

## 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:

<b>Sport or Activity</b>	<b>Classification Ranges</b>			
Boys Baseball	1A: up to 328	2A: 329-802	3A: 803-1729	4A: 1730 and over
Boys Basketball	1A: up to 274	2A: 275-669	3A: 670-1580	4A: 1581 and over
Girls Basketball	1A: up to 309	2A: 310-743	3A: 744-1649	4A: 1650 and over
Girls Softball	1A: up to 321	2A: 322-743	3A: 744-1697	4A: 1698 and over
Girls Volleyball	1A: up to 273	2A: 274-654	3A: 655-1608	4A: 1609 and over
Boys Soccer	1A: up to 732	2A: 733-1707	3A: 1708 and over	
Girls Soccer	1A: up to 857	2A: 858-1792	3A: 1793 and over	
Boys Wrestling	1A: up to 751	2A: 752-1687	3A: 1688 and over	
Boys Cross Country	1A: up to 760	2A: 761-1687	3A: 1688 and over	
Girls Cross Country	1A: up to 788	2A: 789-1687	3A: 1688 and over	
Boys Golf	1A: up to 540	2A: 541-1487	3A: 1488 and over	
Boys Track & Field	1A: up to 557	2A: 558-1444	3A: 1445 and over	
Girls Track & Field	1A: up to 561	2A: 562-1444	3A: 1445 and over	
Girls Golf	A: up to 1026	AA: 1027 and over		
Scholastic Bowl	A: up to 540	AA: 541 and over		
Competitive Cheerleading	S: up to 656	M: 657-1716	L: 1717 and over	C: by choice
Music	D: up to 189	C: 190 to 358	B: 359 to 649	A: 650 to 1492 AA: 1493 and over