



## 2025 BOWLING ADVISORY MEETING Minutes and Recommendations

May 2, 2025

The following members were present for the meeting: Jonathan Hauter (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Al Nordman (Oregon/Tournament Manager), Fred Pufahl (Frankfort Summit Hill), Andy Dole (Homer Glen), Jim McCabe (Utica Waltham), Kelly Nimtz (Loves Park/Machesney Park), Doug Wagoner (Hoopeston Area), Emilie Young (Lincoln Chester-East Lincoln). Not present: Maurice Thomas (Maywood Irving/Melrose Park Stevenson)

The IESA Bowling Advisory Committee makes the following recommendations to the IESA Board of Directors for its June 6, 2025 meeting:

### **Recommendation #1**

**Proposed:** Expand to six sectional sites, with each advancing the top four boys' teams and top four girls' teams, along with the top eight individual boys and girls not on an advancing team.

**Current:** Four sectional sites with six boys and girls teams advancing and top twelve individual boys and girls not on an advancing team at each sectional.

**Rationale:** Since bowling was introduced in 2011, we have utilized four sectional venues. However, with the steady growth of the activity, from 67 participating schools in 2022 to 95 projected in 2025, our current venues are facing increasing space constraints. Expanding to six sectional sites will help relieve this pressure, allowing for continued growth in the coming years. This change will not only improve the experience for member schools and athletes but also enable host venues to manage tournaments more effectively.

**T & C:** IV. F

**Admin Vote:**

**Board Action:** **Approved**

### **Recommendation #2**

**Proposed:** The team with the highest fourth game advances. The individual with the highest fourth game advances.

**Current:** The team with the highest third game advances. The individual with the highest third game advances.

**Rationale:** Updating language to reflect the change in the sectional format to 4 games from 3 games in 2024.

**T & C:** VII. B.

**Admin Vote:**

**Board Action:** **Approved**

### **Recommendation #3**

**Proposed:** Move the online roster deadline forward to Friday, the week before the sectional tournament.

**Current:** Online roster deadline is Monday, the week of the sectional tournament.



**Rationale:** Moving the roster deadline to Friday gives the sectional venues more time to map out the placement in each lane with the confirmed entries. This allows hosts the week of sectionals to handle scratches and last-minute changes.

**T & C: II.**

**Admin Vote:**

**Board Action:** **Approved**

**Recommendation #4**

**Proposed:** Cheering: Recommended that bowlers not participate in any chanting, cheering, or noisemaking while on the approach.

**Current:** N/A

**Rationale:** Under our current terms and conditions, we do not have anything pertaining to sportsmanship when you are on the approach. This recommendation of no cheering on the approach would mimic the IHSA's language on cheering from bowlers. We have had increased complaints from bowlers and coaches about the noise level and distractions from cheering on the approach. This would allow the IESA and games committee during the state tournament to highlight a recommendation of sportsmanship with cheering being one of the points of emphasis.

**T & C: VI. A.**

**Admin Vote:**

**Board Action:** **Approved**

**Other Items/Topics Discussed:**

- Sectional assignments adjusting top teams from previous year
- Sectional Scoring – Will encourage games committee at sectional to verify scores, will have unofficial score link until verified by IESA office.
- Assign host school at each sectional
- Participant wristbands for both days at state
- Hospitality for coaches
- Software LaneTalk – Discussed its capabilities
- State venue feedback
- Extra staffing at state

**Next Meeting: May 1, 2026 (Virtual)**