

BY-LAW ARTICLE III
Classification

Classification for all schools, in and out of state, in all sports, will be made for each two (2) years (years ending in an even number) according to the succeeding plan. Enrollment figures will be used from the October 1, 2007 report as submitted to the NHIAA Executive Director from NHIAA member schools as well as out-of-state athletic associations. The enrollment figures submitted to the NHIAA must be the same as those reported by the School/District to the Department of Education as their official enrollment figures for that year. Consequently, the enrollment figures must reflect an accurate count based on the criteria specified by the DOE. School enrollment will be verified for accuracy against the DOE official figures.

Sect. 1: Schools are classified for each two-year cycle based on the October enrollment of the previous (odd) year. New schools coming in without full enrollment will be subject to placement by the Classification Committee based upon actual and projected enrollments for that cycle period.

Sect. 2: Individual sports committees may not reclassify by any method other than enrollment.

Sect. 3: Classification by Classes

4 CLASSES (L, I, M, S)	Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Winter Spirit
3 CLASSES (L, I, M-S)	Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Outdoor Track, Fall Spirit, Tennis
2 CLASSES (L, I-M-S)	Indoor Track
1 CLASS	Gymnastics, Co-ed Spirit, Bowling

Sect. 4: Classification by Divisions

The following sports shall be classified into divisions by their respective Sports Committee based upon enrollments and petitions subject to the approval of the Classification Committee.

6 DIVISIONS (I, II, III, IV, V, VI)	Football
4 DIVISIONS (I, II, III, IV)	Skiing
3 DIVISIONS (I, II, III)	Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Ice Hockey, Girls Volleyball
2 DIVISIONS (I, II)	Swimming and Diving, Wrestling
1 DIVISION (I)	Girls Ice Hockey, Boys Volleyball

Sect. 5: Petitioning

Schools may petition to be in a *higher* classification only. To ensure equity of competition and safety of student athletes, all petitions must be approved by the Classification Committee and ratified by the NHIAA Council – petitions are not automatic.

A school wishing to petition up in a classification must present their case through the Executive Director to the NHIAA Classification Committee who will in turn make a recommendation to the NHIAA Council. All petitions must be recommended by the Classification Committee and approved by the NHIAA Council. The School must demonstrate that it can compete effectively in the higher classification in all sports. The school must also minimally address the following criteria; school enrollment, win/loss records, number of students in the program, feeder programs, and the rationale for not playing in their enrollment based classifications.

Petitions will be heard at the start of each two-year classification cycle. If a school faces a significant change in enrollment or other extraordinary event, it should follow the appeal process outlined in By-Law Article III, Sect. 6.

Sect. 6: Classification Appeals

- A. A school may appeal its classification if enrollment changes or other issues (i.e. school size, history, ability to compete, win/loss records, etc.) warrant such a request.
- B. The school must present its case to the relevant sport committee.
- C. The sport committee will then make its recommendation to the Executive Director.
- D. The Executive Director will present his recommendation to the Classification Committee.
- E. The Classification Committee will then present its recommendation to the NHIAA Council. The decision of the Council is final and no further appeals will be heard.

	4 CLASSES	3 CLASSES	2 CLASSES	
Sect. 7:	L = 1201+	L = 1201+	L = 1201+	Flexibility
Allowances	I = 676-1200	I = 676-1200	I-M-S = 1-1200	
Each school	M = 351-675	M-S = 1-675		will be
allowed to	S = 1-350			schedule
contests				outside of

their classification/division each season if they choose. In sports that seed teams for tournaments, each school must play at least the minimum number of games as determined by the NHIAA (see By-Law Article XXXV: Corresponding Dates for All Sports) against teams in their classification/division, in order to qualify for the tournament. All other games, up to the maximum number of games allowed, may be played outside of a school's respective classification/division.

Sect. 8: Standings

Standings will be kept by class for tournament seeding purposes, based on win-loss percentage. The limit on contests outside of class will be waived in the following sports that do not seed teams for tournaments:

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| Cross Country | Indoor Track | Skiing |
| Gymnastics | Outdoor Track | Wrestling |

In sports where ties are possible (Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Soccer), wins will count for one point, ties one-half point, and no points for a loss. The point total, divided by the number of contests played, will determine a rating for tournament seeding purposes only.

* As a pilot program for the 2009-10 season, all Class I schools will be utilizing the Heal Point Rating System with any sport that is aligned by class.

Sect. 9: Out-of-State Schools

- A. Out-of-state schools will be classified in the same manner as New Hampshire schools.
- B. Limitations on out-of-state contests, held by particular sports committees, will remain at the discretion of those committees, within the class flexibility regulations.

Section 10: Cooperative Teams

A Cooperative team shall be defined as an athletic team, which allows two or three (but not more than three) schools to come together to form a team. The purpose of the Cooperative Team is to allow student athletes the opportunity to compete in NHIAA sanctioned athletics that they would otherwise not be able to compete in and to make athletic opportunities available for student athletes. A Cooperative Team would be consistent with the Association's dedication to fairness and competition and would provide opportunities for many students to participate in a wide variety of sports.

Schools may apply for the establishment of a Cooperative Team under the following conditions:

- A. School Boards and the Administration of the participating schools must approve the establishment of a Cooperative Team.

- B. The NHIAA Classification Committee shall make all rulings with regard to the establishment of a Cooperative Team.
- C. A joint application **should** be filed, one year prior to implementation of the respective sport season at the varsity level, with the NHIAA Classification Committee that includes a rationale for the formation of a Cooperative Team. The approval must provide but not be limited to:
- Funding for the sport
 - Coaches eligibility
 - Transportation arrangements to practices and contests
 - Use of facilities
 - Procedure for dissolution of the agreement by a school
 - Administration of the program
- D. No more than one of the schools involved may have offered the sport in the previous school year.
- E. The combined 9-12 enrollment of all the schools involved will not exceed the 9-12 enrollment of the largest high school in New Hampshire.
- F. The Classification Committee shall consider the establishment of a Cooperative Team provided;
- The classification be based upon the combined enrollments of the schools participating on the Cooperative Team.
 - The name of the Cooperative Team must include the name of the schools involved in the Cooperative Team.
 - The Cooperative Team shall be approved for no more than a two-year period.
 - Schools participating on a Cooperative Team must be a member of the NHIAA.
 - Schools shall share equally in the sport participation fee.
 - Only one (1) school administration (Principal and Athletic Director) shall be designated as the contact person for the Cooperative Team.
- G. If the Cooperative Team application is approved, upon completion of the two-year period, the schools may reapply for the continuation of the Cooperative Team. There shall be no limit to the number of two-year periods for which schools can apply for approval of a Cooperative Team.

CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS

Schools may compete with any classification according to that sport's specific by-laws, during the regular season but may qualify only in their own classification based on points earned for that competition.

These figures were compiled from information received from reports submitted by Principals of NHIAA member schools as of October 1, 2007.

2009-2010 CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS WITH PETITIONS							
L - 1201+ (20)		I – 676-1200 (24)		M – 351-675 (23)		S - 1-350 (26)	
Pinkerton	3331	Bedford	1172	†Sanborn	743	Newmarket	349
Nashua - South	2287	Con-Val	1087	Stevens	667	Littleton	293
Salem	2263	Portsmouth	1067	Fall Mtn	656	Woodsville	273
Man. Memorial	2165	Pembroke	1045	Somersworth	605	Wilton	266
Man. Central	2159	Souhegan	970	Campbell	575	Hinsdale	259
Nashua - North	2054	Hollis/Brookline	952	Prospect Mtn	573	Derryfield	246
Concord	1877	Kingswood	947	Gilford	572	Moultonborough	239
Londonderry	1827	Kennett	945	Berlin	570	Nute	227
Man. West	1809	John Stark	890	Winnisquam	567	Portsmouth Christian	214
Spaulding	1768	Merrimack Valley	884	Raymond	522	Pittsfield	211
Keene	1762	Milford	872	Conant	506	Profile	188
Dover	1671	Laconia	822	Hillsboro-Deering	493	Gorham	187
Exeter	1654	Plymouth	817	Farmington	487	Colebrook	183
Merrimack	1593	Monadnock	787	White Mtns	482	Groveton	180
Timberlane	1590	Lebanon	761	Franklin	477	Sunapee	169
Alvirne	1518	Hanover	746	Mascoma	471	Lisbon	141
Winnacunnet	1324	St. Thomas	721	Newfound	465	Lin-Wood	139
Goffstown	1289	Oyster River	710	Newport	461	Nashua Christian	96
*Bishop Guertin	885	Coe-Brown	709	Belmont	461	Calvary Christian	85
*Trinity	470	Pelham	700	Mascenic	453	Mount Zion	64
		Windham	692	Inter-Lakes	441	Sant Bani	54
		*Bow	669	Epping	387	Pittsburg	50
		*Kearsarge	665	Hopkinton	355	Stratford	49
		*Bishop Brady	443			Tri-City Christian	42
* By Petition						Laconia Christian	34
†By Appeal						Concord Christian	33