



Student Eligibility Guidance for High School Principals and Athletic Administrators

Bylaw 1-6-4, Team Membership

This document will focus on Bylaw 1-6-4 and its lone exception. The bylaw reads as follows:

1-6-4: *Interscholastic teams/squads sponsored by a member school may not consist of students from more than one school unless otherwise permitted under an exception to Bylaw 4-3-1 or in accordance with the exception below:*

EXCEPTION: *Member schools containing grades 7 and 8 may combine students from two or more schools within the school district/system to form one or more interscholastic team in a sport. Requests for permission to combine students from two or more schools in the same public district or non-public system must be submitted annually prior to the start of each sports season to the OHSAA in writing by the superintendent of the public district or non-public system.*

The written request must contain the following:

- 1 — Names of schools involved.*
- 2 — Total number of students from each school involved in the sport.*
- 3 — Total number of boys or girls in each grade of each school in the combination.*
- 4 — Rationale for requesting the combination to form more than one team/squad in each sport.*
- 5 — The name of the principal, name of the combined school (which must be the name of one of the member schools represented within the combination) for purposes of registration into the MyOHSAA system, and the complete address (including email) of the one administrator responsible for the conduct and operation of each combined team or teams.*

For purposes of tournament assignment, eligibility and placement, the Board of Directors and the Executive Director's Office of the OHSAA shall adopt and publish from time to time, such rules as deemed necessary and proper for the timely, accurate and transparent implementation of this bylaw so as to give effect and meaning to this section.

Items to note within the language of the exception:

- **Request must be submitted annually prior to the start of the applicable sports season.**
- Only schools from the **same district or system** may combine. A public school district 7th & 8th grade school has no opportunity to combine with a non-public 7th & 8th grade school.
- All schools involved in the combination must be OHSAA member schools.
- The school name under which the combined schools compete **must be that of one of the schools in the combination.**
 - o If "Crane M.S." and "Rose M.S." combine, the name under which the teams compete must be either "Crane M.S." or "Rose M.S."

To request a ruling:

- The Superintendent of the respective district/system shall complete the form found here: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/1-6-4Form.pdf> **prior to the start of the sports season** detailing the information outlined in the exception. Please return to the form to Alexis Holderman via email (aholderman@ohsaa.org).

Please feel free to contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org), Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) or Alexis Holderman if you have any questions!