



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

News Release

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OHSAA Adopts Boys and Girls Bowling As A Recognized Sport Beginning With The 2006-07 School Year

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Control has approved a proposal that boys and girls bowling be recognized as an official sport beginning with the 2006-07 school year. The recommendation was unanimously approved 6-0 by the board at its regularly scheduled meeting today (Thursday, April 6). The original proposal was made by a subcommittee to study the sport at the February 16 Board of Control meeting and was tabled until today's meeting.

"The members of the subcommittee and those who work with Ohio High School Bowling did an outstanding job in their presentation and have done a tremendous job the last several years promoting the sport statewide," OHSAA Commissioner Dan Ross said. "In voting unanimously to adopt bowling, the Board of Control has shown that it strongly believes this will be a tremendous opportunity for many students across the state to participate in a school-sponsored activity for the first time, will help their parents become more connected to the schools and that the participants will reap the benefits of involvement in educational athletics, meaning they will learn lessons that will last a lifetime. I am thrilled that the Board has approved the recommendation."

Ohio High School Bowling (OHSB) has been conducting statewide competition, including a state tournament, since the 2000-01 school year and during that time participants and schools have adhered to OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations. Currently, there are approximately 160 boys and 160 girls interscholastic teams in Ohio, and OHSAA regulations do not permit the Board to consider recognizing a new sport unless a minimum of 150 schools sponsor teams.

Although yet to be finalized, preliminary plans call for the 2006-07 bowling season to begin with practices on November 10, with competition to start a week later. Teams will be permitted to conduct two scrimmages and participate in 22 contests before OHSAA post-season play begins with sectional tournaments, followed by district tournaments and concluding with the state tournament, which will include team and individual qualifiers. The season will end in early March.

The general rules of the United States Bowling Congress will be adopted and modified according to OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations. Five bowlers per team will participate during contests or tournaments with maximum rosters for all OHSAA post-season tournaments limited to eight.

The addition of boys and girls bowling increases the number of sports sanctioned by the OHSAA to 24, which includes 12 for boys and 12 for girls. The OHSAA last added a sport in 1993 when girls golf was adopted. The last sport adopted for both boys and girls was soccer, which became a boys sports in 1976 and a girls sport in 1985.

"On behalf of Ohio High School Bowling, including the Bowling Centers Association and the more than 4,500 participants, I wish to express sincere gratitude and unqualified excitement with the decision of the OHSAA Board of Control to recognize boys and girls bowling as the newest Ohio interscholastic sport," said Greg Coulls, OHSB Commissioner. "Our association will commit its full energy and best efforts to make the transition to OHSAA control of Ohio high school bowling as smooth as possible, and we pledge to cooperate in the successful launch of bowling as an interscholastic sport."