

## RULE 2 - CLASSIFICATION

- 2-1** School enrollment will be the primary basis for establishing classification. Final placement may be determined by consideration of the following factors:
1. Minimizing loss of instructional time.
  2. Reducing travel time and distance.
  3. Facilitating equitable scheduling.
  4. Evaluating safety concerns relative to competitive scheduling and pairing.
  5. Competitive equity of schools' program/s.

- 2-2** Classifications shall be reviewed every two years. Grades 9-12 enrollment numbers are obtained during the enrollment year from the State Board of Education and as outlined in Rule 8-15, 16, 17. Figures are compiled during a one-year period, with a one-year grace period as illustrated below. The average of enrollment figures used in calculating classification shall not be rounded up.

<u>Enrollment Year</u>	<u>Grace Year</u>	<u>Classification Period</u>
2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025 / 2025-2026
2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027 / 2027-2028
2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029 / 2029-2030

- 2-2-1** Classifications for the current school year:

**Sports/Spirit/Drama**

- 6A 1400 & over
- 5A 1399-700
- 4A 699-350
- 3A 349-175
- 2A 174-90
- 1A 89 and below

- 2-2-2** All proposals for reclassification shall be reviewed by the IHSAA Classification Committee before being considered by the Board of Directors.
- a. The proposal must be submitted to the Classification Committee by February 15 of the enrollment year.
  - b. The proposal must be submitted as outlined on the [IHSAA Classification Guidelines](#).

- 2-3** The IHSAA Board of Directors shall make the final determination on all classification petitions during their annual September meeting. Classification petitions will be considered for two-year cycles. Petitions must be submitted to the IHSAA by September 10 of the grace year.
- a. Schools may petition to move down a classification in specific team sports (see 2-3-1).
  - b. Schools may petition to move up a classification in specific team sports (see 2-3-1).
  - c. Schools may petition to move up a classification in specific individual sports (those not listed in 2-3-1).
  - d. Schools may petition to move up a classification as a school (all sports/activities).

- 2-3-1** Cheer, dance, football, boys soccer, girls soccer, volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball are considered team sports for the classification petitioning process.

- 2-3-2** Petitions must include the following to be considered when petitioning down a classification:
- a. The IHSAA office will tabulate votes from all superintendents of the classification in which the school wishes to be placed as well as the classification they will be leaving. A simple majority of the superintendent votes, one vote per high school, must be obtained to move the petition to the Board for a final decision.
  - b. Cover letter and letters of support.
  - c. Evidence that the varsity, JV, and freshman combined winning percentage is near or below 25% during the most recent two years of competition against their assigned classification.
  - d. Evidence that the varsity, JV, and freshman teams finished near or below the bottom 33% of their postseason tournaments during the most recent two years of competition.
  - e. The IHSAA office will organize team sport committees to review all petitions prior to coming to the IHSAA Board of Directors to be used as advisory information.

- 2-3-3** Petitions must include the following to be considered when petitioning up a classification:
- The IHSAA office will tabulate votes from all superintendents of the classification in which the school wishes to be placed as well as the classification they will be leaving. A simple majority of the superintendent votes, one vote per high school, must be obtained to move the petition to the Board for a final decision.
  - Cover letter and letters of support.
  - The IHSAA office will organize team sport committees to review all petitions prior to coming to the IHSAA Board of Directors to be used as advisory information.

- 2-4** When school attendance boundaries change, causing an alteration in the enrollment and classification status of member schools within that school district, the following procedure will be used to determine the classification for the next school year:
- The Board of Directors, at their December meeting, will review the fall enrollment figures obtained from the State Board of Education of each school in question.
  - The Board will place each school in their proper classification beginning at the start of the next school year.

**2-5 REPRESENTATION**

**2-5-1** State tournament representation in volleyball, soccer, swimming, football, basketball, wrestling, track, baseball, softball and tennis will be determined for a two-year period based on a percentage of schools in that classification. Note: Representation may be altered periodically to reflect the historical representation of each classification.

- Representation to state competition will be determined by the percentage of the number of teams from a district or region that qualify for state tournament competition.
- State play-in games should be used when the percentage of the representation between districts or regions can be more equitable.
- When there are three or more schools within a region or district, representation should be at least 1.5 if possible.
- When state play-in games are used, they should be played at neutral sites and between regions or districts of the state that would not cause unrealistic travel requirements. Note: It is considered unrealistic travel if a team cannot travel to a play-in site, compete and return to their own school in one day.

**2-5-2** State tournament representation for cross country, golf, speech, debate, drama, cheer and dance will be determined yearly by the total number of team and/or individual finishers at a district/regional qualifying competition.

**2-5-3** State tournament brackets for girls soccer, boys soccer, volleyball, girls basketball, boys basketball, baseball and softball will be seeded using MaxPreps rankings. Each school year, brackets will be flipped to balance the bracket time slots, based on a 4-year rotation. The higher seed will be the home team in all contests.

<u>24-25</u>	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>27-28</u>
3 vs 6	1 vs 8	2 vs 7	4 vs 5
2 vs 7	4 vs 5	3 vs 6	1 vs 8
1 vs 8	3 vs 6	4 vs 5	2 vs 7
4 vs 5	2 vs 7	1 vs 8	3 vs 6

- MaxPreps rankings will include all regular season games and district tournament games.
- Regular season and district tournament game scores must be posted by each member school on MaxPreps prior to midnight the Saturday prior to the state tournament. Scores posted and/or altered after the Saturday deadline will NOT be included in the final rankings.
- Official and final rankings will be published by the IHSAA the Monday prior to the state tournament.