Petition to Place Item on the Ballot for Referendum Vote

In accordance with Constitution 8-1-5, an amendment may be initiated by the Board of Directors or by petition signed by the principals of no less than 75 member schools with a minimum of five signatures required from each district.

The following petitioners, Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors representing Aurora, Barberton, Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Copley, Highland, Hudson, Kenston, North Royalton, Nordonia, Mayfield, Medina, Revere, Solon, Stow-Monroe Falls, and Twinsburg (collectively the Suburban League), desire to place the following amendment(s) on the referendum ballot in May 2027.

Please read the following amendment(s) and rationale, and if you agree that this amendment should be included on the referendum ballot, please print and then sign your name on a line within the section denoted for the Athletic District to which your high school is assigned.*

**Electronic email affirmations from the high school principal will be accepted as electronic signatures for the petition. The petitioner is responsible for including all "email signatures" as attachments to the petition, and is required to fill in each name in the respective district.*
**An electronic email affirmation shall include the following statement: "I, the high school principal of _____, affirm that I would like my signature added to the Suburban League petition to place a referendum issue on the May 2027 ballot to amend Bylaw 2, Divisions and Tournament Assignments."*

Note: Only high school principals are eligible to sign petitions. 75 signatures (at least 5 in each district) are required.

Proposal – Amend Bylaw 2, Divisions and Tournament Assignments

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) 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 By entering into an OHSAA sponsored tournament… *(no change to this bylaw or exceptions)*

2-1-2 Enrollment information used for assigning schools to divisions shall be provided by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's enrollment report ***and used to calculate tournament divisional placement on a bi-annual basis, unless otherwise specified by the Board of Directors.*** 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).

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 *Structure* ~~**Assignment –** Team Sports of Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball and Softball~~ ***Strike current Bylaw 2-2 and replace with the following language:*

2-2-1 For OHSAA tournament competition, all member schools shall be classified into one of two categories based on the following criteria:

Public School: To include any school operated by or under the authority of an Ohio public school district or established under Ohio law as part of the state's system of public education, including but not limited to traditional district schools, community (charter) schools, and STEM schools.

Non-Public School: To include any school not operated as part of Ohio's public education system and instead operated by a private entity, including both chartered nonpublic schools and nonchartered nonpublic schools as recognized under Ohio law.

Note: If necessary, the OHSAA will utilize the "Organizational Type" classification outlined by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to assist in determining whether a school is public or non-public.

2-2-2 The Board of Directors and the Executive Director's Office shall establish separate and parallel postseason tournaments for public school competition and non-public school competition. Divisions within each tournament shall be determined based on enrollment counts as outlined in Bylaw 2-1-2 and shall be structured to ensure comparable competitive opportunities within each division. Each division shall conduct postseason competition culminating in the recognition of its own state champion

Note: In accordance with Bylaw 1-4-1, Section 4, Interscholastic Competition, it is permissible for schools classified in separate OHSAA public and non-public tournaments to participate against one another during non-OHSAA tournament competition (e.g. contests/meets/matches, previews, scrimmages, jamborees, electronic contests, invitational contests and practices involving two or more schools, unless those squads share the same board-approved coach).

Petitioner's Rationale/Comments:

1. The Suburban League would like to separate public and non-public schools into different tournament divisions for postseason competition.

2. The purpose of the referendum is to provide equal opportunities for all schools throughout the state of Ohio to compete for a state championship. The referendum seeks to work within the current divisional framework established by the OHSAA and its member schools. While Competitive Balance was adopted a number of years ago to keep the playing field equal, the current system has only pushed the inequities up into different divisions. The Suburban League's view is that public schools have been placed at a competitive disadvantage when competing in OHSAA tournaments.

Executive Director's Office Rationale/Comments:

1. The proposed petition issue will repeal OHSAA Bylaw 2, Section 2 and remove the Competitive Balance process which has been utilized for tournament placement since the 2017-18 school year. If the issue passes, the current language will be replaced with new language that will create separate tournament competition for public and non-public schools. Editorial adjustments will also be made to Bylaw 2, Section 1 to reflect the changes.

2. The actual number of divisions in each sport will continue to be governed within General Sports Regulation 17, and left to the discretion of the OHSAA Board of Directors to annually address fluctuations to the number of teams, the logistics surrounding tournament site availability, etc.

3. If passed in May 2027, full implementation would take place during the 2028-29 school year to align with the new two-year EMIS cycle.

4. If passed, divisional assignments would remain consistent for two years for all sports, instead of being recalculated each year for CB sports.

CENTRAL DISTRICT (Minimum of Five Required)

Principal's Name **High School** **Signature**

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EAST DISTRICT (Minimum of Five Required)

Principal's Name _____ **High School** _____ **Signature** _____

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NORTHEAST DISTRICT (Minimum of Five Required)

Principal's Name **High School** **Signature**

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NORTHWEST DISTRICT (Minimum of Five Required)

Principal's Name _____ **High School** _____ **Signature** _____

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SOUTHEAST DISTRICT (Minimum of Five Required)

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SOUTHWEST DISTRICT (Minimum of Five Required)

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