competition.

11. BOWLING – MEN’S & WOMEN’S

Section 1. Tournament Dates

- A. The tournament shall be scheduled for the weekend of the first Saturday in March. The tournament dates may have to be adjusted based on host’s availability to secure adequate facility to conduct the tournament. NY March 5 -7, 2026 at Royal Scot Golf & Bowl; Lansing, MI March 4 -6, 2027 at Royal Scot Golf & Bowl; Lansing, MI
- B. All Region Tournaments must be completed no later than 10 days prior to the start of the National Tournament

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

- A. Invitations to participate must be extended to all member colleges of the NJCAA.
- B. The Tournament Director will send official entry blanks to the interested teams and will notify them of the events, their order, the time schedule, the deadline for entries and other pertinent information.

Section 3. Participation Requirements

- A. Entries are due 10 days prior to the National Tournament.
- B. No contestant shall be permitted to enter an NJCAA Championship Bowling Tournament unless accompanied by (1) a coach or faculty member of the sending institution or (2) a designated supervisory coach or faculty member from an NJCAA member college. Designation of a supervisory person in (2) above must be in writing. It shall bear the seal of the college and signatures of the Athletic Director and President or Dean of the sending institution. It shall be sent by certified mail to the Tournament Director. All contestants must remain under the supervision of their coach or the designated supervisory person throughout the tournament and until departure from the site.
- C. Participants in the NJCAA Bowling Championship should be dressed appropriately:
 - 1. Must have team shirts with the college name on the back.
 - 2. Participants may wear skirts, shorts or dress slacks.
 - 3. No jeans allowed.
 - 4. Violators of dress decorum will be asked by either the Tournament Director or NJCAA Representative to alter dress to comply with the stated dress decorum. If they don't comply, the incident will be referred to the Championship Events Committee for possible sanctions.
- D All coaches, athletes and support personnel are expected to be familiar with and follow the NJCAA Code of Conduct. This code may be found under Article XX of the NJCAA bylaws.

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2. Singles Event - all entrants will bowl three games. This pin fall will be used to determine singles competition.

3. Five Man/Woman Event - there will be two, three a 6 game block in this event. Teams will be seeded for each block of three games. Teams may only bowl up to five members of their team during this format. Any additional players may only be used as substitutes.

4. Baker Games - nine games shall be bowled in the Baker format (three, three-game blocks). Teams will be seeded at the start of each three-game block.

Top 8 teams after Singles, Doubles and Team event will bowl in a single elimination seeded bracket using Baker games in a Best of 7.

Tie Breaker for Seeding Purposes:

In the case there is a tie for seeding among the top 8, the tie will be broken by the team who has bowled the highest team game score. If there is a tie for the last seed, a full head to head baker will be bowled and the highest score will be awarded the seed. If tied after the baker games it will go to a coin flip. This will be held immediately after the 5 man/women competition.

Up to three substitutions per Baker Game will be permitted.

Founded by the American Bowling Congress Secretary Emeritus, Frank Baker, the Baker System of scoring utilizes all five players in a single line of scoring with the lead-off player rolling the first and sixth frame, the second player rolling the second and seventh frame, and so on, with the anchor (fifth) bowler rolling the fifth and tenth or final frame.

5. Team scoring will be determined by total pin fall as follows:

i. At the conclusion of doubles and singles competition, the top five highest pin falls (of the maximum designated six players) shall be counted towards the team total.

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C. In case of a tie for first place, the teams will be declared co-champions. If there is a tie for a spot in the Top 8 bracket a full head to head baker will be bowled. During the bracket if a Best of 7 ends up tied, a full baker game will be bowled.

D. Tournament Schedule

1. Thursday will be doubles and singles
2. Friday will be 6 team games
3. Saturday will be the Top 8 Single elimination bracket best of 7 matches.
4. There will be a consolation match between the teams eliminated in the semifinals to determine 3rd place.
5. If time allows, a practice session will be run on Thursday morning.
6. The banquet will be on Friday evening and will present Doubles, Singles and All American awards along with Hall of Fame inductions.

Section 5. Rules and Officials

A. USBC Collegiate Division rules shall be followed.

1. Lane Assignments- Lane assignments will be determined by the tournament director and provided prior to the start of play. During doubles each team will have their bowlers on consecutive lanes with no more than one per lane. Bowlers will move pairs each game within a 6 or 8 lane block. All team members will be in the same block. The "move" consisting of a new lane assignment block will occur after the doubles events. Individual bowlers must stay within their groupings and cannot switch out of their groups and associated assignments once tournament play begins and the same groupings must be kept after the "move". During singles all members of the same team will still be on consecutive lanes in the same block. During team event teams will move lanes each game and use lane blocks of 6,8,10,12 teams.

B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for securing the services of all necessary officials, judges, etc. to satisfactorily conduct the tournament as determined by the NJCAA Committee on Bowling.

C. All teams will abide by the five-ball/ six-ball limit rule at both regional and national championships. Balls will be registered with the Tournament Director who will be responsible for administering this rule.

D. There is to be no practice session (bowling) of any type once tournament play begins. E. Ball registration sheets must be turned in prior to the start of warm-ups on the beginning day of the tournament. No equipment may be changed after that point.

F. Lanes shall be re-oiled after the Doubles and Singles competition. Lanes will be oiled fresh at the beginning of each day. The bracket will use freshly oiled pairs each match.

Section 6. Finances

A. Each team shall pay its own expenses.

B. The entry fee shall be \$400 per team or \$80 per individual.

Section 7. Affiliation Recommendation

All students bowling in the intercollegiate level under the jurisdiction of the Athletic Director are encouraged to belong to the USBC Collegiate and that all leagues and tournaments be sanctioned by:

USBC Collegiate
621 Six Flags Dr.
Arlington, TX 76011

The NJCAA shall recognize and permit member institutions to participate in USBC Collegiate events after the conclusion of the NJCAA National Tournament as USBC Collegiate is an organization derived of two- and four-year colleges and seeks to promote opportunities for student-athletes to participate in the sport of bowling.

**Please attach any supporting
documentation here. (Optional)**

<https://njcaa.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19277903138>

SPORT COMMITTEE: Joint Bowling

Sport Code Change Proposal

Rationale: The bowling coaches and coaches association have long requested a review of the format of the national tournament events. This new tournament format would allow for a total team pinfall to determine an 8-team elimination bracket. It would maintain singles and doubles along with team games to allow for all participant's to compete in the same manner they had in years past. It changes the Baker game portion to only apply to the top 8 teams, setting up a single elimination tournament based on total pin fall seeding. The new format also allows for all Americans to be determined before the Banquet and to be honored in front of all at this event. It also adjust the ball limit to be in line with other national tournaments along with requiring entries to be in no later than one week prior to the National Tournament.

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