



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer

Date: May 12, 2025

RE: B/G Bowling – Standardization of Match Play

Proposal

The Bowling Committee hosted its post-season meeting in March and discussed several key issues facing high school bowling in New Jersey. The primary concern was the lack of standardization in match and scoring formats across the state. This proposal focuses on aligning regular season match play with the five-player format used in postseason competition to ensure uniformity, fairness, and integrity in rankings.

Currently, team rankings for state tournament qualification are calculated using the PowerPoint system, which factors in the top four (4) individual scores per match. This creates inconsistencies and potential advantages for teams fielding more than four bowlers. To address these inconsistencies, the NJSIAA recommends adopting a five-bowler format for both match play and PowerPoint calculations starting with the 2025–26 winter season.

Proposed Match Format

1. Regular season matches will be contested 5 vs. 5.
2. The PowerPoint system will be modified to calculate all five bowlers' scores.
3. If lane availability is limited, matches may be split: 3 vs. 3 on one lane pair and 2 vs. 2 on another lane pair.
4. Each match will consist of three (3) games.

Rationale

Currently, schools compete with either 4, 5 or 6 bowlers per match – the number of competitors varies across all leagues and conferences. Schools using more than four bowlers gain a competitive edge by excluding lower scores from PowerPoint calculations. Standardizing the match format to five bowlers is a compromise across all leagues and conferences and eliminates perceived competitive advantages that were allowable during the 2024-2025 season.

As NJSIAA has restructured its high school bowling tournaments in recent years, it is important that the regular season is aligned with the state tournament format. By moving to a uniform format across all schools, the integrity of the power point rankings and state tournament seeding will not be compromised.