



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Tony Maselli, NJSIAA Chief Operating Officer

Date: December 6, 2021

RE: Co-Ed Swimming Classification

Summary:

It has been an ongoing practice for swimming teams that declare they are going to compete as a co-ed teams to have their school's enrollment doubled for classification purposes. For reference, approximately 15% of the boys swim programs are co-ed. This practice was put in place years ago to try to entice schools to separate into separate boys and girls programs. This current practice is not required by the NJSIAA constitution, its bylaws or swimming tournament regulations. Considering the current athletic environment, budget restrictions and lack of pool time, NJSIAA staff believes this practice has outlived its necessity.

There have also been unintended consequences due to the current practice. For example, when smaller non-public schools host a co-ed team and their enrollments are doubled, the smaller school is pushed into a higher classification where they often struggle from a competitive balance perspective. Inversely, a larger enrollment school may be pushed down to a lower classification, which can negatively impact the smaller schools in those groups.

NJSIAA staff solicited feedback from the leagues and conferences, and we received an overwhelming response that the doubling of co-ed swim team enrollments is no longer achieving its intended purpose. We received one concern that if the enrollments for co-ed programs are no longer doubled, then some schools may take advantage of the change. However, we feel the proposal below, which requires league or conference approval, will help address this concern.

Proposal:

All schools declaring co-ed swim programs will no longer have their enrollment doubled. They will be classified by their boys swimming classification. In addition, all programs declaring co-ed programs must have the approval of their league or conference. This requirement will take effect for the 2022 – 2023 season.