

BY-LAW ARTICLE IV
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, 2015 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. Actual divisional alignments and school enrollments are found in the specific sport By-Laws in this handbook.

Sect. 2: Individual sports committees may **recommend** how many divisions their respective sport should play.

Sect. 3: Alignment by Sport

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

4 DIVISIONS (I, II, III, IV)	Baseball, Basketball, Golf, Skiing, Soccer, Softball, Winter Spirit
3 DIVISIONS (I, II, III)	Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Boys Ice Hockey, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Outdoor Track, Fall Spirit, Tennis, Girls Volleyball, Wrestling
2 DIVISIONS (I, II)	Indoor Track, Swimming and Diving
1 DIVISION (I)	Bass Fishing, Bowling, Gymnastics, Girls Ice Hockey, Boys Volleyball, Unified Sports

Sect. 4: Petitioning

Schools may *petition up/down by sport during the realignment process that is created for two (2) years. Individual sports committees will decide on petitions while considering **petitioning criteria. 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/down in a division must present their case through the Executive Director to the respective sport committee who will in turn, make a recommendation to the NHIAA Classification Committee. 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/lower division schools may petition up as many divisions as they choose and may only petition down by one division in that sport. **The sports committee must also address the following criteria; school enrollment, win/loss records, number of students in the program, feeder programs, regional opponents (reduce transportation) and other rationale.

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 IV, Sect. 5.

Sect. 5: Divisional Alignment Appeals

- A. A school may appeal its divisional alignment 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/her recommendation to the Classification Committee.
- E. The Classification Committee will then present its recommendation to the NHIAA Council. The decision of the NHIAA Council is final and no further appeals will be heard.

Sect. 6: Minimum and Maximum Number of Games

Each school will be allowed to schedule contests outside of their 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 XXXVII: Corresponding Dates for All Sports) against teams in their 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 division, with all games counting toward final season record beginning with 2012-13. The limit on contests outside of division will be waived in the following sports that do not seed teams for tournaments: cross country, gymnastics, indoor track, outdoor track, skiing and wrestling.

Sect. 7: Standings

Standings will be kept by division for tournament seeding purposes.

- A. For sports utilizing the NH Index Plan the following will apply:
 - The rating will be determined by the total number of points divided by the total number of games played. The chart below indicates how many points will be awarded for wins.
 - Home and Away is determined by the schedule and not where the game is played. (Home and away is used in consideration during the tie-breaking procedures.)
 - **Points for ties (field hockey, ice hockey and soccer):** Teams will receive ½ of the point value that would have been awarded if the team won.

Division I	Number of Points for a win
Division I & II	4
Division III	3
Division IV	2
Division V & VI	1
Division II	Number of Points for a win
Division I	5
Division II & III	4
Division IV	3
Division V	2
Division VI	1
Division III	Number of Points for a win
Division I & II	5
Division III & IV	4
Division V	3
Division VI	2
Division IV	Number of Points for a win
Division I, II & III	5
Division IV & V	4
Division VI	3
Division V	Number of Points for a win
Division I, II, III & IV	5
Division V & VI	4
Division VI	Number of Points for a win
Division I, II, III, IV & V	5
Division VI	4

- B. Sports not utilizing the NH Index Plan are the sports of golf, football, unified sports and any sport in which team standings are not kept for seedings purposes.
- Golf and Unified Sports will be awarded one (1) point for a win and zero (0) points for a loss, regardless if the match is played home or away.
 - **Football:** Please refer to By-Law Article XX: Football, Sects. 6, 7 and 8.

Sect. 8: Out-of-State Schools

- A. Out-of-state schools will be aligned 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 division minimum and maximum number of games.

Sect. 9: Cooperative Teams

A cooperative team shall be defined as an athletic team, which allows two (2) or three (3) (but not more than three (3)) 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. To afford student athletes such an opportunity, it is the intent of this By-Law to allow for the formation of such teams when the schools involved cannot provide a particular program on their own. The hope is that ultimately each school will develop enough interest to sustain the sport independently, however, in smaller schools the cooperative may need to be renewed indefinitely (two years at a time) in order to maintain the program. A cooperative team is also an option for a school that is in danger of losing a program because of circumstances beyond their control, i.e. a significant decline in school enrollment. It is not the intent of these teams to be used on a short term basis so as to allow an existing program to rebuild a winning team after losing athletes through graduation or normal attrition. 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. In sports that allow student athletes to compete as individuals, cooperative teams will **not** be considered.

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 (1) 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 (1) 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 that sport.
- F. The Classification Committee shall consider the establishment of a cooperative team provided;
- The classification is 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 (2) 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.
 - Written assurance that a no cut policy is in place. At such time that this no cut policy necessitates a sub-varsity team the schools involved in the cooperative will meet with the committee. (CM 5.2015)
- G. If the cooperative team application is approved, upon completion of the two (2) year period, the schools may reapply for the continuation of the cooperative team. There shall be no limit to the number of two (2) year periods for which schools can apply for approval of a cooperative team.
- H. Unified Sports: Cooperative team procedures may be waived for the creation of Unified Sports Teams. The NHIAA Executive Director is empowered to grant permission for schools to create and or renew cooperative Unified Sports Teams when such consolidation allows for schools to have Unified Teams who lack a large enough intellectually disabled population of student athletes to be able to meet the minimum requirements to field a team as defined in the Unified Sports By-Law and Policy and Procedures Manual. A school denied approval to establish or renew a cooperative team in Unified Sports by the Executive Director may appeal for approval to the Classification Committee. The decision of the Classification Committee is final and cannot be appealed. Cooperative teams shall be required to submit the renewal information to include the number of athletes and partners at each school. (CM 5.2015)

Sect. 10: Tournament Selection Requirement

Less than or equal to 70% of schools in a division shall qualify for the tournament in all sports. (See each sport regarding their selection.) (CM 5.2015; 5.2016)

# of Teams in a Division	70% Make Tournament #
5	3
6-7	4
8	5
9	6
10-11	7
12	8
13-14	9
15	10
16-17	11
18	12
19	13
20-21	14
22	15
23-24	16
25	17
26-27	18
28	19
29	20
30	21
41	28

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 point rating for that competition. These enrollment numbers were compiled from information submitted by Principals of NHIAA member schools as of October 1, 2015.

DIV. I (1151+) 16 Schools		DIV. II (551-1150) 25 Schools		DIV. III (301-550) 23 Schools		DIV. IV (1-300) 24 Schools	
Pinkerton	3167	Winnacunnet	1109	Stevens	545	Farmington	299
Nashua South	1875	Goffstown	1106	Monadnock	531	Epping	277
Nashua North	1748	Portsmouth	1098	St. Thomas	527	Hopkinton	269
Exeter	1741	Man. West	949	Fall Mountain	525	Derryfield	263
Concord	1714	Milford	857	Gilford	510	Hinsdale	255
Man. Central	1688	Windham	851	Campbell	509	Newmarket	255
Man. Memorial	1583	Pembroke	840	Prospect Mountain	503	Woodsville	228
Londonderry	1579	Souhegan	828	Winnisquam	492	Littleton	213
Bedford	1484	Merrimack Valley	823	Somersworth	482	Ports. Christian at Dover	204
Spaulding	1416	Kennett	819	Raymond	447	Moultonborough	184
Keene	1388	Hollis/Brookline	815	Berlin	443	Nute	182
Dover	1349	Kingswood	814	Conant	435	Profile	181
Alvirne	1315	Con-Val	794	Belmont	428	Wilton-Lyndeborough	175
Timberlane	1240	Bishop Guertin	743	White Mountains	402	Pittsfield	157
Merrimack	1231	Oyster River	715	Trinity	398	Groveton	141
Salem	1215	Coe-Brown	702	Franklin	388	Sunapee	141
		Hanover	702	Hillsboro-Deering	387	Gorham	137
		John Stark	700	Newfound	383	Colebrook	130
		Plymouth	686	Bishop Brady	348	Lisbon	119
		Sanborn	686	Newport	346	Lin-Wood	112
		Pelham	628	Mascenic	344	Canaan, VT	86
		Lebanon	609	Mascoma	340	Concord Christian	83
		Bow	595	Inter-Lakes	333	Mount Royal	56
		Laconia	590			Pittsburg	39
		Kearsarge	566				