18. Classification System

In sports and activities conducted in multiple classes, IHSA member schools are divided into classes according to enrollment. The following policy describes the steps required to determine a school's classification enrollment and the enrollment cutoffs for each class.

A. Enrollments

1. Actual Enrollment

   The classification of a high school is based on its total student enrollment figure (ninth through twelfth grade), as reported to the Illinois State Board of Education on September 30 of the preceding school term. For example, classifications for the 2011-12 school term are based on the official school enrollments submitted on September 30, 2010. This figure is known as the "actual enrollment."

   The IHSA gathers enrollment data from the Illinois State Board of Education's annual Fall Housing Report, which is generally posted online in March or April. When a school's enrollment is not readily determined from the Fall Housing Report, or when the report appears to be in error, the school may be asked to provide its enrollment data directly to the IHSA.

Exceptions

In certain cases, the IHSA may use an estimated enrollment figure provided by a school or school district until the school can provide the Sept. 30 enrollment of the current school term. These situations include, but are not limited to, the following:

   a. a new school that does not appear in the Fall Housing Report.

   b. a school that undergoes a significant change in enrollment due to the opening or closing of a school in the same district, the deannexation of a portion of its district, or the deactivation of a neighboring school.

In unusual cases, the Board of Directors may make appropriate adjustments to a school's enrollment figure.
2. **Official Enrollment**

A high school's "actual enrollment" is subject to several adjustments. The final figure, after these adjustments have been made, is known as the "official enrollment," and is the figure shown on the IHSA Web site and in other IHSA publications.

**Single-gender schools**

The enrollment of a single-gender high school is multiplied by 2 to bring it into line with coed schools having the same number of boys or girls.

Example: 1,000 girls (actual enrollment) x 2 = 2,000

**Schools with fewer than four grades**

The enrollment of a high school with only three grades is multiplied by 1.333 is applied to bring it into line with four-year schools.

Example: 1,000 (actual enrollment) x 1.333 = 1,333

In unusual cases (such as when a school is ramping up to full enrollment or being phased out), the enrollment of a high school with only two grades may be multiplied by 2 and the enrollment of a high school with only one grade may be multiplied by 4.

**Variances**

A school that houses out-of-district special education students may petition for a variance to have those students removed from its enrollment.

A school may also petition for a variance if it anticipates an enrollment decrease of more than 20 percent.

Any petition to change a school's enrollment must arrive at the IHSA Office no later than September 1.

**Non-boundaried school multiplier**

IHSA By-Law 3.170 directs that a 1.65 multiplier be applied to the enrollment of all non-boundaried schools. As defined by the by-law, a non-boundaried school is any private school, charter school, lab school, magnet school, residential school, any public school in a multi-high school district that does not accept students from a fixed portion of the district, or any public school that charges less than the full tuition rate authorized by the Illinois School Code.

Waivers of the multiplier are granted automatically, as described in the next section.
3. Classification Enrollment

The enrollment figure used to classify a high school may vary based on the sport and activity, depending on whether a waiver of the 1.65 multiplier has been granted. The figure used for classification is known as a school's "classification enrollment."

Waivers

By-Law 3.170 provides for waivers of the 1.65 multiplier on non-boundaried schools. Waivers are granted to individual sport and activity programs on a yearly basis. Waivers are granted only in sports and activities that are conducted in more than one class.

Non-boundaried schools not eligible for a waiver

A sport or activity program at a particular school is not eligible for an automatic waiver for the current school term if, over the course of the previous six school terms, the program (as a team) has accomplished any of the following:

a. Won a trophy at the state final tournament.

b. Qualified for the state final tournament (the final weekend of play).

c. Won a sectional tournament.

d. Won a regional tournament two or more times.

e. In track and field only, finished second or third in the sectional tournament two or more times.

f. In football only, won a first-round playoff game.

g. In music only, finished in the top 10 in the state sweepstakes.

For the purposes of determining eligibility for a waiver, any trophy, title, place, win, or state final appearance that was earned and subsequently forfeited is counted.

Non-boundaried schools eligible for a waiver

All sport and activity programs that are subject to the 1.65 multiplier and do not fall under the criteria listed above are eligible for a waiver and are granted a waiver automatically. The "official enrollment" is divided by 1.65 to give the "classification enrollment" in the particular sport or activity.

No waivers other than automatic waivers are granted.

Boundaried schools

For boundaried schools, the "classification enrollment" is always equal to the "official enrollment."
B. Classification Cutoffs

At the end of each school term, classification cutoffs and ranges for the next school term in all sports and activities conducted in multiple classes are determined according to the following method:

A list of the schools that entered the IHSA postseason series in that particular sport or activity during the current school term is assembled. "Individual entries" (schools that did not enter as a team) are excluded from the list. In competitive cheerleading, coed entries are also excluded from the list.

The next year's classification enrollments are applied to all schools in the list. For the purposes of this computation, it is assumed that the schools making up each cooperative team will remain the same.

The list is divided into groups based on the following percentages:

a. **Four-class team sports (boys baseball, boys basketball, girls basketball, girls softball, girls volleyball):** The smallest 5/18 (27.78%) of entries in Class 1A, the next smallest 5/18 (27.78%) in Class 2A, the next smallest 4/18 (22.22%) in Class 3A, and the remaining 4/18 (22.22%) in Class 4A.

b. **Three-class team sports (boys soccer, girls soccer, boys wrestling):** The smallest 1/3 (33.33%) of entries in Class 1A, the next smallest 1/3 (33.33%) in Class 2A, and the remaining 1/3 (33.33%) in Class 3A.

c. **Three-class individual sports (boys cross country, girls cross country, boys golf, boys track and field, girls track and field):** The smallest 4/10 (40%) of entries in Class 1A, the next smallest 3/10 (30%) in Class 2A, and the remaining 3/10 (30%) in Class 3A.

d. **Two-class sports and activities (girls golf, Scholastic Bowl):** The smallest 1/2 (50%) of entries in Class A and the remaining 1/2 (50%) in Class AA.

e. **Competitive cheerleading:** The smallest 1/3 (33.33%) of entries in the Small Division, the next smallest 1/3 (33.33%) in the Medium Division, and the remaining 1/3 (33.33%) in the Large Division.

f. **Music:** Of schools that entered either the Solo & Ensemble or Organization contest (or both), the smallest 1/5 (20%) of entries in Class D, the next smallest 1/5 (20%) in Class C, the next smallest 1/5 (20%) in Class B, the next smallest 1/5 (20%) in Class A, and the remaining 1/5 (20%) in Class AA.

g. **Boys football:** Classifications for boys football are determined at the end of the regular season using the "classification enrollment" in the manner prescribed by the Boys Football Terms & Conditions.
The highest enrollment assigned to each class is considered the cutoff for that class. All entries with enrollments lower than the cutoff are assigned to that class.

The classification process does not guarantee that, by the time the tournaments are actually conducted, the classes will continue to be exactly proportional. Between the time the cutoffs are determined and the beginning of the tournaments, some schools may add or drop the sport or activity, or form or dissolve coops.

**Cooperative Teams**

In determining the enrollment of a cooperative team, the classification enrollments of all involved schools are combined to determine the classification enrollment of the coop.

**Playing Up**

A school may petition to play in a higher classification in a particular sport or activity. The request must be for a minimum of two years and must arrive at the IHSA Office no later than September 1.

**Cutoffs for 2011-12**

The enrollment cutoffs for the 2011-12 school term are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport or Activity</th>
<th>Classification Ranges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys Baseball</td>
<td>1A: up to 328  2A: 329-802  3A: 803-1729  4A: 1730 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Basketball</td>
<td>1A: up to 274  2A: 275-669  3A: 670-1580  4A: 1581 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Basketball</td>
<td>1A: up to 309  2A: 310-743  3A: 744-1649  4A: 1650 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Softball</td>
<td>1A: up to 321  2A: 322-743  3A: 744-1697  4A: 1698 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Soccer</td>
<td>1A: up to 732  2A: 733-1707  3A: 1708 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Soccer</td>
<td>1A: up to 857  2A: 858-1792  3A: 1793 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Wrestling</td>
<td>1A: up to 751  2A: 752-1687  3A: 1688 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Cross Country</td>
<td>1A: up to 760  2A: 761-1687  3A: 1688 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Cross Country</td>
<td>1A: up to 788  2A: 789-1687  3A: 1688 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Golf</td>
<td>1A: up to 540  2A: 541-1487  3A: 1488 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>1A: up to 557  2A: 558-1444  3A: 1445 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>1A: up to 561  2A: 562-1444  3A: 1445 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Golf</td>
<td>A: up to 1026  AA: 1027 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholastic Bowl</td>
<td>A: up to 540  AA: 541 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitive Cheerleading</td>
<td>S: up to 656  M: 657-1716  L: 1717 and over  C: by choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>D: up to 189  C: 190 to 358  B: 359 to 649  A: 650 to 1492  AA: 1493 and over</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>