



# The Forum

Serving Margate and Coconut Creek

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## Bowler aims to bring beloved sport to Broward high schools

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High school students in Coconut Creek may soon have the opportunity to compete in a high school varsity sport, even if they aren't athletically inclined. That sport is bowling.

Since 2010, United States Bowling Congress Gold Certified Coach Michael Nyitray has been working to bring high school bowling to Broward County, where it's only had limited participation until now.

The national coach cre-

ated a unique - Florida High School Athletic Association approved - program for the sport. A total of nine high schools in the county are already registered and Nyitray is hoping Coconut Creek high schools are next.



**NYITRAY**

"Right now, there isn't a whole lot of money for sports in the schools," Nyitray said. "The program I created doesn't need any money. That's the part that's unusual. I'm not looking for the county to

fund a six-figure program. That's not way it's designed."

Nyitray is hoping is that he can educate school principals and parents about the new program so they know what's available to them and register their schools for it. Phil Randazzo, district supervisor of Parks and Recreation for Coconut Creek, is in favor of Creek schools jumping on the bowling bandwagon.

"[Nyitray] trying to get bowling into high schools is terrific," Randazzo said. "We want kids active so anything involving [physical activity] we support. In Parks and Recreation it's all about keeping kids active and moving. Not just sitting in front of a video game. It's also a social sport so students would get to meet people. I definitely think this is a great idea."

According to Nyitray, high school bowling in Broward County will have three unique aspects that will make it different from traditional high school sports programs.

First, it has a duel citizenship - meaning the program will be considered both a club team, like many intramural sports, and it will also be classified as a varsity sport so students can compete in the FHSAA district and state tournaments.

Second, traditionally bowling has been a team sport.

Schools with

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less than five students interested in bowling

couldn't participate. Now students can also compete in singles matches. Third, coaches do not have to be school specific. They can coach students from different schools all at the same time. According to Nyitray, this makes high school bowling more accessible and flexible for students, especially those who might not otherwise have the chance to represent their school in a varsity sport.

"The beauty of bowling is that you don't have to be a big athlete," Nyitray said. "Bowling can be played by anybody and you don't have to be coordinated. It's one of the top participation sports in America."

FHSAA Sport Administrator for Bowling Harvard Jones is happy that bowling is spreading in Broward County and hopes it continues.

"I think that as more people become aware of the bowling as a varsity high school sport, more schools will have athletes that want to participate," Jones said.

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### FAST FACTS

- High school bowling in Florida is a Fall-only sport.
- There would be no cost to any school or the Broward County School District.
- Upcoming regular season's schedule is six weeks long.
- Matches are on Thursdays after school. Optional practices are on Tuesdays.
- It is \$5 per match for students to compete.
- Practice and matches will be at Brunswick Margate Lanes and AMS Davie Lanes.
- Begins on Sept. 18, plus one additional day for District Championships on Nov. 6. State finals are the following week.
- School athletic departments are not required to oversee the matches.
- Broward County is projected to officially become a FHSAA Bowling District in 2013.

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