Greetings All,

Many of us are amid or about to start the Fall Bowling Season! We have put together this packet to prepare you for the bowling season and the best ways to run your County Tournaments.  My name is Katie Lee, and I am one of the new Managers of Sports Programs, and I will be overseeing Fall Bowling. Like past years many area tournaments are near their capacity, as bowling is our largest sport around the state.  Thus, we will continue to implement county tournaments for bowling.  Again, this year, your county tournament will be either a Qualifier tournament or an Eliminator tournament depending on the number of entries your Area receives.

Once the entries are received, the Area Tournament Directors will determine if the number of Entries exceed the Area capacity or not.  If numbers DO NOT exceed capacity, the County Tournaments will be a Qualifying Tournament; all bowlers will be required to compete in their County Tournament to be eligible for the Area Tournament.  If the entries for a particular Area DO exceed the capacity, the County Tournaments for that Area will become Eliminator Tournaments.  In that case the Area Director will notify the Counties how many bowlers will be able to advance.  Most areas will only be taking entries via GMS, please make sure to attend your Fall area meeting to receive additional information regarding your area's entry process.  Like past years, I have included an e-entry form in with your county packet, to help track athlete's scores for 12 games, however please be prepared to submit your bowling entries for area tournaments via GMS.

Dates to remember:
- September 21$^{st}$                                    Pre-Tournament Coaches Information Meeting
- Monday Oct. 3$^{rd}$                                 Ribbon Order Form Due
- Monday Oct. 3$^{rd}$                                 Area Tournament Entry Deadline
- Oct. 8$^{th}$ – Oct 16$^{th}$                          County Tournaments to be held during this week
- Nov. 5$^{th}$ – 6$^{th}$ and Nov. 12$^{th}$ – 13$^{th}$       Area Tournaments
- Dec. 3$^{rd}$ – Dec. 4$^{th}$                            State Tournament


The County Tournaments should take place during your normal practice time during the specified week if possible (work with your Area Director for alternate dates if needed). Please get with your bowling alley early and discuss your needs.  They will be able to help you!  That is what they do.  Below is some guidance on how to division, score, and present awards.  We will also include an excel spreadsheet that will have the handicap formula in it that you can use for scoring.  The State Office will also provide an Order Form for your Ribbons.  (The State Office will provide your Ribbons for you.)

Our goal is to have all tournaments operating consistently from the county tournaments to the area tournaments, to the state tournament.  For the first time this year, I will host a zoom meeting for all returning or new coaches to go over information regarding tournament guidelines, divisioning how to's, entry information, important dates, and any questions that you may have to help ensure consistency across the state.

Guidelines include:
- Bumpers are not used
- Cross-lane bowling for all divisions (except Ramp Bowlers)
- Three Games Bowled in competition (except for Ramp and 8-11 year old age group = 2 games )

- Use of Handicap for competition (100% of difference of 200 – Average)
- Common Age Groups
  - Singles – (8-11, 12-21, 22 & up)
  - Ramp and Unified – (8-21, 22 & up; unless there are not enough for competitive divisions in which case age groups are combined)

There is a 12 game average requirement.
We have also made a change in the ramp bowling rules as it applies to the Ramp Assistant and below is the section in the P.I.G. that goes over that.

GENERAL RULES FOR ASSISTED RAMP COMPETITION
1. County Programs must provide the ramps their athletes will use during the ramp bowling competition.
2. Bowlers in the Assisted Ramp division will bowl a two (2) - game series.
3. Bowlers in the Assisted Ramp division will not use the cross-lane method of bowling.
4. Each ramp bowler will bowl four (5) frames consecutively.
       a. The format for one (1) game is five (5) frames / five (5) frames.
       b. This rule modification is designed to promote the pace of play and reduce the difficulty of having athletes get up to approach and set their ramp multiple times.
5. County Programs may provide assistants to ramp bowlers.
       a. Assistants must register with the tournament director prior to the tournament.
6. Approved assistants may help ramp bowlers set their equipment on the lane, while allowing the athlete to do as much as physically possible.
       a. The assistant may **help** initially line up the ramp.
       b. The assistant may set the ball on the ramp.
       c. After the ball is set on the ramp, the assistant must keep their back to the pins (face the bowler). **The assistant can adjust the ramp based on the direction (either verbally or by physical cues) from the athlete.**
       d. The assistant may not give forward impetus to the ball. The athlete must provide the force that pushes the ball down the ramp toward the pins.
       e. The assistant may hold the ramp to steady it while the athlete pushes the ball, **if requested**.

Please be sure to reread all Bowling rules in the P.I.G..

**Preparing for your County Tournament:**

- Talk with the bowling alley as early as you can to inform them of your tournament.
- Enlist their help, determine if they can score the tournament for you or if you will need to have volunteers manually write down the scores for each pair of lanes.
- Ensure that all of your athletes have up to date medicals, all athletes need to be compliant prior to participating in any practices or county tournaments.
- Recruit volunteers to:
  - Be lane assistants (and score if needed)
  - Tabulate results
  - Organize and Present awards
  - Work with the excel forms if you are uncomfortable with excel

**Divisioning:**

The Goal for divisioning is to create competition between reasonably equal competitors.  Divisioning is more of an art than a science.  The good thing about bowling, the handicap creates equality.

For SINGLES - You should strive to have divisions of 8 bowlers (8 is the maximum) where feasible and a minimum of 3 bowlers.  It is fine to combine age groups to make divisions if needed; except for age groups that don't bowl the same number of games.  i.e. don't combine 8-11 age group of singles who only bowls 2 games with older age groups that bowl 3 games.

For RAMP – You should strive to have Divisions of 4-6 bowlers.  (Because Ramp Bowlers do not cross-lane bowl, this would put 2-3 per lane.  All Ramp Bowlers bowl 2 games, so it may be necessary to combine age groups to have competition.

In Unified competition, all age groups bowl 3 games, so it is OK to combine age groups in Unified competition.

- Enter the athletes info into the score sheet spreadsheet (use a separate spreadsheet for Ramp bowlers and Single Bowlers)
- Sort the bowlers by Age Group
- If you have fewer than 3 bowlers in an age group, combine age groups if possible
- Sort by average, and assign Division Numbers so that you have 8 to a division where possible
- Assign lanes to each Division
- Start each Division on an "ODD NUMBER" Lane (i.e. use a pair of lanes, lanes 1&2 for Division 1, Lanes 3&4 for Division 2.  This will allow them to cross-lane bowl.)
- Once you have everything set, I would recommend inserting a row or 2 between each Division just to help visually separate them.

**Ribbon Order Form**

As you start working on your Divisioning, indicate the number of Divisions you think you will have for each age-group in each category.  It is fine to order a couple extra sets.  There is also room to request some individual ribbons if you think you need (as opposed to sets), i.e. if you think you need a couple extra 1st place….

**Scoring**

If you have a laptop that you can use you will be in good shape and can use the included spreadsheet to score your tournament.  If not, you can still use the spreadsheets, you will just have to manually add the scores.  If you are using the Spreadsheet on your laptop, all you have to do is insert the 3 game scores as they come to you (either from the bowling alley printing them off from their scoring system or from the lane assistants manually scoring) and the spreadsheet will calculate all the scores and automatically add the handicaps.  All you will need to do is assign the place based on the total points.  For divisions that only bowl 2 games (ramp, 8-11 age group, or any division that doesn't have the time to finish all 3 games) simply change the "number of games bowled" to 2 and all the calculations will be correct.

If you are manually adding the scores, simply add all the games, multiply the individual's handicap by the number of games they bowl, and add that to their total.

You can print out a page for each division prior to competition.  These blank scoresheets can be used to write the final scores and places for each person in a given Division.  That sheet can then be given to the Awards crew.

## Awards
Have copies of Awards Scripts available.
Sort the ribbons into sets for each Division.
When you receive a completed scoresheet for a particular Division, take a set of ribbons to the appropriate pair of lanes.  Arrange the athletes from the lowest to highest finisher and present the awards.