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DRAFT
2026 Unified Bowling Handbook

Published: prior to 11/1

***Subject to changes**

www.nysphsaa.org

https://nysphsaa.org/sports/2021/6/8/unified-sports.aspx

www.section6.e1b.org

https://www.section6.e1b.org/UnifiedBowl

Look in your Arbiter account Unified Bowling
Contact League office for corrections or changes in schedule

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Forms

All-WNY Scholar Athlete Nomination Form (on-line application)

2025-2026 Unified Bowling Calendar

The Section VI approved Unified Bowling
12/01/25 or 1/5/2026 to 3/06/26

Unified Bowling Calendar 5		
Pre-season Coaches meeting:	Wed. 11/12/25 with your League	League 5pm & Section 6 pm
First Practice	Mon., 12/01/25	
Training	12/01/25 to 3/07/26	
Matches begin	Mon, 12/08/25 or 1/08/26	Home Team: 4:45 PM
Rosters due	Mon.,12/08/25 1/08/26	
Break	1/19/26 - 1/23/26	
Opt Out	Tues., 2/10/26	
Culmination Final Event	Mon 3/02/26 or Mon 3/09/26	Regional Sites (TBD) 9:45 am- 1:30 pm
Final event weather makeup	Mon., 3/10/26	if needed only
All–WNY Scholar Athlete	Mon., 3/16/26	https://www.section6.e1b.org/SA 4 PM

Unified Bowling Advisory Committee

Chairman: Douglas Ames dougames6631@gmail.com C: (716) 544-5473

Committee voting privileges:
As per the Section VI Constitution item 7.6, "The representative members on each sport committee will be appointed by each league and have only one vote per league. Other non-voting members may be selected by the Sport Chairperson. Federated sport representative members that are appointed by their division, league or school will have only one vote. The Sport Chairs of Federated Sports that have divisions will verify that among division representatives each participating league is represented. The Sport Chair may only vote when the vote is tied. A Sport Chair who also represents a league can serve in both capacities but will have only one vote."
The voting members of the committee are indicated below with an asterisk.

Committee Members:

*Sean Lauber, ECIC (3)
Iroquois HS C: (716) 480-7945
slauber@iroquoiscsd.org

*James Bartram, Buffalo Public Schools
Olmsted C: (716) 982-5054
jbartram@buffaloschools.org

*Brian Pane, ECIC (2)
Cheektowaga HS C: (716) 510-8435
bpane@ccsd-k12.org

*Jen Johnson, CCAA
Silver Creek HS C: (716) 665-0803
jjohnson@silvercreekschools.org

*Jim Badgley, NFL / NO
Kenmore UFSD (716) 871-3082
jbadgley@ktufsd.org

*Lauren Clark, ECIC (1)
West Seneca West HS C: (716) 864-1687
lclark@wscschools.org

2025-26 Season: Discussed at pre-season meeting

1. Scoring system with google doc
2. Culmination / Tournament Guidelines / Regional Site with League Responsibilities
3. USBC Playing Rules & Guidelines - Unified Bowling Standards
4. NYSPHSAA & Special Olympics Modifications / NFHS Unified Coach Certification - Free
5. Alignments - League Created / Brackets / Awards / Sportsmanship - Coaches Award

Other Pertinent Data from Pre-season report

1. Matches scheduled during break "MUST" reschedule matches / NO FORFEIT
2. More matches played or teams are encouraged to schedule with other divisions (Min: six 6)
3. Review scoring system with coaches / Team A (1A-1P) Team B (1A-1P) Team C (2A-2P)
4. Review scoring system for reporting results on google doc / Game day rosters
5. Awards ceremony - will be handled by league personnel at ALL EOY regional sites

Changes in Policy/Practice for the upcoming season

Enforce all NYSPHSAA guidelines & regulations with regards to bowling format - warrant violations
Play dates are flexible based on host lanes schedule - Saturday's as an option
Easier access for athletes with wheelchairs - Ramps

Unified Bowling Schools for 2025-2026

2025-2026 Unified Bowl BEDS

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TLsK4Jvwl5U09zHv3RIaw5-LItKwtqpKWLZP5zJA5no/edit?usp=sharing

	School	Coach
Buffalo		
1	City Honors	Andrew Krause
2	Hutch Tech	Keith Kaminski
3	Olmsted	James Bartram
4	OTC	Danielle Steele Dziedzic
5	Research Lab	Andrew Krause
6	Emerson	Bethany Colemen
Chautauqua / Cattarauqua		
1	Cass. Valley	Stacey Nelson
2	Catt/LV	Justine Pelligrino
3	Dunkirk	Michelle Gilmore
4	Falconer	Krista & Damen Vincent
5	Fredonia	Lori Zebraski
6	Frewsburg	Lynda Grey
7	Jamestown	Ben and Karen Drake
8	Pine Valley	Julia Santini
9	Salamanca	Kathleen Mahany
10	Silver Creek/ Forestville*	Janet Decker / Jennifer Johnson
11	Southwestern	Jack Felton / Aaron Emley
12	Ellicottville	Chris Mendell
13	Gowanda	OUT
Niagara Frontier League		
1	Grand Island	Sara Simpson
2	Kenmore East	Trish Penetrante
3	Kenmore West	Kim Zuccari
4	Lewiston-Porter	Jon & Laurie Hoover
5	Lockport	Danielle Hagen
6	Niagara Falls	Matt Leo
7	Nia-Wheat	Jim & Mel Proefrock
8	N. Tonawanda	R. Scott Gauld

	School	Coach
ECIC		
1	Alden	Marybeth Marko
2	Amherst	Jennifer Higgins
3	Cheektowaga	Brian Payne
4	Clarence	Cathy Shaughnessy
5	Depew	
6	Eden	Jocelyn Armbruster & Heather Radder
7	Fronter	Don Heppner
8	Hamburg	Jack Wellington / Steve Chaffee
9	Holland	Tania Letina
10	Iroquois	Sean Lauber
11	Lackawanna	Jeff Patronik
12	Lake Shore	Breanna Blasz / John Coyle
13	Lancaster	Brian Wild
14	Orchard Park	Amy Grossman
15	Pioneer	Tom Izydorczak
16	Springville	Robynn Robnett
17	Starpoint	Maria Shields
18	Sweet Home	Kristy Neeson / Lisa Floreano
19	Williamsville A (Red)	Tracy Fitzpatrick / Max Zimmerman / Chris Gruarin
20	Williamsville B (Blue)	Tracy Finiki / Melissa Miller / Mike Minnuto
21	East Aurora	Laura Radley
22	West Seneca	Lauren Clark
23	Holland	Tania Letina
24	Lackawanna	Jeff Patronik
25	Maryvale	Tom Staebell
Niagara Orleans League		
1	Akron	Rob Meek
2	Medina / Roy-Hart	Jessica Kuzara
3	Newfane	Justin Balcom / Renee Luck
4	Albion	Keith Akers / Bayli Schierf
5	Wilson	Becky Myers
Section V "Independent" Pembroke - Nathan Work / Alexandria Kaminski		

Combining of teams 2026

Silver Creek/ Forestville, V. 296 approved 09/17/25 AC
West Seneca West, West Seneca East V 1427 approved 09/17/25 AC
Williamsville North, Williamsville South, Williamsville East V 2 teams 2245 approved 9/17/25
Williamsville will have a A (Gold) & B (Green) Team

Unified Bowling Sport Standard in NYSPHSAA Handbook

ON PAGE 145 of the current NYSPHSAA Handbook Please note at the bottom of page 145 - 147

https://s3.amazonaws.com/nysphsaa.org/documents/2023/8/21/NYSPHSAA_Handbook_Aug_2025.pdf#page=145

Through our special partnership with Special Olympics New York, we are pleased to offer Unified Sports Programs to our membership. Unified Sports is an inclusive sports program that combines an approximately equal number of athletes (students with intellectual disabilities) and partners (students without intellectual disabilities) on teams for training and competitions.

A key component of the Unified program is the Youth Activation Committee (YAC). The YAC is responsible to help increase awareness and acceptance of students with disabilities within the school district by supporting the Unified Basketball team.

A Unified Sport Committee was formed in the Fall of 2014 with representatives from all 11 sections. The objective of the committee is to establish programs in all 11 sections on a voluntary basis and to recommend rules and regulations that will be followed for all Unified Sport Programs within the Association.

Project Objective: Unified Sports participation is rooted in the principle of meaningful involvement which ensures that every player is given an opportunity to contribute to the success of his or her team through their unique skills and qualities. This means that every team member: (a) demonstrates sufficient sport-specific skills and game understanding; (b) plays a valued role on the team that emphasizes his or her personal talents; and (c) has an opportunity to play without a heightened risk of injury
https://bowl.com/getattachment/3dc9d64d-dde4-459b-9f48-11124e26b3cd/Rulebook-22-23_July-2022-(2).pdf?lang=en-US
is above link current information

Bowling:

USBC Playing Rules & Guidelines / USBC Scoring System:

1. All USBC Bowling rules will be followed unless a NYSPHSAA or Special Olympics Rule Adaptation is in place.
2. One (1) two-person team vs One (1) two-person team for 1pt. per game.
3. Another One (1) person team vs Another One (1) person team for 1pt. per game.
4. One (1) four person team vs One (1) four person team for 1pt. per game.
5. Each match will have three (3) games played (1pt. per game) for a total of nine (9) points per match.
6. Teams are an equal mix of athletes and partners.
7. Substitutes can be made after each game.

End of the Season “Culmination Event” Tournament:
Regional Site to Host (2 ECIC / 1 NFL- NO / 1 CCAA / 1 BPS)

1. One (1) eight-person team vs One (1) eight-person team.
2. Three (3) games will be played. Total pins counted over three (3) games.
3. Substitutes can be made after each game.
4. Teams are an equal mix of athletes and partners.

NYSPHSAA and Special Olympics Modifications:

1. Bowlers are properly fit with appropriate bowling attire and shoes.
2. If using a house ball, ensure the ball is properly fit according to weight & grip.
3. Any adaptive equipment, such as ramps, “push sticks” or other types of devices is clean and in working conditions.
4. Alternate lanes are encouraged at all times during all bowling sessions whether practice or competition.

Points of Emphasis:
1. Meaningful Involvement for all.
2. Unified bowling teams work best when all team members have similar sports skills.
3. Keep the “fun” in fundamentals, keep all active, create clear, concise goals. Give positive feedback, encourage enjoyment, create progressions and allow for individual differences.

Definition of a Scrimmage
A scrimmage is a practice that is a **SIMULATED CONTEST**. In scrimmages: (a) both squads use the same field simultaneously with both coaches making corrections and giving instructions, (b) **GAME RULES MUST BE ALTERED – SEE SPORT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS NYSPHSAA HANDBOOK,** NYSPHSAA Handbook LINK (c) no official score is kept, (d) time period(s) are defined in the Sport Standards section of the NYSPHSAA Handbook , (e) no admission is charged. The use of assistant coaches is permitted and encouraged whenever possible for the purpose of instruction regarding the rules and proper application of rules. Essential components of planning a bowling training session. An organized plan, prepared before you get to the bowling center, will help establish such a routine and make the best of your limited time. Training sessions should include the following elements: warm-ups, review of previously taught skills, new skills, competition experience, and feedback on performance.

Section VI Policies

Contingency Plan for Post Season Competition (weather or illness)

1. Contests will be postponed only if a participating school is officially closed due to weather or illness.
2. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director (or designee) to notify the Sport Chairperson that the school has been closed due to weather conditions (or illness) as soon as he/she becomes aware of such action. Officials and the media will be notified by the Chairperson (or designee).
3. In the event that a school is closed on the day its playoff contest is scheduled, the decision to play shall rest with the District Superintendent.
4. In the event that weather conditions reverse themselves prior to game time, the game may be played with the mutual consent of the participating Athletic Directors and the approval of the Sport Chairperson.
5. When a contest is at a non-school site: If the competition facility and the roads to that destination are open, then the competition will go on as scheduled. If either the roads or the facility are closed, then the competition will be canceled. ***Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES is a site contracted by Section VI available for practice when a competition is canceled.***
6. The Sport Chairperson will notify the Executive Director of any postponements.
7. **PLEASE NOTE:** It is up to the individual leagues to recognize the potential for snow days, power outages, etc. that may cause cancellations and problems. The individual leagues should schedule their last league contest at least 1 or 2 days prior to the seeding mtg., allowing for a make-up league contest(s) prior to the seeding meeting if necessary. The storm in Feb. 2006 that closed schools the day before the seeding mtg. bears this point out.
8) Any health or safety threat, confirmed or unconfirmed will supersede any existing policy and will be up to the discretion of the involved member school. (approved AC 11/13/19)

All-WNY Scholar Athlete

Coaches and Athletic Directors are encouraged to nominate athletes for selection as an All-WNY Scholar Athlete. Complete Application on-line. Those selected will be honored by both Section VI and the Buffalo News. mndDeadline Winter 3/16/2026

Section VI AED Policy

(Effective Feb. 2003)

The game site-chairperson will be responsible for securing an AED for the certified trainer’s use at all sectional contests, and at all regional and state contests that are hosted by Section VI. The certified trainer will be provided by an orthopedic group contracted by Section VI, at all postseason contests held at **neutral sites. Note:** If a school suffers loss or damage to an AED that is being used for postseason contests, the Section will be financially responsible.

SECTION VI - NYSPHSAA

Sportsmanship Philosophy & Code of Conduct Philosophy

1. We believe that interscholastic athletics is an important part of education and support the ideals and values embodied in good sportsmanship.
2. We believe that sportsmanlike behavior is essential if interscholastic competition is to contribute usefully and constructively to the broad goals of education and to the quality of life of those involved.
3. We pledge ourselves individually and collectively to encourage and support the development and maintenance of a sportsmanlike atmosphere for athletic competition.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. A genuine interest in and enjoyment of interscholastic competition requires conduct that reflects the understanding that contests as a part of an overall school program are intended to be enjoyed. Behavior that reflects a winning at all cost attitude violates this standard.
2. Interscholastic competition provides valuable lessons and learning experiences that are not possible in the regular classroom setting. All involved must support the need to develop the ability to compete with enthusiasm and to accept winning with grace and losing with dignity.
3. Coaches, players, and fans should know that participation is an honor and privilege which requires them to conduct themselves in a manner that brings honor and pride to their school and community.
4. Respect for the cultural and ethnic diversity of one's opponents, their school, and community is a fundamental tenet of wholesome athletic competition. This standard suggests that planned activity is needed to demonstrate a warm and friendly welcome, mutual respect, and a genuine readiness to participate in a sportsmanlike manner.
5. Players should demonstrate both knowledge of the rules and respect for game officials and their decisions. Coaches and school officials have the responsibility to teach and encourage these attributes.

***** SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT REMINDER *****

The following statement will be read over the public address system just prior to the pledge to the flag. If there is no public address system, the statement will be read to both teams by the site chairperson or his representative:
"Welcome to Section VI __*(name of sport)*____. Athletic competition can provide everyone with a sense of accomplishment and pride, if all of us - players, coaches and spectators - abide by the rules of good conduct. We ask that you enjoy the performance of our outstanding athletes in a spirit of sportsmanship and appreciation of competition."

Sportsmanship Standard & Pledge

https://nysphsaa.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/EVGjngEDr6VPqWsm20yF_rMBqv35ehAHbGm5Kcbk6zMiPA?e=Nc3xWs

Page 40 in above link

History of Section VI Unified Bowling

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YJVkgs1u54puyeMPqQnUjDZsaHlV7V-G/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109555149419838497371&rtpof=true&sd=true