

For Immediate Release

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Media Contact: Mark Martin

mark.martin@mdusbc.com

(248) 443-2695 ext. 100

SCHOLARSHIP PROCEDURES ADJUSTED FOR MICHIGAN YOUTH BOWLERS

Youth bowlers in Michigan have new procedures in place effective immediately to protect their amateur eligibility status and still allow earning of scholarships through bowling. The Michigan Bowling Scholarship Fund (MBSF) board, consisting of Michigan bowling proprietors and Michigan youth bowling volunteers, announced the change.

The new procedure enhances eligibility protection for student athletes by adding a minimum academic requirement of a 2.0 high school grade point average for distribution of scholarship funds. Additionally, Michigan will now adopt a points system for tracking earned scholarships.

Under the new system Michigan youth bowlers will be awarded points based on their bowling performance in scholarship awarding youth leagues, tournaments and other events. Event providers will deposit all scholarship money in the national SMART Bowling Scholarship Fund. In order to use the scholarship money following high school, youth bowlers in Michigan must submit an application to MBSF verifying they have achieved a grade point average of 2.0 or greater.

Once the academic requirement is verified, the youth bowler's accumulated points are converted to scholarship dollars and may be distributed by SMART for qualifying secondary education expenses.

"This change comes following several discussions between the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA)," International Bowling Campus Director of Youth Development Chad Murphy said. "We are pleased to have agreed on this system which satisfies MHSAA's concerns regarding eligibility and still preserves the opportunity for families to benefit from bowling scholarships."

The new Michigan procedures are approved by MHSAA, MBSF and USBC.

"We appreciate the efforts by Michigan bowling leaders to recognize the need to have scholarship programs that comply with MHSAA regulations while still providing opportunities for youth bowlers to gain assistance in furthering their education at the college level," MHSAA Assistant Director responsible for bowling Randy Allen said. "When broad based criteria including academic achievement are part of these programs it is our belief that scholarship programs are stronger and more equitable. Support from USBC on a national basis shows an industry commitment to compliance with state association regulations governing all school sports and an emphasis on pure competition and the amateur nature of educational athletics."

More information is available at www.michiganbowlingscholarshipfund.com.