



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer

Date: May 8, 2023

RE: Boys Ice Hockey – Classifications and Tournament Regulations

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NJSIAA continues to see an increasing trend in the number of boys' ice hockey cooperative programs. For instance, during the 2012-2013 season, there were 22 programs while during the 2022-2023 season, there were 45 programs. When two schools co-op from either Group A, B, or both, the number of schools in those groups decreases, while the number of schools in Group C increases.

As a result of this trend, NJSIAA staff propose changes to the current classifications which are described below. This proposal is based on feedback solicited by NJSIAA staff from Athletic Directors and coaches and reviewed by the ice hockey committee at its post-season meeting. The ice hockey committee unanimously supports this proposal.

Currently, the number of schools in each classification group are:

Group A = 22 (16 make the tournament)

Group B = 23 (16 make the tournament)

Group C = 45 (32 make the tournament)

Non-Public = 25 (all make the tournament)

**Our proposal is the following:**

1. Combine groups A & B totaling 45 schools. Divide those schools in half to make North & South sections. We will add a sectional championship game for the two divisions, and the north sectional champion will play the south sectional champion for the state championship. The sectional championship games will be played at either Cody or Mennen arenas.
2. Group C will be divided in half to make the North & South sections. We will add a sectional championship game for the two divisions, and the north sectional champion will play the south sectional champion for the state championship. The sectional championship games will be played at either Cody or Mennen arenas.
3. The Non-public group classifications will remain the same.

**New qualifications numbers for the state tournament based on the proposals:**

Group A North = 23 (20 make the tournament)

Group A South = 22 (20 make the tournament)

Group C North = 23 (20 make the tournament)

Group C South = 22 (20 make the tournament)

Non-Public = 25 (20 make the tournament - All 11 Gordon Division teams are automatically in)

This will equal the number of schools that qualify for the tournament across all the groups and allow for more competitively balanced first round games.