



2024-2025 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Adapted Bowling Rules Supplement

ADAPTED ATHLETICS – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The MSHSL has three competitive interscholastic divisions: Physically Impaired (PI), Cognitively Impaired (CI) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Participation in the interscholastic program of a high school is limited to students in grades 7 through 12. Students in an ungraded setting are first eligible when their age peers are in the 7th grade. Student will be eligible for 12 consecutive semesters (6 years), beginning with their or their peers' initial entrance into the 7th grade.

The MSHSL requires, a sport qualifying exam every three years for participants in competitive athletics. The MSHSL acknowledges that some students with disabilities, like some students without disabilities, will be unable to participate in adapted athletics due to the competitive nature of the programs and for reasons unrelated to their disability. Like other students who do not "make the team", these students should be directed to alternative programs which are less competitive and more recreational in nature.

Students can only participate in one division. If a student participates in more than one division the penalty for the use of an ineligible player will be enforced and result in an automatic forfeiture of the game.

A. **PI Division** – The MSHSL Adapted Athletics PI Division program is specifically intended for students with physical impairments who have medical clearance to compete in competitive athletics. A student is eligible to compete in the PI Division with one of the following criteria.

The student must have a diagnosed and documented impairment specified from one of the two sections below: (Must be diagnosed and documented by a Physician and/or Physicians Assistant)

- 1) Neuromuscular, postural/skeletal, traumatic, growth, or neurological impairment that affects motor function, modifies gait patterns, or requires the use of a prosthesis or a mobility device including but not limited to, canes, crutches, or wheelchairs.
- 2) Cardio/respiratory impairment that is deemed safe for competitive athletics but limits the intensity and duration of physical exertion such that sustained activity for over five minutes at 60% of maximum heart rate for age results in physical distress in spite of appropriate management of the health condition.

Note: A condition that can be appropriately managed with appropriate medications, which eliminate physical or health endurance limitations, will NOT be considered to be eligible for adapted athletics. Specific exclusions to PI competition:

The following health conditions without coexisting physical impairments as outlined above do not qualify the student to participate in the PI Division even though some of the conditions below may be considered Health Impairments by an individual's physician, student's school, or a government agency. This list is not all-inclusive, and the conditions are examples of non-qualifying health conditions; other health impairments that are not listed below, may also be non-qualifying for participation in the PI Division.

- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)
- Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)
- Emotional Behavioral Disorder (EBD)
- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- Tourette's Syndrome
- Neurofibromatosis
- Asthma
- Reactive Airway Disease (RAD)
- Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD)
- Blindness
- Deafness
- Obesity
- Depression
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder
- Seizure Disorder
- Other Similar Disorders

B. **CI Division** – The MSHSL Adapted Athletics CI Division program is specifically intended for students with cognitive impairments who have medical clearance to compete in competitive athletics. A student is eligible to compete in the CI Division by meeting criteria 1 or 2 below:

Criteria 1. Minnesota Rule

3525.1333 DEVELOPMENTAL COGNITIVE DISABILITY.

Subpart 1. Definition. "Developmental cognitive disability (DCD)" means a condition resulting in significantly below average intellectual functioning and concurrent deficits in adaptive behavior that adversely affects educational performance and requires special education and related services. DCD does not include conditions primarily due to a sensory or physical impairment, traumatic brain injury, autism spectrum disorders, severe multiple impairments, cultural influences, or inconsistent educational programming.

Subpart 2. Criteria. The team shall determine that a pupil is eligible as having a DCD and needs special education instruction and related services if the pupil meets the criteria in items A and B.

- A.** The pupil demonstrates below average adaptive behavior in school and home, and, if appropriate, community environments. For the purposes of this item, "below average" means:
- (1) A composite score at or below the 15th percentile on a nationally normed, technically adequate measure of adaptive behavior; and
 - (2) Documentation of needs and the level of support required in at least four of the seven adaptive behavior domains across multiple environments. Systematic observation and parent input must be included as sources to document need and level of support. All the following adaptive behavior domains must be considered:
 - (a) daily living and independent living skills;
 - (b) social and interpersonal skills;
 - (c) communication skills;
 - (d) academic skills;

- (e) recreation and leisure skills;
- (f) community participation skills; and
- (g) work and work-related skills.

Other sources of documentation may include checklists; classroom or work samples; interviews; criterion-referenced measures; educational history; medical history; or pupil self-report.

- B. The pupil demonstrates significantly below average general intellectual functioning that is measured by an individually administered, nationally normed test of intellectual ability. For the purposes of this sub item, "significantly below average general intellectual functioning" means:
 - (1) mild-moderate range: two standard deviations below the mean, plus or minus one standard error of measurement; and
 - (2) severe-profound range: three standard deviations below the mean, plus or minus one standard error of measurement.

Significantly below average general intellectual functioning must be verified through a written summary of results from at least two systematic observations with consideration for culturally relevant information, medical and educational histories, and one or more of the following: supplemental tests of specific abilities, criterion-referenced tests, alternative methods of intellectual assessment, clinical interviews with parents, including family members, if appropriate, or observation and analysis of behavior across multiple environments.

Criteria 2. Students will also be eligible for the CI Division if they meet the following criteria

The student must have a diagnosed and documented cognitive impairment. Cognitively impaired refers to students with sub-average intellectual function defined by a **Full-Scale** intelligence quotient of 70 or below, using a standardized, nationally normed, technically adequate, and individually administered intelligence test.

Specific exclusions from CI competition

A student becomes ineligible to participate in Adapted Athletics when they have attained a level of cognitive performance that exceeds the eligibility requirements. A student whose Full-Scale IQ score increased above 70 after the start of a season will be permitted to complete that sports season.

- C. **ASD Division** – The MSHSL Adapted Athletics Autism Division program is specifically intended for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Challenges to a student's eligibility to participate in PI, CI and ASD adapted athletics

A school may file a written challenge regarding a student's eligibility to participate in Adapted Athletics based on the qualifications stated above. Challenges must be submitted within 24 hours of the end of the game in which an alleged ineligible player participated. A challenge submitted after the deadline will not be honored. The student shall remain eligible during the review process. The committee's findings will be final and follow the student through the remaining years of eligibility unless there is a change in physical or cognitive status.

Upon receipt of a written challenge the MSHSL will activate the following review process:

- Request of a brief statement from the school/coach supporting the eligibility of the athlete.
- Review of the school's/coach's submission and the school's supporting data (testing, medical history, school documentation) by one reviewer who will submit a brief written statement regarding the eligibility status.
- Appeal Process: If the initial finding is appealed, a panel of three reviewers will be convened. Two of these reviewers must be from different disciplines (MD, Adapted PE teacher, PT, etc.). The school/coach will be asked to submit a video of the player during a game or during PE class that will best demonstrate the disability. The video will be at the school's expense.

Length of Season

The length of the bowling season shall be 11 weeks.

Events

Competition will consist of:

- A Singles competition for boys and singles competition for girls in three divisions. (PI, CI and ASD).
- B Doubles competition can be co-ed in three divisions (PI, CI and ASD).
- C Team competition will be made up of four players, which can be coed in three divisions (PI, CI and ASD).

Games

Two games would constitute a match. 16 matches (two matches per week) will comprise a season. The maximum number of matches played per season shall not exceed 16 matches exclusive of League tournament play. All games shall be bowled in an official bowling alley.

Points

Two points awarded for each win and one point given for total pins with handicap for a total of five possible points per match. There will be **NO** tiebreakers during the conference season or in state tournament play.

Handicap

Handicap would have to be generated from a scratch score in section and state tournament play since participants would not be playing everyone. The score of 200 will be used with everyone's handicap being figured by the following formula: $200 \text{ minus player's average times } 90\% = \text{handicap}$. For example, $200 \text{ (scratch score)} - 150 \text{ (average)} = 50 \times .90(\%) = 45 \text{ (pins handicap)}$. Further, a score for an absent player would be figured by taking 75% of the absent bowler's average plus the original handicap. For example, $150 \text{ (average)} \times .75(\%) = 112 + 45 \text{ (pins original handicap)} = 157 \text{ pins}$.

Average

Preseason average would be determined by an average generated by bowling six games before the competition begins. Once the competition begins, the average will be comprised only of the competitive games bowled. Averages will be updated after each match.

Supervision

All games bowled, including the preseason games, need to be monitored and attested to as accurate by an adult supervisor.

Absentee Score

An absent bowler's score will be 75% of the absent bowler's current season average. This will apply to team and doubles only when a substitute player is not available. Example: Bowlers average 150 x 75% = score for absent bowler plus handicap. A bowler in singles competition who is absent will forfeit.

Substitute Player

A substitute player shall meet all criteria of regular players. For example, a player must have an established average in competition by bowling in a minimum of 3 matches (6 games) and not competing on more than 1 additional competition (singles only).

Special Equipment

A bowling ramp and/or a retractable handle ball will be permitted. A bowling ramp will be permitted for **any PI participant to be used in any way that best meets his/her needs**. A declaration of special equipment is necessary, and a bowler needs to be consistent in its use for the season since switching special equipment could drastically change one's average. Special equipment can be purchased through general sports equipment catalogs and local sporting goods dealers. There shall be no special equipment for the CI and ASD divisions.

Special Consideration

Participants using ramps can bowl two consecutive frames between turns. General placement of the ramp on the lane by the coach or his/her designee is permitted, but the bowler must make final adjustments. There shall be no special considerations for the CI and ASD divisions.

Participation

Athletes can participate as:

- an individual in singles competition OR;
- an individual in singles and participant in doubles competition OR;
- an individual in singles and participant in team competition, OR;
- a participant in doubles and team competition, OR;
- doubles only OR;
- team only.
- Unlimited number of athletes can participate in any two categories, but one cannot participate in all three categories;
- Participation in the interscholastic program of a high school is limited to students in grades 7 through 12.

All section and state tournament participants will be dressed in identical school shirts throughout all tournament matches. Athletes not in official school uniforms will be disqualified from competition.

Regional Play

A regional play down may be necessary in order to get the best representative from each region to play in a state tournament. The number of schools and teams registered will determine playoffs.

State Tournament

The MSHSL will sponsor a State Tournament at the end of the season. A participant must bowl a minimum of three matches (six games) to qualify for the tournament. Each school or co-op may qualify as many singles, doubles or teams provided a student does not participate in all three categories. For example, two participants (two boys or two girls or one boy and one girl) for doubles competition; four participants (any combination of boys and girls) for team competition.

Awards

- A. Certificate of participation for all athletes in all divisions.
- B. Certificate of Recognition for the head coach of each school or co-op team.
- C. Individual medals for official team members participating on first, second and third place teams in both divisions; individual medals for the top four doubles participants in each division; individual medals for the top 10 boys and top 10 girls in singles competition for each division.
- D. Individual medals for the head coach of the first, second and third place teams in all divisions.
- E. Trophies for team champions representing first, second and third place in each division.

It is a violation of MSHSL Policy for a member school or a representative of a member school to establish, distribute or accept any awards not provided by the MSHSL for section or state tournaments.