

RULE 2 – CLASSIFICATION & REPRESENTATION

- 2-1** School enrollment will be the primary basis for establishing classification. Final placement may be determined by consideration of the following factors:
1. Minimizing loss of instructional time.
 2. Reducing travel time and distance.
 3. Facilitating equitable scheduling.
 4. Evaluating safety concerns relative to competitive scheduling and pairing.
 5. Competitive equity of schools' program/s.
- 2-2** Classifications shall be reviewed every two years. Grades 9-12 enrollment numbers are obtained during the enrollment year from the State Board of Education and as outlined in Rule 8-15, 16, 17. Enrollment numbers for private schools are obtained from the school principal and verified with the school's student management system. Figures are compiled during a one-year period, with a one-year grace period as illustrated below. The average of enrollment figures used in calculating classification shall not be rounded up.

<u>Enrollment Year</u>	<u>Grace Year</u>	<u>Classification Period</u>
2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027 / 2027-2028
2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029 / 2029-2030
2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030 / 2030-2031

- 2-2-1** Classifications for the current school year:

6A 1400 & over	3A 349-175
5A 1399-700	2A 174-90
4A 699-350	1A 89 & below

- 2-2-2** All proposals for reclassification shall be reviewed by the IHSAA Classification Committee before being considered by the Board of Directors.
- a. The proposal must be submitted to the Classification Committee by September 10 of the enrollment year.
 - b. The proposal must be submitted as outlined on the [IHSAA Classification Guidelines](#).
- 2-3** The IHSAA Board of Directors shall make the final determination on all classification petitions during their annual September meeting. Classification petitions will be considered for two-year cycles. Petitions must be submitted to the IHSAA by September 10 of the grace year.
- a. Schools may petition to move down a classification in specific team sports (see 2-3-1).
 - b. Schools may petition to move up a classification in specific team sports (see 2-3-1).
 - c. Schools may petition to move up a classification in specific individual sports (those not listed in 2-3-1).
 - d. Schools may petition to move up a classification as a school (all sports/activities).
- 2-3-1** Cheer, dance, football, boys soccer, girls soccer, volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball are considered team sports for the classification petitioning process.
- 2-3-2** Petitions must include the following to be considered when petitioning down a classification:
- a. The IHSAA office will tabulate votes from all superintendents of the classification in which the school wishes to be placed as well as the classification they will be leaving. A simple majority of the superintendent votes, one vote per high school, must be obtained to move the petition to the Board for a final decision.
 - b. Cover letter and letters of support.
 - c. Evidence that the varsity, JV, and freshman combined winning percentage is near or below 25% during the most recent two years of competition against their assigned classification.
 - d. Evidence that the varsity, JV, and freshman teams finished near or below the bottom 33% of their postseason tournaments during the most recent two years of competition.
 - e. The IHSAA office will organize team sport committees to review all petitions prior to coming to the IHSAA Board of Directors to be used as advisory information.

- 2-3-3** Petitions must include the following to be considered when petitioning up a classification:
- The IHSAA office will tabulate votes from all superintendents of the classification in which the school wishes to be placed as well as the classification they will be leaving. A simple majority of the superintendent votes, one vote per high school, must be obtained to move the petition to the Board for a final decision.
 - Cover letter and letters of support.
 - The IHSAA office will organize team sport committees to review all petitions prior to coming to the IHSAA Board of Directors to be used as advisory information.

2-4 When school attendance boundaries change, causing an alteration in the enrollment and classification status of member schools within that school district, the following procedure will be used to determine the classification for the next school year:

- The Board of Directors, at their December meeting, will review the fall enrollment figures obtained from the State Board of Education of each school in question.
- The Board will place each school in their proper classification beginning at the start of the next school year.

2-5 **REPRESENTATION**

2-5-1 State tournament representation in volleyball, soccer, basketball, and softball will be determined for a two-year period based on 40% of schools in each classification.

Note: An alternate 6A bracket was approved.

- Representation to state play-in games and the state tournament will be determined by the number of teams from each district or region.
 - 1 school: one automatic berth to the round of 8, if the team is ranked in the top 8 of the final Idaho MaxPreps rankings.
 - 2 schools: one automatic berth to the round of 8, if the team is the district champion and ranked in the top 8 of the final Idaho MaxPreps rankings. Note: A team that is a district champion and ranked outside the top 8 of the final Idaho MaxPreps rankings earns a berth in a play-in game.
 - 3-5 schools: one automatic berth to round of 8.
 - 6-10 schools: one automatic berth to round of 8 and one berth to a play-in game. When 40% results in an 8-team format, an additional automatic berth to the round of 8 will be awarded.
 - 11 or more schools: one automatic berth to round of 8 and two berths to a play-in game. Except when 40% results in an eight-team format. When 40% results in an 8-team format, additional automatic berths to the round of 8 will be awarded.
- If rule 2-5-1a. does not accomplish it's intended purpose, the IHSAA executive staff will recommend modifications prioritizing:
 - Protect conference champions
 - 40% of teams in the classification will get an opportunity to advance.
 - Follow rule 2-5-1a.
 - Final representation will be approved by the IHSAA Board.
 - Remaining berths will be filled using the next highest-ranked teams according to final Idaho MaxPreps rankings.
 - State play-in matchups will be determined by the final Idaho MaxPreps rankings.
 - Higher seeds will host and manage the contest.
 - Play-in games shall take place on Saturday at 1:00 pm prior to the state tournament unless approved by the IHSAA.
 - Officials are assigned by the host district commissioner.
 - Financial protocols:
 - The host school pays all expenses and covers any financial losses.
 - If gate revenue is sufficient, after expenses are paid, the host school will reimburse up to 100% of the visiting school's travel costs.
 - Additional revenue will be split between schools.
 - If there is a substantial gap in MaxPreps rankings and overnight travel is necessary, the IHSAA strongly advises bypassing the play-in game and advancing the higher-ranked team. The final decision rests with the traveling team's local school board and/or school administration. If a school chooses not to participate, the game will be considered a forfeit, and the opponent will automatically advance to the round of 8. In baseball, if a school chooses not to participate in a 3-team regional, the remaining teams will play a best 2/3 series.

Note: District representation will be guaranteed for all sports and activities, with each district receiving at least one play-in game opportunity. Representation may be altered periodically to reflect the historical representation of each classification. Single district teams must meet criteria in rule 2-5-1.

- 2-5-2** State tournament representation in swimming, track, and tennis will be determined for a two-year period based on a percentage of schools with a team in that classification. Wrestling representation will be calculated annually using participation data from January 10 for the current year's state tournament.
- 2-5-3** State tournament representation in football will be determined for a two-year period based on a maximum number of 12 teams per classification.
- 2-5-4** State tournament representation in baseball will be determined for a two-year period based on 50% of schools in each classification including regional qualifying tournaments.
- 2-5-5** State tournament representation for cross country, golf, speech, debate, drama, cheer and dance will be determined yearly by the total number of team and/or individual finishers at a district/regional qualifying competition.
- 2-5-6** State tournament brackets for girls soccer, boys soccer, volleyball, girls basketball, boys basketball, baseball and softball will be seeded using MaxPreps rankings. Each school year, brackets will be flipped to balance the bracket time slots, based on a 4-year rotation. The higher seed will be the home team in all contests.

<u>26-27</u>	<u>27-28</u>	<u>28-29</u>	<u>29-30</u>
2 vs 7	4 vs 5	3 vs 6	1 vs 8
3 vs 6	1 vs 8	2 vs 7	4 vs 5
4 vs 5	2 vs 7	1 vs 8	3 vs 6
1 vs 8	3 vs 6	4 vs 5	2 vs 7

- a. MaxPreps rankings will include all regular season games and district tournament games.
- b. All regular season and district tournament game scores must be posted by each member school on MaxPreps by midnight, Pacific Time, on the Tuesday preceding the state play in games. Football is due on Saturday preceding the play in games. Schools that fail to meet this deadline will be fined \$1500 per sport. Scores submitted or modified after the Idaho rankings have been posted on the IHSAA website will not be included in the final Idaho rankings.
- c. Official and final rankings will be published by the IHSAA.