

GREATER CLEVELAND INTERSCHOLASTIC BOWLING LEAGUE OFFICIAL RULES

1. This league shall be governed by the rules of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) where any of the following rules do not apply. USBC rules may be viewed at the following website: www.bowl.com. OHSAA bowling regulations may be viewed at the following website: www.OHSAA.org. The league shall be sanctioned according to USBC criteria that apply.
2. All situations regarding eligibility and transfers shall be governed by OHSAA bylaws. The coach shall check members of the team at the end of each marking period or according to the school's own eligibility policy and report to the secretary when a bowler is dropped or a new bowler added. No changes in the roster can be made in the last two (2) weeks of the season, excluding the Singles Tournament. The Singles Tournament is not part of the regular season. The roster for the final two (2) weeks and Singles Tournament cannot include any individual who has not established an average prior to that time.
3. In order for a bowler to qualify for an individual award, he/she must bowl in at least half of the games (18) possible (50%, rounded up if an odd number) in dual matches, including any knockdowns and championship rounds, if part of the schedule.
4. No school shall have more than one (1) entry in the GCIBL in any division (varsity and JV boys; varsity and JV girls) unless voted upon by coaches.
5. It is the duty of the coach to collect the bowling fees (\$40 per team per week for varsity; \$40.00 for JV) and to pay the League Director, or his designee, prior to the end of the first game. All secretary score sheets that go to the League Statistician must be filled out in full and signed by team captains or the coaches of each team.
6. A school must have a minimum of 10 bowlers to field 2 teams. A team must floor at least three (3) members prior to the start of the match in order to avoid forfeiture of the game, unless a phone call explaining a delaying emergency has been made. A team must phone by 8:45 AM in case of a delaying emergency or forfeit the first game. The opposing team shall win all points if the forfeiting teams fail to floor three bowlers before the conclusion of the fifth frame of the third game. A tardy bowler may catch up if he/she is present before the completion of the fifth frame. The second and third games should begin within three minutes of the completion of the previous game.
7. In the event of a total forfeiture of an entire GCIBL match, the opposing team must bowl, and the scores shall count if properly paced. In the event of a bye in the GCIBL schedule, the team scheduled against the bye must bowl and the scores shall count if properly paced. Pacing defined: the anchor bowler on the team present shall bowl the first ball before the team can begin the next frame.
8. Once a bowler has been dropped from a roster, he/she is not eligible to return at any time during the GCIBL season, including the Singles Tournament.
9. League will start with the National Anthem at 9:00am, followed by League announcements. Upon completion of announcements, practice will begin. During practice time from 9:15-9:25, each team will practice on both lanes with no restriction to the number of bowlers.
10. A regularly scheduled match may be postponed or the starting time delayed at the discretion of the Coaches Committee. Examples of situations that might cause the Coaches Committee to grant a delay in the starting time or a postponement are severe weather or special circumstances. Postponed games must be made up within two (2) weeks of the date scheduled, or prior to a scheduled knockdown match if it occurs sooner than two weeks, and at a time agreeable to both teams. Unless a conflict occurs because of a scheduled league, postponed matches must be bowled on regularly scheduled lanes. A request for postponement should be made in writing or by email or verbally to the League Director at least one week in advance of the scheduled date, stating persons unable to bowl and reason. A request for postponement should only be made if a team would be unable to field a legal lineup of three bowlers at the regularly scheduled time. If all matches are postponed because of unforeseen circumstances, such as inclement weather, the remainder of the league schedule will be deferred as needed.

11. The only people permitted in the bowlers' area are six (6) bowlers and the certified coach/coaches for each team. Bowlers must remain in this area during the match, except in case of emergency. The "bowlers' area" shall be defined as the area in front of the spectator tables and below the upper concourse level.
12. All grievances shall be given to the captain or coach of the team who in turn will bring it to the attention of the Rules Committee. Grievances must be reported to the Sergeant-At-Arms on the day the violation occurs; there are no protests. The Rules Committee will investigate only properly reported grievances. If the reported grievance is regarding spectators speaking to bowlers, penalties delivered are as follows: First Time: Warning to the Coach; Second Time: The bowler is pulled from the game and will receive zero (0) for the remainder of the game. No substitution will be allowed for the rest of the match.
13. All shoes and bowling bags must be kept out of the spectators' area. Wearing apparel should be hung up in places that have been provided. The League Director has the option of suspending bowling until apparel and equipment are properly stored. Bowling shoes that have been borrowed from the establishment must be returned to the proper place at the end of the session. The establishment should be left clean.
14. Uniforms are subject to OHSAA regulations. Hats may not be worn at any time during a match.
15. Any bowler or team deemed by the Rules Committee to be intentionally throwing one or more gutter balls or deliberately missing one or more spares to keep average down will be subject to immediate expulsion from the match and will cause the team to forfeit the game in which this action occurs. In addition, any bowler engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as kicking the ball return, may be subject to immediate expulsion from the match.
16. Substitutions shall be governed by OHSAA regulations. A coach may substitute at will. Although this is not encouraged due to issues entailed in league record keeping. If a bowler must leave a match due to an emergency and no substitute is available, 1/10 of the bowler's average shall be used for each frame for remainder of the removed bowler's game.
17. No bowler shall have more than one bowling ball on the ball rack at any time during competition.
18. For GCIBL records the secretary shall prepare the standings of the teams each week on a Scratch and Handicap basis. A 7-point scoring system will be used for the three game match. Each team shall compute its handicap based on 100% of the difference between the team average of the five bowlers in the lineup for any given game and 1000. Any fractions are dropped.
19. The previous season's GCIBL average is to be used in computing handicap for the first session for all returning bowlers who bowled nine (9) games or more during that season, regardless of the date when a returning bowler bowls for the first time. For bowlers with no prior year GCIBL average, an average will be computed after the completion of the match and the team handicap calculated accordingly. Any bowler with no previous season GCIBL average, but who has a GCIBL average from a prior year, must bowl to establish average. Every bowler must bowl all three (3) games the first time he/she bowls in order to establish a new average.
20. For knockdown matches, teams that are tied in the standings shall have the tie broken based on total pins to date. For Handicap Division knockdowns, total handicap pins shall be used. For Scratch Division knockdowns, total scratch pins shall be used. The team with the higher total shall compete in the higher position. After a knockdown for any division: Scratch, Handicap, or OHSAA, the standings are frozen.
21. In the event of a tie for first place at the end of regular season play within the divisions in Handicap, Scratch, or OHSAA, the tie will be broken by a best **OF 7** Baker game roll off.
22. Team standing because of error must be contested within two weeks from the date of the match in question. Computational errors on the original score sheets must be reported to the league secretary prior to the next scheduled session of bowling.