

Proposal to Incorporate a Competitive Balance Formula into the Determination of how Public Schools are Classified

The proposal is being presented in two parts. Ballot No. 1 would amend the Bylaws to allow a public school's classification to be changed based on a competitive balance formula as approved by the Executive Committee and set forth in the Policies and Procedures.

Ballot No. 2 (below) would amend the Policies and Procedures and adopt the specific competitive balance formula that was endorsed by the Executive Committee this year.

BALLOT NO. 2

Proposal to add a new Policy entitled "Competitive Balance Formula for Classifications of Public Schools"

This proposal is in conjunction with the amendment to Article III of the Bylaws, which authorizes the Association's use of a competitive balance formula for public school classifications.

The below Competitive Balance Policy will be located in the Association's Policies and Procedures. Any amendments to this Competitive Balance Policy will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee.

As proposed, a competitive balance formula will be used to identify non-traditional schools that should move up to the next highest classification group based on state tournament success. The formula will initially identify schools based on a success factor. Schools that meet the success factor will be further reviewed to determine whether the school is a non-traditional school, and if so, the type of non-traditional school it is. Schools that do not meet the success factor will not be considered for any further action. Based on the formula, a non-traditional school may move up one classification group. Lastly, the formula is not applicable to traditional schools – traditional schools will not move for any level of success.

If adopted by the membership at the May 2025 Annual Meeting, **the proposal would take effect with the 2026–2027 classification cycle**, and the formula's "success factor" would be calculated using 2024–2025 and 2025–2026 state tournament results.

The Competitive Balance Policy would initially apply only to the sports of football, boys basketball, and girls basketball.

The Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee have endorsed this proposal.

This proposal requires a majority vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting, based on the total number of ballots cast at the Annual Meeting.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES CHANGE

NJSIAA Policies and Procedures shall be updated to include a new section entitled “Competitive Balance Policy,” as follows:

Competitive Balance Policy

To ensure that non-traditional public high schools compete on a level playing field with traditional public high schools, the following competitive balance policy shall be applied to non-traditional public high schools participating in the sports of football, boys basketball, and girls basketball.

Competitive Balance Formula

A public high school will move up to the next highest classification group when the school meets the success factor and meets the requirements of a non-traditional school.

Success Factor:

Points will be awarded for participation in the NJSIAA state tournament based on the following scale:

- One point for a win in each preliminary round (i.e., all rounds prior to the sectional final).
- Two points for winning a sectional final.
- Three points for winning a state semifinal.
- Four points for winning a state championship.

During the previous two-year classification cycle, the following sport-specific point totals will be used to determine what schools will be further reviewed for a possible move to the next highest classification group:

- Football – cumulative total of six points or more
- Basketball – cumulative total of seven points or more

Non-Traditional Schools:

For purposes of the competitive balance formula, there are three categories of non-traditional schools—non-defined geographic area, county-based geographic area, and school districts with open enrollment policies. These categories are further defined below.

1. Non-Defined Geographic Area

These schools can enroll students beyond a defined geographic area and are listed below:

- Charter Schools
- Choice Schools
- Schools that Permit Tuition-Paying Students

2. County-Based Geographic Area

These schools can enroll students from an entire county and are listed below:

- County Vocational-Technical Schools
- County Magnet/Academy Schools
- Schools with Satellite Campuses for County-Based Academies

3. School Districts with Open Enrollment Policies

These school districts have multiple high schools and allow students to choose which school they attend or allow students to apply to schools within the district. Schools districts with multiple high schools that enroll students based solely on their home address are not included in this category.

Application of Competitive Balance Formula for Non-Traditional Schools:

The following schools will be automatically moved to the next highest classification group if the school has accumulated six or more points in the sport of football, or seven or more points in the sport of basketball, during a two-year classification cycle:

- Charter Schools
- County Vocational-Technical Schools
- County Magnet/Academy Schools
- School Districts with Open Enrollment Policies

The following schools will be moved to the next highest classification group if it has accumulated six or more points in the sport of football, or seven or more points in the sport of basketball, during a two-year classification cycle:

- Choice Schools
- Schools that Permit Tuition-Paying Students
- Schools with Satellite Campuses for County-Based Academies

And three or more student-athletes playing football, or one or more student-athlete(s) playing basketball, are enrolled as choice students, tuition students, or via county academy programs. The school will have to provide a varsity roster and attest to the type of enrollment for each student-athlete.

Non-Resident students who are children of school district staff, as defined by NJ statute, and attend one of these types of schools shall be excluded from the minimum number of student-athletes required to move to the next highest classification group.

Schools subject to the competitive balance formula will move to the next highest classification group from the classification group where the success points were earned. Once a school is subject to the competitive balance formula and moves to the next highest classification group, varsity rosters will not be reviewed during the one-year review or two-year review periods. Potential moves to the next highest classification group, or remaining in the new classification group, will be based solely on points earned in the new classification group. When a school moves back to its original classification group based on its natural enrollment, then varsity rosters will be subject to review when the school earns the required number of success points by sport.

This policy does not apply to NJSIAA member schools with student-athletes participating in interscholastic sports who are enrolled in a charter school and/or county vocational-technical/public academy schools and return to their home district when their charter school and/or county vocational-technical/public academy school does not offer the sport (*NJSIAA Bylaws Article V – Eligibility of Athletes – Paragraph G. Enrollment – CL 2 – 4*).

Future Classification Cycles:

First-Year Review – One Year Point Total

Once placed in the next highest classification group, if the school earns four or more points in football, or five or more points in basketball, in the first year of the next two-year classification cycle, then it will move up to the next highest classification group for the second year of the next two-year classification cycle. If the school does not earn any points in the first year of the next two-year classification cycle, then it will move down to the next lowest classification group for the second year of the next two-year classification cycle. Otherwise, the school will remain in the next highest classification group for both years of the next two-year classification cycle. The varsity rosters will not be reviewed for Choice Schools, Schools that Permit Tuition-Paying Students, and Schools with Satellite Campuses for County-Based Academies, during the first-year review—any move will be based solely on points earned during the first year in the new classification group.

Two-Year Review – Cumulative Point Total

During the two-year classification cycle, if the school earns six or more cumulative points in the sport of football, or seven or more cumulative points in the sport of basketball, then the school will move up to the next highest classification group for the next two-year classification cycle. If the school earns three, four, or five cumulative points in football, or three, four, five, or six cumulative points in basketball, then the school will remain in the same classification group for the next two-year classification cycle. If the school earns two or less cumulative points in either sport, then the school will move down to the next lowest classification group for the next two-year classification cycle. The varsity rosters will not be reviewed for Choice Schools, Schools that Permit Tuition-Paying Students, and Schools with Satellite Campuses for County-Based Academies during the two-year review—any move will be based solely on cumulative points earned during the two-year review in the new classification group.

Football:

- 6 or more cumulative points – move to next highest classification group
- 3–5 cumulative points – remain in current classification group
- 2 or less cumulative points – move to next lowest classification group

Basketball:

- 7 or more cumulative points – move to next highest classification group
- 3–6 cumulative points – remain in current classification group
- 2 or less cumulative points – move to next lowest classification group

At no point will a school be eligible to move down to a classification group that is lower than its natural classification group based on enrollment.

Appeals:

This provision is meant to be applied objectively. Therefore, a school that is subject to this provision may appeal only (1) the determination that it is a non-traditional school; or (2) the calculation of the competitive balance formula.

Detach and submit bottom portion only.
