

# EXPANDED OHSAA TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS

DOUG UTE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, *LAST UPDATED 1-24-24*



# OHSAA TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS HISTORY

- **Football**

**1972-79:** 3 classes; 4 regions/class; 1 qualifier/region; 4 qualifiers/class;  
12 total qualifiers

**1980-84:** 5 divisions; 4 regions/division; 2 qualifiers/region; 8 qualifiers/division;  
40 total qualifiers

**1985-93:** 5 divisions; 4 regions/division; 4 qualifiers/region; 16 qualifiers/division;  
80 total qualifiers

**1994-98:** 6 divisions; 4 regions/division; 4 qualifiers/region; 16 qualifiers/division;  
96 total qualifiers

**1999-12:** 6 divisions; 4 regions/division; 8 qualifiers/region; 32 qualifiers/division;  
192 total qualifiers

**2013-20:** 7 divisions; 4 regions/division; 8 qualifiers/region; 32 qualifiers/division  
224 total qualifiers

**2021-:** 7 divisions; 4 regions/division; 16 qualifiers/region; 64 qualifiers/division  
448 total qualifiers



# OHSAA TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS HISTORY

- **Girls Volleyball**

1975-89: 3 classes

1990-: 4 divisions

- **Boys Soccer**

1976-80: 1 class

1981-88: 2 classes

1989-99: 2 divisions

2000-: 3 divisions

- **Girls Soccer**

1985-88: 1 class

1989-94: 1 division

1995-10: 2 divisions

2011-: 3 divisions



# OHSAA TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS HISTORY

- **Boys Basketball**

1923-70: 2 classes

1971-87: 3 classes

1987-: 4 divisions

- **Baseball**

1928-70: 2 classes

1971-90: 3 classes

1991-: 4 divisions

- **Girls Basketball**

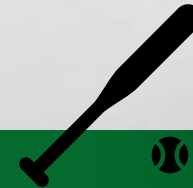
1976-87: 3 classes

1988-: 4 divisions

- **Softball**

1978-89: 3 classes

1990-: 4 divisions





# OHSAA TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS: PAST BOARD ACTION

- **June 2006:** Board *approved* recommendation that in **football**, Division I will be top 10 percent of schools, with the other five divisions divided evenly. In sports with four divisions (**volleyball**, **basketball**, **baseball**, **softball**), Division I will be top 22 percent with other three divisions comprised of 26 percent. In **sports with three divisions**, Division I will be top 28 percent with other two divisions comprised of 36 percent. In **sports with two divisions**, Division I will be top 45 percent; Division II the remaining 55 percent. Schools will also have the option of moving up to Division I on a sport-by-sport basis (minimum of two years).
- **January 2007:** Board *rescinded* June 2006 proposal.
- **April 2012:** Board *approved* recommendation to expand **football** to seven divisions. Division I will be top 10 percent of schools, with the other six divisions divided evenly.
- **October 2019:** Board *tabled* recommendation from OHSAA Four-Division Committee to address the enrollment disparity for schools from the top to the bottom of Division I in the four-division team sports that would limit the number of schools placed in Division I. The breakdown — **Volleyball:** 129/218/216/221; **Boys Basketball:** 128/220/223/221; **Girls Basketball:** 130/219/219/219; **Baseball:** 128/216/216/216; **Softball:** 128/207/207/207.



# OHSAA TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS: RECENT DISCUSSIONS

- **Executive Director Ute:** On-going concerns from administrators and coaches have been raised since his hiring in September 2020 regarding the number of OHSAA tournament divisions and especially about the disparity in enrollment for schools from the top to the bottom of Division I. State basketball coaches association submitted proposal on expanded divisions.
- **September 12, 2022:** Meeting was held at the OHSAA Office with staff members, school administrators and executives from other state educational service organizations to discuss potential changes in OHSAA tournament divisions. Current Board of Directors and District Athletic Board members were included. Feedback was positive that something should be done.
- **December 16, 2022:** OHSAA staff members met with Southwest Ohio athletic administrators from schools at the lower end of Division I to discuss the disparity in enrollment for schools from the top to the bottom of Division I. The overriding message: “We just want a legitimate chance to win one or two tournament games, NOT win a state championship.”
- **June 28, 2023:** OHSAA staff members met with Board of Directors during NFHS Summer Meeting to begin discussions on expansion of OHSAA tournament divisions. Discussion has been on-going.
- **December 13, 2023:** OHSAA sent memo to school administrators to share that the association is studying tournament division expansion in seven sports.



# OHSAA TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS: RECENT REVIEWS - 1

- Reviewed and Studied Other States (Number of Divisions; Uniqueness of Tournaments)
  - Many Midwest states are similar to Ohio
    - **Illinois**: Lower percent of teams in Division I; maximum of 4 divisions (football: 8)
    - **Michigan**: Very similar to Ohio
    - **Indiana**: Very similar to Ohio (FB – all teams in; less regular season games), but individual sports have only one (1) division
  - MANY states have a lot more divisions than Ohio, specially those with smaller number of participants
    - **See next slide**
  - Also studied uniqueness of many states
    - **Indiana**: has two-year “success” formula; has gone to unequal number in four-division tournaments
    - **Florida**: 9 football divisions (4 metro divisions, 4 suburban divisions and 1 rural division)
    - **California**: Open Division in some sports like basketball and volleyball (committee selects top 32 teams, regardless of division, and looks at head-to-head records, strength of schedule, state or regional rankings
      - Regulations do not permit teams to opt out; can come from any division
      - Other states like Arizona doing something similar
  - Many states limit the number of teams entered into their tournaments (similar to Ohio football)



# OHSAA TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS: COMPARISONS - 2

<u>SCHOOLS</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Football</u>	<u>G V'Ball</u>	<u>B Soc</u>	<u>G Soc</u>	<u>B B'Ball</u>	<u>G B'Ball</u>	<u>Baseball</u>	<u>Softball</u>
Ohio	819	701/7	782/4	565/3	517/3	800/4	771/4	754/4	730/4
Alabama	413	384/7	394/7	220/4	220/4	411/7	411/7	412/7	386/7
Georgia	469	427/8	384/8	339/8	353/8	456/8	456/8	440/8	419/8
Louisiana	389	375/9	246/5	185/4	186/4	400/12	400/12	358/12	360/12
Massachusetts	376	308/8	285/3	338/4	336/4	353/4	299/4	347/5	344/3
Minnesota	520	360/7	420/4	492/4	476/4	425/4	390/4	400/4	628/4
New York	786	435/5	631/5	673/5	668/5	746/5	707/5	677/5	671/5
Pennsylvania	765	565/6	592/4	566/4	538/4	712/6	700/6	650/6	642/6
Tennessee	436	346/10	344/5	309/5	289/5	391/5	391/5	356/5	357/5
Virginia	317	309/6	311/6	294/6	289/6	315/6	315/6	307/6	307/6
Washington	397	335/6	387/6	287/5	288/5	385/6	383/6	329/6	319/6
Wisconsin	515	409/7	473/4	275/4	260/4	487/5	473/5	436/1	427/5





# CURRENT GOVERNING REGULATIONS

- **OHSAA BYLAW 2**

- **COLLECTION OF EMIS DATA THROUGH THE OHIO DEPT. OF EDUCATION**
  - **BASED ON OCTOBER REPORT**
  - **COLLECTION IS GOVERNED BY THE BUSINESS RULES APPROVED BY OHSAA BOD**
- **SCHOOLS MAY ONLY COMPETE IN THE DIVISION TO WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED**
- **COMPETITIVE BALANCE INITIATIVE**
  - **FB, GVB, BSO, GSO, BBK, GBK, BB, SB**
  - **TIERING REQUIREMENTS**
  - **FORMULA**
  - **COLLECTION IS GOVERNED BY THE BUSINESS RULES APPROVED BY THE OHSAA BOD**



# CURRENT GOVERNING REGULATIONS

- **OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATION 17.1**

- **TOURNAMENTS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN DIVISIONS BASED ON THE NUMBER OF TEAMS FROM LAST YEAR (OR TWO YEARS AGO FOR NON-CB SPORTS)**
- **MINIMUM NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS TO CONSTITUTE A TEAM IN INDIVIDUAL SPORTS**
  - **EITHER THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS NEEDED TO SCORE OR NUMBER NEEDED TO COMPETE IN HALF OF THE EVENTS**
- **HOW THE NUMBER OF DIVISIONS IS DETERMINED FOR ANY GIVEN SPORT:**

Number of Teams	Number of Divisions
200 or Less	I
201-450	II
451-700	III
701 or More	IV



# CURRENT GOVERNING REGULATIONS

- **OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATION 17.2**
  - **AFTER NUMBER OF DIVISIONS IS DETERMINED, SCHOOLS MUST BE PLACED EVENLY**
  - **FOOTBALL IS ONLY EXCEPTION CURRENTLY CODIFIED**

**HOW DO THESE CURRENT GOVERNING  
REGULATIONS CHANGE?**



# CHANGING THE CURRENT GOVERNING REGULATIONS

- **CHANGING THE BYLAWS**

- **REFERENDUM VOTE**
  - **MUST BE APPROVED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY**
  - **VOTED ON BETWEEN MAY 1 AND MAY 15**

- **CHANGING THE SPORT REGULATIONS**

- **RECOMMENDATION MADE TO THE BOD BY ED'S OFFICE**
- **BOARD VOTES TO APPROVE DURING A REGULARLY SCHEDULED OR SPECIAL MEETING**





# THE OPTIONS



# THE OPTIONS

**4**  
**DIVISIONS**

**5**  
**DIVISIONS**

**6**  
**DIVISIONS**

**6 DIVISIONS**  
—  
**SMALL D-1**

**6 DIVISIONS**  
—  
**SMALL**  
**D-1/D-6**

**6 DIVISIONS**  
—  
**SMALL**  
**D-1/D-2**

**7**  
**DIVISIONS**

**7**  
**DIVISIONS**  
—  
**SMALL D-1**



# **ADDITIONAL OPTIONS**

## **THE OPEN DIVISION**

- **CONCEPT MODELED AFTER CALIFORNIA**
- **COULD BE UTILIZED WITH 3 (SOCCER), 4, 5, OR 6 ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS**
- **ONLY OPTION THAT WOULD ADDRESS COMPETITIVE EQUITY ALONG WITH DIV. I DISCREPANCY**
- **PROCESS**
  - **SCHOOLS PLACED INTO DIVISIONS EVENLY**
  - **NEAR THE DRAW MEETING, TOP 32 TEAMS, REGARDLESS OF “NORMAL DIVISION” WOULD BE PLACED INTO “OPEN DIVISION” FOR TOURNAMENT COMPETITION**
    - **TOP TEAMS SELECTED BY STRICT CRITERIA APPROVED BY BOD AND/OR MEMBER SCHOOLS**



# ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

- **INDIANA:**

- **SUCCESS FACTOR MODEL**

- **TEAMS MOVED UP DIVISIONS BASED ON SUCCESS IN TOURNAMENT THROUGHOUT PREVIOUS YEARS**

- **UNEVEN FOUR DIVISIONS**

- **DI – 20%; DII – 25%; DIII – 25%; DIV – 30%**

- **OPTION TO MOVE UP:**

- **PROVIDE SCHOOLS WITH OPTION TO MOVE UP A DIVISION**

- **PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED SUCH AN OPTION WHEN OHSAA SPONSORED DUAL TEAM WRESTLING TOURNAMENT**





# THE CURRENT PROPOSAL



# THE CURRENT PROPOSAL

- **BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, SOFTBALL, VOLLEYBALL:**

- **7 DIVISIONS TOTAL**

- **DIVISION I – TOP 64 SCHOOLS BASED ON ENROLLMENT COUNT (INCLUDING CB)**
    - **DIVISION II – NEXT 64 SCHOOLS BASED ON ENROLLMENT COUNT (INCLUDING CB)**
    - **DIVISIONS III – VII – REMAINING SCHOOLS DIVIDED EVENLY BASED ON ENROLLMENT COUNT (INCLUDING CB)**

- **SOCCER**

- **5 DIVISIONS TOTAL**

- **DIVISION I – TOP 64 SCHOOLS BASED ON ENROLLMENT COUNT (INCLUDING CB)**
    - **DIVISION II – NEXT 64 SCHOOLS BASED ON ENROLLMENT COUNT (INCLUDING CB)**
    - **DIVISIONS III – V – REMAINING SCHOOLS DIVIDED EVENLY BASED ON ENROLLMENT COUNT (INCLUDING CB)**



# THE CURRENT PROPOSAL

## 7 DIVISION EXAMPLE BREAKDOWN

Division	Range	Number of Teams
<b>1</b>	<b>638 &amp; Up</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>457-637</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>281-456</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>193-280</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>143-192</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>99-142</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>98 &amp; Less</b>	<b>136</b>

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Central</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Northwest</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Southwest</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>



# THE CURRENT PROPOSAL

## 5 DIVISION EXAMPLE BREAKDOWN

Division	Range	Number of Teams
1	581 & Up	64
2	410-580	64
3	245-409	128
4	165-244	132
5	164 & Less	129

	1	2	3	4	5
Central	24	15	12	9	10
East	0	0	6	16	5
Northeast	15	28	48	38	42
Northwest	2	9	21	21	31
Southeast	0	0	11	15	10
Southwest	23	12	30	33	31





# THE CURRENT PROPOSAL

Individual Sports	
Number of Teams	Divisions
200 and less	1
201-450	2
451-700	3
701 and more	4

Team Sports	
Number of Teams	Divisions
199 and less	1
200-299	2
300-399	3
400-499	4
500-599	5
600-699	6
700 and more	7

Make note within GSR that the charts act as guidelines and tournament play may be conducted in additional divisions if deemed appropriate by the BOD.



# GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Currently Division numbers	# schools	Proposed Division numbers	# schools
Division 1 (318 - 1259)	193	Division 1 (547 - 1259)	64
Division 2 (188 - 317)	197	Division 2 (417 - 546)	64
Division 3 (112 - 187)	196	Division 3 (263 - 416)	130
Division 4 (111 and less)	194	Division 4 (189 -262)	131
Division 5	DNE	Division 5 (135 - 188)	131
Division 6	DNE	Division 6 (90 -134)	130
Division 7	DNE	Division 7 (89 and less)	132
<b>Number of Teams</b>	<b>782</b>		<b>782</b>



# BOYS SOCCER

Currently Division numbers	#	Proposed Division numbers	#
Division 1 (346 - 1301)	188	Division 1 (639 - 1301)	64
Division 2 (182 - 345)	188	Division 2 (451 - 638)	64
Division 3 (181 and less)	189	Division 3 (256 - 450)	145
Division 4	DNE	Division 4 (162 - 255)	145
Division 5	DNE	Division 5 (161 and less)	146
Division 6	DNE	Division 6	DNE
Division 7	DNE	Division 7	DNE
<b>Total Teams</b>	<b>565</b>		<b>565</b>



# GIRLS SOCCER

<b>Currently Division numbers</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Proposed Division numbers</b>	<b>#</b>
Division 1 (328 and 1251)	173	Division 1 (581 - 1251)	64
Division 2 (191 - 327)	173	Division 2 (410 - 580)	64
Division 3 (190 and less)	174	Division 3 (245 - 409)	128
Division 4	DNE	Division 4 (165 - 244)	132
Division 5	DNE	Division 5 (164 and less)	129
Division 6	DNE	Division 6	DNE
Division 7	DNE	Division 7	DNE
<b>Total Teams</b>	<b>517</b>		<b>517</b>



# BOYS BASKETBALL

Currently Division numbers	#	Proposed Division numbers	#
Division 1 (346 - 1300)	198	Division 1 (638 - 1300)	64
Division 2 (193 - 345)	201	Division 2 (457 - 637)	64
Division 3 (121 - 192)	201	Division 3 (281 - 456)	134
Division 4 (120 and less)	200	Division 4 (193 - 280)	134
Division 5	DNE	Division 5 (143 - 192)	132
Division 6	DNE	Division 6 (99 - 142)	135
Division 7	DNE	Division 7 (98 and less)	136
<b>Total Teams</b>	<b>800</b>		<b>799</b>





# GIRLS BASKETBALL

Currently Division numbers	#	Proposed Division numbers	#
Division 1 (320 - 1251)	193	Division 1 571 - 1251)	64
Division 2 (191 - 319)	192	Division 2 (415 - 570)	64
Division 3 (113 - 190)	192	Division 3 (267 - 414)	128
Division 4 (112 and less)	194	Division 4 (191 - 266)	129
Division 5	DNE	Division 5 (136 - 190)	127
Division 6	DNE	Division 6 (93 - 135)	127
Division 7	DNE	Division 7 (92 and less)	129
<b>Total Teams</b>	<b>771</b>		<b>738</b>



# BASEBALL

Currently Division numbers	#	Proposed Division numbers	#
Division 1 (356 - 1300)	188	Division 1 (639 - 1300)	64
Division 2 (200 to 355)	190	Division 2 (462 - 638)	64
Division 3 ( 123 - 199)	190	Division 3 (285 - 461)	124
Division 4 (122 and less)	186	Division 4 (200 - 284)	126
Division 5	DNE	Division 5 (144 - 199)	125
Division 6	DNE	Division 6 (100 - 143)	127
Division 7	DNE	Division 7 (99 and less)	124
<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>754</b>		<b>754</b>



# SOFTBALL

Currently Division numbers	#	Proposed Division numbers	#
Division 1 (329 - 1258)	183	Division 1 (566 - 1258)	64
Division 2 (193 - 328)	185	Division 2 (419 - 565)	64
Division 3 (115 - 192)	181	Division 3 (267 - 418)	120
Division 4 (114 and less)	181	Division 4 (193 -266)	120
Division 5	DNE	Division 5 (137 - 192)	121
Division 6	DNE	Division 6 (94 - 136)	121
Division 7	DNE	Division 7 (93 and less)	120
<b>Total Teams</b>	<b>730</b>		<b>730</b>



# NEXT STEPS

- **CONTINUE DISCUSSION WITH MEMBER SCHOOLS**
  - **ROADSHOW**
- **POTENTIAL ACTION BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
  - **FEBRUARY 2024**
- **TOURNAMENT FORMATTING MEETING**
  - **WHITE BOARD SESSIONS WITH DAB MEMBERS AT OHSAA OFFICES**



# **Q&A SESSION**