



Ohio High School Swim Coaches Association

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### Division Realignment Proposal

The OHSSCA is recommending a proposal be shared with the Ohio High School Athletic Association to better align the divisional breakdown amongst Swimming & Diving.

#### Timeline

- August 2024 – February 2025: OHSSCA conducted research to support a revised divisional breakdown
- March 2025: Coaches and association members will review the proposal and provide feedback
- April 2025: Final proposal to be provided to OHSAA for consideration

#### Proposal

- Expand the current divisional breakdown from a two-division sport (DI, DII) to a three-division sport (DI, DII, DIII). Divisional breakdown will be determined by enrollment.
  - Division I: Top 20% (~60 schools)
  - Division II: Middle 35% (~100 schools)
  - Division III: Bottom 45% (~130 schools)

#### Talking Points

- Realignment of divisions will be in accordance with other, recent, divisional realignments amongst various high school sports (Track and Cross Country for 2025).
- Realignment of divisions will allow for a competitive balance in the sport, encourage athlete participation and increase opportunity for athletes to compete at a higher level, post-season.
  - Current state: Division I and II have equal number of teams (~146/division) with 73% of student enrollment being aligned with DI, and 27% of student enrollment aligned with DII.
  - Future state: Division I will have approximately 60 schools with 40% of student enrollment, Division II will have approximately 100 schools with 38% of student enrollment and Division III will have approximately 130 schools with 22% of student enrollment.
- Athletes in all divisions have near equal opportunity to advance and see an increase in likelihood of qualifying.
  - Current state: Approximately 5.5% of individuals and 16.5% of relays qualify for the state meet.
  - Future state: Approximately 8.5% of individuals and 24.7% of relays qualify for the state meet.

#### Logistic Considerations + Next Steps

- OHSSCA and OHSAA recognize the addition of a division will require logistic considerations with regards to post-season tournament formats.
- A reasonable post-season tournament format to accommodate three divisions equitably will be included in the formal proposal for evaluation.
  - Facility considerations, timing of meets and division/region splits will be assessed.
  - Current tournament format (Sectional > District > State Prelim/State Final) will be reviewed.

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February 6, 2025