

**BY-LAW ARTICLE XI**  
**Seeding and Tie Breaking Procedures For All Sports**

**Sect. 1:** All tournament teams will be selected for tournament berths as determined by seeding position based upon regular season competition as follows:

A. Win/Loss Record:

Baseball, Basketball, Golf, Lacrosse, Softball, Tennis, Volleyball

B. Win/Loss/Tie Rating System:

Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Soccer

C. Football Point Rating System:

The point rating system as described in By-Law Article XVIII, Section 6, will be used for play-off seeding purposes.

D. Tournament Seeding (Placement): Once the tournament has been seeded teams shall remain in that position throughout the entire tournament regardless of victories over higher seeded teams.

**Sect. 2:** In the event of a tie for any position, the Sports Committee shall resolve the tie using the following criteria, in order of priority to select the teams. *The team(s) shall be seeded as determined by using the tie breaking criteria, 1-8.*

A. The criteria for seeding a team is as follows:

1. Rating\* in head-to-head competition which shall be the established team rating system based upon contests against opponents involved in the tie providing they have played each other the same number of times.
2. Rating against NHIAA class opponents selected for the tournament including all teams involved in a tie for the last position. Once the tournament teams have been selected, the teams that were tied for the last position are no longer used in breaking ties as they are not considered tournament teams.
3. *Quality of wins against tournament teams in class including all teams involved in a tie for the last position. (Ranking) \*\**
4. Rating against class opponents on the road. \*\*\*
5. Rating against class opponents at home.
6. Wins on the road regardless of class.
7. Wins at home regardless of class.
8. If teams are tied after the first seven criteria, the team that defeated the highest NHIAA seeded team in their class (includes both tournament and non-tournament teams) will be selected.
9. As determined by the sports committee.

*Once a criterion has been found to break the tie, it will be used to rank the teams involved in the tie. If, after the original criterion has ranked the teams, existing tie(s) shall be broken by starting at criterion number 1 (head to head) down through the remaining criteria until the tie is broken.*

*Example:*

*Five teams (A, B, C, D and E) are involved in a tie.*

*All five are 2 and 2 in head to head.*

*Records against teams selected for the tournament are:*

*A: 8-4; B: 8-4; C: 7-5; D: 7-5 and E: 6-6.*

*Teams A and B would be ranked 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the tiebreaker.*

*Teams C and D would be ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the tiebreaker.*

*Team E would be 5<sup>th</sup> in the tiebreaker.*

*To break the tie of A and B, use criterion 1 (head to head).*

*Team A beat team B, thus, team A is 1<sup>st</sup> and team B is 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

*To break the tie of teams C and D, use criterion 1 ((head to head).*

*Team D beat team C, thus, team D is 3<sup>rd</sup> and team C is 4<sup>th</sup>.*

- B. If two schools are involved in a tie for the final tournament position, a play-off game will *NOT* be held. The tie shall be broken by using the established criteria in A.
- C. If a team withdraws at any time after the seeding has been completed the seeded opponent in the same bracket shall receive a forfeit win and move on to the next round.

\* Rating is defined as follows:

- 1. Win/loss rating – the percentage obtained by dividing the number of wins by the number of games played by a team.
- 2. Individual sport’s point rating system – the value obtained by dividing the sum of own values and opponents’ values by the number of games played by a team.

\*\* *Ranking is defined as the total number of wins by beaten opponents in class that qualify for the tournament against other tournament teams divided by the total number of games against tournament opponents. Example: If you played eight tournament teams and you beat three of them, you would add the wins against tournament teams of those three beaten opponents. You would then divide that total by the number of tournament opponents played by all eight of the tournament teams you have played.*

\*\*\*On the road – means games scheduled as “away” games.

Note: 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.

### **NHIAA HEAL POINT Tabulation**

*(For Class “I” standings only)*

#### **SELECTION OF TEAMS BASED ON STRENGTH OF WINS**

Step one determines the preliminary index

- A. Points awarded for victory: Class L = 40, I = 35, M = 30, S = 25
- B. Add points and divide by the number of scheduled games
- C. Example 10 “I” wins (350) and one “L” win (40) = 390 points, divide that number by scheduled games (390 /14) = 27.8571429
- D. A TIE in a contest = each team splits preliminary point value (Example Class “I” vs Class “L” – Class “I” team receives 20 points, Class “L” receives 17.5 points)
- E. A team with no victories is awarded a preliminary index of “1.0”

Step two determines the tournament index

- A. TEAM A = Add up the preliminary indices of teams if defeated / tied (the more wins a team has, the greater its preliminary index value.) This takes into account playing into another classification.
- B. Divide total by number of games scheduled
- C. Multiply number by 10
- D. Example: TEAM “A” derives 172.85835698 points, divided by 14 = 12.347024 X 10 = 123.47024

#### **Resolving Ties**

- A. Head-to-head competition. If still tied ...
- B. Record against common opponents. If still tied...
- C. Record against highest T.I. common opponent. If still tied...
- D. Record against next highest T.I. common opponent, etc. If still tied...
- E. Record against all Class “I” tournament teams, including any tied for the final tournament birth. If still tied...
- F. Winning percentage against Class “I” teams. If still tied...
- G. Final playoff birth after tie-breaker results in playoff game, site determined by coin toss. For those assured of a berth, seeding determined by coin toss after tie breaker system has been exhausted.