

IHSAA-IGHSAU JOINT RELEASE

September 9, 2014; For Immediate Use

Prep Co-ed Bowling Meet to Expand to 3 Classes

Iowa's State High School Co-ed Bowling Tournament will expand to three classes effective this winter. The action was approved by the Iowa High School Athletic Association Board of Control in August and by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union Board of Directors at its September meeting, Tuesday.

The new three class format accounts for the growth in the sport, which has increased from 84 schools in 2010, the first year of the meet, to an expected 102 this winter. It also allows the organizations to stage the tournament separately for each class thus allowing for the expanding number of spectators. The girls originally sanctioned Bowling in 2006 with 53 schools.

Under the new format the top 28 schools based on enrollment will form Class 3A; the next 28 will be in Class 2A with the remaining schools forming Class 1A. Under the two class structure, participating schools with an enrollment of 800 or more were in Class 2A with the remainder being assigned to Class 1A.

Each class will have seven state qualifying tournaments with the champion in each class advancing to the State Tournament. Each individual champion at the state qualifying tournaments will advance to the State Tournament plus five at large qualifiers, based on their scores from around the state at the qualifying tournaments.

The new format means that one additional school will qualify for the State Tournament.

At the State Tournament, the top three teams in each class will receive trophies and medals while the top 10 individuals will also medal.

Executive Directors Rick Wulkow of the IHSAA and Mike Dick of the IGHSAU applauded the changes.

"I commend the Bowling Advisory Committee for their recommendation to expand the program to three classes and resolve the issues we have faced related to spectator limitations while also providing more opportunity for our smaller enrollment schools to participate at the State Tournament level," stated Wulkow.

Mike Dick, IGHSAU Executive Director added, "The bowling community and the proprietors should also be commended for their continued support of high school bowling. Randy Thompson, Plaza Lanes owner, has graciously made his bowling establishment available for an additional day in order to facilitate this change in format."