

BY-LAW ARTICLE IV

Classification

Classification for all schools, in and out of state, in all sports, will be made for each two (2) years (years ending in an even number) according to the succeeding plan. Enrollment figures will be used from the October 1, 2009 report as submitted to the NHIAA Executive Director from NHIAA member schools as well as out-of-state athletic associations. The enrollment figures submitted to the NHIAA must be the same as those reported by the School/District to the Department of Education as their official enrollment figures for that year. Consequently, the enrollment figures must reflect an accurate count based on the criteria specified by the DOE. School enrollment will be verified for accuracy against the DOE official figures.

Sect. 1: Schools are classified for each two year cycle based on the October enrollment of the previous (odd) year. New schools coming in without full enrollment will be subject to placement by the Classification Committee based upon actual and projected enrollments for that cycle period. Actual divisional alignments and school enrollments are found in the specific sport By-Laws in this handbook.

Sect. 2: Individual sports committees may **recommend** how many divisions their respective sport should play.

Sect. 3: Alignment by Sport

The following sports shall be aligned into divisions by their respective Sports Committee based upon enrollments and petitions subject to the approval of the Classification Committee.

6 DIVISIONS (I, II, III, IV, V, VI)	Football
4 DIVISIONS (I, II, III, IV)	Baseball, Basketball, Skiing, Soccer, Softball, Winter Spirit
3 DIVISIONS (I, II, III)	Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Boys Ice Hockey, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Outdoor Track, Fall Spirit, Tennis, Girls Volleyball
2 DIVISIONS (I, II)	Indoor Track, Swimming and Diving, Wrestling
1 DIVISION (I)	Bowling, Gymnastics, Girls Ice Hockey, Boys Volleyball

Sect. 4: Petitioning

Schools may *petition up/down by sport during the realignment process that is created for two (2) years. Individual sports committees will decide on petitions while considering **petitioning criteria. To ensure equity of competition and safety of student athletes, all petitions must be approved by the Classification Committee and ratified by the NHIAA Council – petitions are not automatic.

A school wishing to petition up/down in a division must present their case through the Executive Director to the respective sport committee who will in turn make a recommendation to the NHIAA Classification Committee. All petitions must be recommended by the Classification Committee and approved by the NHIAA Council. *The School must demonstrate that it can compete effectively in the higher/lower division schools may petition up as many divisions as they choose and may only petition down by one division in that sport. **The sports committee must also minimally address the following criteria; school enrollment, win/loss records, number of students in the program, feeder programs, regional opponents (reduce transportation) and other rationale.

Petitions will be heard at the start of each two-year classification cycle. If a school faces a significant change in enrollment or other extraordinary event, it should follow the appeal process outlined in By-Law Article IV, Sect. 5.

Sect. 5: Divisional Alignment Appeals

- A. A school may appeal its divisional alignment if enrollment changes or other issues (i.e. school size, history, ability to compete, win/loss records, etc.) warrant such a request.
- B. The school must present its case to the relevant sport committee.
- C. The sport committee will then make its recommendation to the Executive Director.
- D. The Executive Director will present his recommendation to the Classification Committee.
- E. The Classification Committee will then present its recommendation to the NHIAA Council. The decision of the NHIAA Council is final and no further appeals will be heard.

Sect. 6: Minimum and Maximum Number of Games

Each school will be allowed to schedule contests outside of their division each season if they choose. In sports that seed teams for tournaments, each school must play at least the minimum number of games as determined by the NHIAA (see By-Law Article XXXVI: Corresponding Dates for All Sports) against teams in their division, in order to qualify for the tournament. All other games, up to the maximum number of games allowed, may be played outside of a school’s respective division, with all games counting toward final season record beginning with 2012-13 (exception of football). The limit on contests outside of division will be waived in the following sports that do not seed teams for tournaments: cross country, gymnastics, indoor track, outdoor track, skiing and wrestling.

Sect. 7: Standings

Standings will be kept by division for tournament seeding purposes.

- A. For sports utilizing the NH Index Plan the follow will apply:
 - The rating will be determined by the total number of points divided by the total number of games played. The chart below indicates how many points will be awarded for wins.
 - Home and Away is determined by the schedule and not where the game is played.
 - **Points for ties (field hockey, ice hockey and soccer):** Teams will receive ½ of the point value that would have been awarded if the team won.

Division I	Games Played Away	Games Played at Home
Division I & II	5	4
Division III	4	3
Division IV	3	2
Division V & VI	2	1
Division II	Games Played Away	Games Played at Home
Division I	6	5
Division II & III	5	4
Division IV	4	3
Division V	3	2
Division VI	2	1
Division III	Games Played Away	Games Played at Home
Division I & II	6	5
Division III & IV	5	4
Division V	4	3
Division VI	3	2
Division IV	Games Played Away	Games Played at Home
Division I, II & III	6	5
Division IV & V	5	4
Division VI	4	3
Division V	Games Played Away	Games Played at Home
Division I, II, III & IV	6	5
Division V & VI	5	4
Division VI	Games Played Away	Games Played at Home
Division I, II, III, IV & V	6	5
Division VI	5	4

- B. Sports not utilizing the NH Index Plan are the sports of golf, football and any sport in which team standings are not kept for seedings purposes.
- **Golf** will be awarded one (1) point for a win and zero (0) points for a loss, regardless if the match is played home or away.
 - **Football**: Please refer to By-Law Article XIX: Football, Sects. 6, 7 and 8.

Sect. 8: Out-of-State Schools

- A. Out-of-state schools will be aligned in the same manner as New Hampshire schools.
- B. Limitations on out-of-state contests, held by particular sports committees, will remain at the discretion of those committees, within the division minimum and maximum number of games.

Sect. 9: Cooperative Teams

A cooperative team shall be defined as an athletic team, which allows two or three (but not more than three) schools to come together to form a team. The purpose of the cooperative team is to allow student athletes the opportunity to compete in NHIAA sanctioned athletics that they would otherwise not be able to compete in and to make athletic opportunities available for student athletes. A cooperative team would be consistent with the Association's dedication to fairness and competition and would provide opportunities for many students to participate in a wide variety of sports. In sports that allow student athletes to compete as individuals, cooperative teams will **not** be considered.

Schools may apply for the establishment of a cooperative team under the following conditions:

- A. School Boards and the Administration of the participating schools must approve the establishment of a cooperative team.
- B. The NHIAA Classification Committee shall make all rulings with regard to the establishment of a Cooperative Team.
- C. A joint application should be filed, one (1) year prior to implementation of the respective sport season at the varsity level, with the NHIAA Classification Committee that includes a rationale for the formation of a cooperative team. The approval must provide but not be limited to:
- Funding for the sport
 - Coaches eligibility
 - Transportation arrangements to practices and contests
 - Use of facilities
 - Procedure for dissolution of the agreement by a school
 - Administration of the program
- D. No more than one of the schools involved may have offered the sport in the previous school year.
- E. The combined 9-12 enrollment of all the schools involved will not exceed the 9-12 enrollment of the largest high school in New Hampshire.
- F. The Classification Committee shall consider the establishment of a cooperative team provided;
- The classification is based upon the combined enrollments of the schools participating on the cooperative team.
 - The name of the cooperative team must include the name of the schools involved in the cooperative team.
 - The cooperative team shall be approved for no more than a two (2) year period.
 - Schools participating on a cooperative team must be a member of the NHIAA.
 - Schools shall share equally in the sport participation fee.
 - Only one (1) school administration (principal and athletic director) shall be designated as the contact person for the cooperative team.
- G. If the cooperative team application is approved, upon completion of the two (2) year period, the schools may reapply for the continuation of the cooperative team. There shall be no limit to the number of two (2) year periods for which schools can apply for approval of a cooperative team.

Classification of Schools

Schools may compete with any classification according to that sport's specific by-laws, during the regular season but may qualify only in their own classification based on point rating for that competition. These enrollment numbers were compiled from information submitted by Principals of NHIAA member schools as of October 1, 2010.

DIV. I - 1251+ 17 Schools		DIV. II - 651 – 1250 23 Schools		DIV. III - 326 – 650 26 Schools		DIV IV - 1 – 325 24 Schools	
Pinkerton	3325	Goffstown	1235	Monadnock	649	Newmarket	310
Nashua - South	2226	Bedford	1223	Kearsarge	640	Wilton	300
Man. Central	2220	Portsmouth	1048	Stevens	635	Epping	293
Man. Memorial	2092	Con-Val	1011	Fall Mountain	632	Woodsville	276
Nashua - North	2003	Milford	959	Bow	613	Littleton	269
Concord	1878	Pembroke	946	Somersworth	588	Derryfield	248
Salem	1850	Merrimack Valley	910	Gilford	571	Moultonborough	244
Londonderry	1765	Hollis/Brookline	903	Campbell	550	Hinsdale	221
Exeter	1701	Souhegan	894	Winnisquam	538	Nute	201
Keene	1654	Bishop Guertin	886	Conant	538	Profile	188
Dover	1563	Kingswood	872	Prospect Mountain	527	Pittsfield	184
Spaulding	1550	Kennett	853	Berlin	517	Ports. Christian	184
Merrimack	1514	John Stark	838	Hillsboro-Deering	513	Gorham	166
Timberlane	1477	Laconia	782	Belmont	498	Groveton	156
Alvirne	1463	Sanborn	755	Newfound	464	Colebrook	154
Man. West	1383	Plymouth	748	Raymond	459	Sunapee	149
Winnacunnet	1265	Hanover	740	Farmington	443	Lisbon	133
		Windham	734	Franklin	437	Lin-Wood	111
		Coe-Brown	703	Mascoma	436	Nashua Christian	91
		Lebanon	698	Mascenic	425	Concord Christian	50
		Oyster River	698	White Mountain	424	Mount Zion	49
		Pelham	690	Newport	409	Sant Bani	49
		St. Thomas	676	Trinity	409	Pittsburg	45
				Inter-Lakes	388	Laconia Christian	23
				Bishop Brady	369		
				Hopkinton	338		