

team shall follow all contests rules and regulations regarding the sport as specified for the boys.

**1-6-3** Boys may not play on girls’ teams unless the overall opportunities, as referenced in the 1979 US Department of Education’s Title IX Policy Interpretation in accordance with Part 1 of the three part test, for interscholastic competition for boys are less than for girls and the competing schools mutually agree. A male to female (MTF) transgender student may participate on girls’ teams as long as she is compliant with the OHSAA transgender policies. Please see the OHSAA policies on the Transgender Student here at <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/TransgenderPolicy.pdf>

**1-6-4** Interscholastic teams/squads sponsored by a member school may not consist of students from more than one school unless otherwise mandated within the Ohio Revised Code 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.

**Section 7. Team Competition Between Sexes**

**1-7-1** Teams of the opposite sex shall not compete against each other in any interscholastic athletic contests. However, the Executive Director’s Office may waive the prohibition of this bylaw on a case-by-case basis provided the administrators of the proposed competing schools follow the procedures for obtaining such a waiver as prescribed by the Executive Director’s Office.

**BYLAW 2 — DIVISIONS AND TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS**

**Note:** As a result of the May 2014 referendum, Bylaw 2 relating to classification and organization was significantly amended, effective beginning with the 2017-18 school year. Please visit the OHSAA website ([OHSAA.org](http://OHSAA.org)) for further details on the competitive balance plan, which should help administrators understand how to proceed. While the bylaw had an effective date of 2017-18, ‘roster data’ collection began in 2016 and is ongoing. Please continue to check the OHSAA website for updates and guidance, including the business rules for competitive balance.

**Section 1 — Divisions and Tournament Assignments**

**2-1-1** School teams or individuals that wish to compete in OHSAA-sponsored tournaments may compete in only those tournaments to which assigned. Furthermore, by entering into an OHSAA sponsored tournament, schools, on behalf of their teams and individuals, agree to compete at the sites, dates and times assigned to them by the OHSAA.

**Note:** In team sports, schools are permitted to enter only one team in OHSAA-sponsored tournaments. In individual sports, schools are only permitted to enter the maximum number of individuals in OHSAA-sponsored tournaments as prescribed in the respective sports’ playing rules and/or tournament regulations.

**2-1-2** Enrollment information used for assigning schools to divisions shall be provided by the State Department of Education’s enrollment report. All boys and girls in grades 9, 10 and 11 included in the school’s October enrollment report shall be counted for enrollment purposes except for students who are identified as children with disabilities within the OHSAA Business Rules for Obtaining Enrollment Data.

The Board of Directors is authorized to adopt policy for assigning students, who are not specified as assigned to a particular high school, to the appropriate member high school and to publish the policy on the Association’s website.

**Note:** The policy, Business Rules for Obtaining Enrollment Data, was first prepared in April 2007, has since been modified, and is posted on the OHSAA website ([OHSAA.org](http://OHSAA.org)).

**2-1-3** High schools in school districts that consolidate will be placed into divisions based on school enrollment of boys or girls in grades 10, 11 and 12 as of September 10 of the effective year of consolidation in accordance with the business rules, plus the real-time Adjusted Enrollment Count (outlined in Bylaw 2-2-1) in all applicable sports. In the event of the opening of a new high school or transfer of territory under Section 3311.38 of the Ohio Revised Code, member school division assignments will be based upon actual number of boys or girls enrolled in grades 10, 11 and 12 as of September

10 of the current year in accordance with the business rules, plus the real-time Adjusted Enrollment Count (outlined in Bylaw 2-2-1) in all applicable sports.

- 2-1-4** In the case of the opening, merging or closing of a high school or schools in a multi-high school district or non-public school system, or in the case of a non-member comprehensive high school or non-traditional high school becoming a member, the member high school division assignments for all high schools within the district/system shall be based upon the actual number of boys and girls enrolled in grades 10, 11 and 12 as of September 10 of the current year in accordance with the business rules, plus the real-time Adjusted Enrollment Count (outlined in Bylaw 2-2-1) in all applicable sports.

**Section 2. Tournament Assignment – Team Sports of Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball and Softball**

- 2-2-1** Teams in the sports of football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball shall be assigned to a division based upon that school team's Adjusted Enrollment Count. For purposes of this section, Adjusted Enrollment Count is the count as determined by adding the Initial Enrollment Count (EMIS reported number of boys or girls) and the Additional Roster Count for the given sport (Initial Enrollment Count + Additional Roster Count = Adjusted Enrollment Count).

- 2-2-2** The Additional Roster Count is determined by multiplying designated students on the given sport's Initial Roster by the specific factor or Tier and adding them together.

- In the sports of soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball – the designated students shall include students on a team's tournament roster and anyone else who played in a varsity contest during the regular season.
- In the sport of Football – the designated students shall include students in grades 10-12 on any roster and any freshman who played in a varsity contest during the regular season.

**EXCEPTION:** A student who participates in a single varsity contest during a regular season is not required to be included in the Additional Roster Count submission provided the following criteria are met:

- 1 – The participation happens one time during the regular season; and
- 2 – The student is a manager/student assistant or has an intellectual or physical disability; and
- 3 – The student would not likely otherwise participate in a meaningful way or have an impact on the outcome of a contest; and
- 4 – It is required that the opposing coach and/or officials are made aware of the student's participation before the student enters the contest.

However, for a student to have a participation opportunity under this exception, he/she still needs to be eligible regarding all aspects of Bylaw 4, Student Eligibility. The intent of this exception is to specifically reward and/or recognize a student manager or a student with an intellectual or physical disability for his/her special contributions to a team without potentially impacting a team's divisional placement.

**Note:** The annual submission of the Additional Roster Count for each respective sport shall be utilized to help determine the division to which that team shall be assigned the following school year.

- 2-2-3** Factors shall be assigned three levels of points: Tier 0, Tier 1 and a Tier 2. The purpose of the Factors is to determine from where the student-athletes come, from what system of education they come or if they are non-enrolled students in accordance with state law, and to make appropriate adjustments accordingly.

**Note:** See the exception under Bylaw 2-2-2 for students who are not required to be tiered.

- 2-2-4** For public member schools, Factors shall be assigned as follows:

- Tier 0 – the student and at least one parent currently reside within the school district/designated/assigned attendance zone (unless the student is participating as a non-enrolled student at the member high school in accordance with state law).
- Tier 1 – the student and at least one parent currently reside outside the school district and/or designated/assigned attendance zone but the student has been continuously enrolled in the district since the beginning of 7th grade (or the student is participating as a non-enrolled and student at the member high school in accordance with state law, or the student is participating on a J1 Visa.).
- Tier 2 – the student and at least one parent currently reside outside the school district and/or designated/assigned attendance zone and the student has not been continuously enrolled in the district since 7th grade.

- 2-2-5** For non-public member schools, Factors shall be assigned as follows:

- Tier 0 – the student attended the same system of education continuously since the beginning of the 7th grade and attended one of the designated/assigned feeder schools continuously since the beginning of 7th grade.
- Tier 1 – the student attended the same system of education continuously since the beginning of 7th grade but did not attend one of the designated/assigned feeder schools continuously since the beginning of 7th grade or the student is participating on a J1 Visa.
- Tier 2 – the student did not attend the same system of education continuously since the beginning of 7th grade.

**EXCEPTION:** If a non-public school system assigns all students to a specific high school based on the geographic location of the student's parents. Factors shall be assigned as follows:

- Tier 0 – the student attended the same system of education continuously since the beginning of the 7th grade and the student and at least one parent currently resides within the assigned attendance zone.
- Tier 1 – the student attended the same system of education continuously since the beginning of 7th grade but the student and at least one parent currently resides outside the assigned attendance zone.
- Tier 2 – the student did not attend the same system of education continuously since the beginning of 7th grade.

**2-2-6** The Tier 2, or Sport Specific Factors, shall be as follows:

- Three (3) in the sport of football.
- Seven (7) in the sports of soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball.

**2-2-7** 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 (verifiable) reporting of the roster data in order to give effect and meaning to this section.

**Note:** Schools that do not sponsor a respective team the immediately preceding season shall be assigned to a division in accordance with the Competitive Balance business rules that have been adopted by the Board of Directors. <http://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources/Competitive-Balance-Resource-Center>.

**BYLAW 3 – ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL**

**Section 1. Primary Responsibility**

**3-1-1** The principal of the school shall be held primarily responsible in all matters pertaining to interscholastic athletics involving the school. The principal has the responsibility to educate the member school’s students, coaches, school personnel, boosters and other appropriate persons involved in interscholastic athletics regarding OHSAA bylaws and sport regulations that could affect them. Further, the principal shall monitor the school’s compliance with OHSAA bylaws and sports regulations and conduct an appropriate inquiry if information arises concerning a possible violation of OHSAA bylaws and/or sports regulations.

**3-1-2** All school administrative and athletic personnel have a duty to immediately report violations that may affect the status of an athlete, team or contest.

**3-1-3** The principal, at his or her discretion, may assign other members of the administrative team to sign contracts and any other paper work requiring an official school signature.

**3-1-4** No later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season, the principal, through his/her athletic administrator, coaches and such other personnel as deemed advisable by said principal, shall conduct a mandatory, preseason program with all student-athletes who wish to participate in the upcoming sports seasons, their parents and booster club officer(s). The meeting shall consist of (a) a review of the student-eligibility bulletin and key essential eligibility requirements; (b) a review of the school’s Athletic Code of Conduct; (c) a sportsmanship, ethics and integrity component, and (d) a review of issues concerning concussions and steroids.

**Note:** See General Sports Regulation 5 for penalties for non-compliance of this bylaw.

**Section 2. School’s Responsibility When Hosting A Contest**

**3-2-1** The host school has the responsibility to ensure that a contest or event is administered in a manner which emphasizes the educational values inherent in interscholastic athletics. It is the host school’s responsibility to remove any individual(s) who disrupts the educational goals of the contest or event.

Likewise, the host school is ultimately responsible for the safety of all participants (players, coaches, officials, spectators, etc.) in the interscholastic contest immediately before, during and immediately after each contest or event. Therefore, the host school shall appoint a site director/manager or administrator-in-charge for every contest or event. The host school shall ensure that the site director/manager or administrator-in-charge is aware of the school’s emergency action plan and how to adjust it to meet the needs of the particular contest or event.

Included in the emergency action plan shall be procedures to deal with emergencies, crowd management and health and safety protections. The plan shall also include procedures to ensure that unauthorized personnel are kept from the playing field; to provide safety and security for the visiting team(s), their spectators and the contest officials, and to provide safety and security for parking areas related to the contest or event.

Penalties for violation of this bylaw shall be imposed by the Executive Director’s Office as specified in Bylaw 11.

**Section 3. School Representative Must Accompany Team**

**3-3-1** The principal or representative (s) authorized by the principal, in addition to the coaches, shall be present throughout all varsity football, and boys and girls varsity basketball games, home and away. It is highly recommended that a school administrator be present for all interscholastic contests, home and away, especially in the sports of boys’ and girls’ soccer and ice hockey. In all other sports, the host school shall appoint a site director/manager, who could be a coach, or administrator-in-charge, for every contest or event.

**3-3-2** When a male coach is assigned to a girls’ team, an adult female (non-high school student) should be present at the contest. When a female coach is assigned to a boys’ team, an adult male (nonhigh school student) should be present at the contest.