



## Bowling

### SECTION A: Procedures

1. The Heart of America Athletic Conference will select the hosts for the Heart Bowling Conference Championships through a bid process.
2. The tournament committee will be composed of the conference chair, past, current and future tournament directors. The host school representative will serve as chairperson of the committee and as tournament director with the Sport Liaison from the BOG.

### SECTION B: Tournament Schedule

1. The conference tournament will be a two-day event, on Saturday and Sunday, that must be held prior to the conference championship deadline as stated by NAIA in the coaches manual. [NAIA Bowling Coaches Corner](#)
2. Coach's Meeting – All coaches are recommended to attend a pre-tournament meeting. The meeting will be held prior to the tournament. Time and place of the meeting will be announced by the Conference Chair.
3. Conference Tournament Format:
  - a. Top 8 men's and women's teams qualify for the Heart of America Conference Championships. Those 8 teams will be determined by NAIA RPI ranking calculated after the conclusion of the regular season. In 2025 this will be February 17 (Monday following Hoosier Classic weekend). Teams will be seeded based on their RPI rank within the conference. A double elimination 8 team bracket will be contested using RPI rank at the start of the tournament for seeding.
  - b. Mega-Match format: Is a best of 3 match consisting of 3 types of contest. All 3 sets will be contested on the same pair of lanes.
  - c. Set 1 is a team game with 5 bowlers bowling a traditional game. The team with the highest pinfall wins the point. In the event of a tie, 5 baker frames will be bowled to break the tie. The highest RPI seed will choose the starting lane after 15 minutes of practice. USBC substitution rules apply.
  - d. Set 2 is a total pinfall match consisting of 4 Baker games. The highest RPI seed will choose the starting lane. Each team will bowl 2 baker games on each lane. In the event of a tie, 5 baker frames will be bowled to break the tie. USBC substitution rules apply.

- i. If the same team wins both the Team Game and the 4-Game Baker set, the match is decided and the team with 2 points wins. If the match is split 1-1, set 3 will determine the winner.
  - e. Set 3 (if necessary) If the match is split 1-1, the match will conclude with a Best of 5 Baker format match. The highest RPI seed will choose the starting lane. The team to win 3 points first wins the match. Tie games will result in 0.5 points. In the event of a tie of 2.5-2.5 after 5 games, an 6th baker game will break the tie. If a tie remains, a 9th and 10th frame roll off will be contested until a tie is broken. USBC substitution rules apply. Example Bracket and schedule is attached. Maximum 3 matches per day/per team.
  - f. Maximum lanes needed in any round will be 16 lanes.
    - i. In the event there is a final “if necessary” match in the double elimination format, the Championship will be decided by an additional Best of 7 baker match format rather than an additional Mega-Match. Time Schedule: Schedule is published on bracket. In the event all matches of a given round conclude in the first 2 sets of mega-matches, the following round will begin 30 minutes following the conclusion of the previous round if no re-oil is required. Subsequent rounds will begin 60 minutes following conclusion if a re-oil is required.
4. Lane conditions: Heart of America lane patterns will be created by a 3rd party given information about the bowling center characteristics and lane machine available to condition the lanes. Lane conditions must be sport compliant per USBC Guidelines. There will be a unique lane condition developed for the men’s and women’s championships.

The Heart of America Bowling executive committee will seek and approve the 3rd party creating lane patterns for the event. Kegel (John Janawicz), Nick Hoagland are potential options.

Heart of America Championship lane conditions must be provided to all participating coaches a minimum of 7 days prior to the official practice session.

- 5. Each mega-match will be contested on a fresh lane condition. save for Round 3. Time is built into the schedule on day 1 for re-oiling between rounds.
  - a. Day 2 will not need to use the same pairs twice so no time will be needed for additional re-oils.

### **SECTION C: Awards**

- 1. The All-Conference Team will consist of 15 players. The 15 players will be determined by a formula using the following stats: fill frame percentage (15%), 1st ball 9+ percentage (15%), makeable spare percentage (10%), 9 count spare percentage (10%), number of frames (5%), average (10%), top 1 average (5%), top 5 average (5%), top 10 average (5%), top 25 average (5%), and average differential (15%). Student- athletes must have completed 400 frames to qualify.

- a. The All-Conference 1st team will consist of the top-5 and the 2nd team will consist of the next five, and the honorable mention team will consist of the next five.
2. Coach, Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, and Freshman Rookie of the Year will be voted on by the member coaches. To be eligible for Newcomer of the Year the student-athlete must be new to the member school and new to the conference. To be eligible for Rookie of the Year the student-athlete must be a first-time competing freshman.

#### **SECTION D: Equipment**

1. 6 ball limit, which will consist of filling out ball cards for each player and team before the start of competition.
2. As approved by NAIA and USBC, slow oil-absorbing bowling balls listed as non-conforming by the USBC will be deemed ineligible for all NAIA postseason competition, including Conference Championship Tournaments and the NAIA Bowling National Championship, beginning with the Spring 2026 postseason. Conferences may, at their discretion, allow or prohibit the use of these bowling balls during NAIA regular-season competition for the remainder of the 2025–26 season only. Please see the list of [ineligible bowling balls](#).

## **Appendix: Leadership**

1. Conference Office Administrator: Nik Rule
2. Championships Coordinator: Madison Lantz-Farris
3. Chair: Kirstin Foster - William Penn University
4. Vice Chair: Andy Diercks - Mount Mercy University
5. BOG Liaison: Jeff Sherman - Central Methodist

## **Appendix: Championship Location**

2025 – AMF Town and Country Lanes, Columbia, MO, February 22-23, 2025

2026 – TBD

2027 – TBD

## **SECTION A: Leadership**

Chair: Kirstin Foster – William Penn  
BOG Liaison: Kyle Pond – Peru State