

2020 Competitive Balance Update *Last Updated 7-3-20*

The Basics

Voted in place by OHSAA member schools in May 2014, Competitive Balance is a process which makes modifications to how schools are placed into tournament divisions in the team sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball. The modifications are based on which students are actually on each respective roster. The roster data collection takes place in ArbiterGame within the 'Students' tab, and the data is entered by each respective athletic administrator or his/her designee. There is a window after the conclusion of each season when roster data is required to be entered and a deadline date when all roster data must be received. Failure to submit roster data may result in penalties as determined by the OHSAA. Refusal to submit roster data or falsification of roster data may result in removal from the OHSAA tournament.

The Formula

Initial Enrollment (from EMIS - all students in grades 9 through 11 in a school)

+ **Competitive Balance Enrollment** (the students on a respective team, which is determined by multiplying each student on the Initial Roster Count by either Tier 0, Tier 1 or Tier 2 Sport Specific Factor {which is explained below} and adding them together)

= **(Final) Tournament Enrollment** (count used for tournament division placement; calculated by the Executive Director's Office)

Basic Principles of Tiering

Tier 0 = each student on a particular team's roster meeting the criteria of this factor, is multiplied by 0 (so that number will always be 0).

Tier 1 = each student on a particular team's roster meeting the criteria of this factor, multiplied by 1 (so that number will always be 1).

Tier 2 = each student on a particular team's roster meeting the criteria of this factor, multiplied by the sport specific factor (Football = 3; Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, & Softball = 7).

Tier 1 Non-Enrolled = each student on a particular team's roster meeting the criteria of this factor (so that number will always be 1).

Non-Competitive Balance Student (IMPORTANT!) = each student on your Arbiter roster **WHO SHOULD NOT** be counted for Competitive Balance purposes (soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball: the student was NOT on the tournament roster and did NOT play in a varsity regular season contest; football: the student is a freshman and did NOT appear in a varsity regular season contest).

How to Determine Tiers

There is a fundamental difference in how public schools and non-public schools determine Tiers. For a **public school**, begin with "Does the student and at least one parent currently reside within your school district (or within your attendance zone for multiple high school districts)?" For a **non-public school**, begin with "Has the student been continuously enrolled in the same system of education since the start of 7th grade?" A more detailed explanation for each of the three scenarios follows.

Public Schools – Determining Tiers (Single H.S. District)

Ask: "Does the student and at least one parent currently reside within your school district?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 0. ** (*Visit www.ohsaa.org for non-enrolled students*)

If No, Ask: "Has the student maintained continuous enrollment inside your district since the start of 7th grade (likely via open enrollment)?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 1.

If No: Enter this student as a Tier 2.

Public Schools – Determining Tiers (Multiple H.S. District)

Ask: "Does the student and at least one parent currently reside within your attendance zone?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 0. ** (*Visit www.ohsaa.org for non-enrolled students*)

If No, Ask: "Does the student and at least one parent currently reside within your school district?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 1.

If No, Ask: "Has the student maintained continuous enrollment at a school inside your district since the start of 7th grade (likely via open enrollment)?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 1.

If No: Enter this student as a Tier 2.

Non-Public Schools – Determining Tiers

Note: For non-public schools, it **does not matter** where the student and his/her parents currently reside.

Ask: "Has the student maintained continuous enrollment in the same system of education since the start of 7th grade?"

If No: Enter this student as a Tier 2.

If Yes, Ask: "Did the student attend your designated feeder school since the start of 7th grade and, if he/she did not enter the high school at the beginning of 9th grade, has he/she maintained continuous enrollment in the same system of education?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 0.

If No: Enter this student as a Tier 1.

Reminder: Recent Changes to Competitive Balance

In May 2019 and December 2019, respectively, the membership approved four referendum issues related to Competitive Balance and the OHSAA Board of Directors approved a change to the Competitive Balance Business Rules. While understanding that athletic administrators have had a multitude of issues with which to deal during the pandemic and also realizing that many administrators are in their first year at their respective schools, we wanted to provide you with a few reminders on Competitive Balance:

- 1.) The biggest change from the 2019 referendum issue is that in the sports of **soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball** and **softball**, all students shall be annually assigned a specific tier who were on your school's tournament roster (including those who were moved onto the roster as your school advanced in the tournament and those students who never played in a varsity regular season contest), along with students who were not on the tournament roster but played in a varsity regular season contest (including those who DID play but later transferred, became ineligible, quit, became injured or are now sitting out due to the OHSAA transfer consequence).
- 2.) Also approved in the 2019 referendum voting is that in the sport of **football**, all students shall be annually assigned a specific tier who are in grades 10 through 12 and are listed on **ANY** roster (including those who DID play but later transferred, became ineligible, quit, became injured or are now sitting out due to the OHSAA transfer consequence), along with any ninth-grade student who played in a varsity regular season contest (including those who DID play but later transferred, became ineligible, quit or became injured).
Note: Counting whether a freshman played in a contest for Competitive Balance purposes in football is different than the football regulation on counting whether a student played in a quarter.
- 3.) The change to the Competitive Balance Business Rules is that a second option will permit non-public schools to utilize any school within the same system of education that is physically located within a 12.5-mile radius of the high school as a feeder school. The 12.5-mile radius shall be the most direct path between the high school and the elementary school(s). **Additional information on the process for non-public schools to select their feeder schools for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years will be sent to those schools SOON!**

Use of EMIS Data vs. Competitive Balance Data

A few common questions posed to the Executive Director's Office are 'How often does my school submit its Competitive Balance Data' and 'Is EMIS data utilized annually?'

A1.: Administrators are to submit their Competitive Balance data for the eight Competitive Balance sports ANNUALLY. This data is used in arrears (e.g. roster data submitted during the 2020-21 school year will be used in the 2021-22 school year).

A2.: The OHSAA utilizes EMIS data for a two-year period. It is collected from the Ohio Department of Education the fall of an even-numbered year and utilized for a two-year period beginning with the next odd-numbered year (e.g. collected in fall 2020; utilized for both the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years).

Roster Submission Deadlines*

• FALL SPORTS •

(Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Volleyball)

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020 - Friday, Dec. 18, 2020

• WINTER SPORTS •

(Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball)

Monday, Feb. 1, 2021 – Thursday, Apr. 1, 2021

• SPRING SPORTS •

(Baseball, Softball)

Saturday, May 1, 2021 – Tuesday, June 1, 2021

* Schools are **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED** to begin entering roster data when the roster submission date begins and only save the ending date for making any updates. See **Reminder: Recent Changes to Competitive Balance** for specifics on which students to roster (do **NOT** assign a tier to all students in grades 9 through 12).

Additional Competitive Balance Assistance

We want to make sure you are receiving help if it is needed. The OHSAA website has a comprehensive Competitive Balance Resource Center that includes help for a variety of situations. So be sure to visit:

www.ohsaa.org/CompetitiveBalance.htm

For specific answers to questions that could not be found with- in the Competitive Balance Resource Center, please contact the following OHSAA staff members:

Rostering/Tiering Questions – Public Schools:

*Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org)

Rostering/Tiering Questions – Non-Public Schools:

Bob Goldring (bgoldring@ohsaa.org)

Technical Questions on Using ArbiterGame for Rostering:

Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org)

***Note:** Kristin is on maternity leave until late September. Prior to her return, please contact Bob or Ronald with your specific questions.