

ARTICLE 5: CLASSIFICATION AND ALIGNMENT

SECTION 1: Action on Classification and Alignment

- A. The Board of Trustees shall assign each member high school to a classification and to a region within that classification.
- B. Final action on assignment of member schools to a classification and region alignment shall be taken only in properly scheduled and noticed meetings of the Board of Trustees, and only after the subject has been considered in at least two meetings, including the meeting in which the action is taken.
- C. In classifying and aligning schools for participation in Association activities, the Board of Trustees shall have plenary power to make such classification and alignments as shall promote the best interests of the Association.

Interps & Guidelines 5.1.1: ALIGNMENT OF MEMBER SCHOOLS

- A. According to Articles 2 and 5 of the UHSAA Constitution, the Board of Trustees of the UHSAA has the responsibility and plenary authority for the classification of schools and the assignment of schools to a region within those classifications. In order to fulfill that responsibility, the Board of Trustees adopts format and procedures for aligning each of the UHSAA member schools into a classification and region.
In considering the adoption of format and procedures for the alignment of schools, the Board of Trustees:
 1. May take into account any factors that affect "fair and prudent competition in the activities sponsored by the Association" (UHSAA Constitution Article 2, Section 1-A-2-e). These may or may not include school enrollment including demographics, travel costs, time out of school, natural rivalries, competitive success, etc.
 2. Shall permit any member school authority or governing organization of a member school to appear and promote or oppose the format and procedures under consideration or to counsel or advise the Board of Trustees regarding proposed format and procedures.
- B. **Format for the 2027-2029 Alignment of Schools as Adopted by the Board of Trustees**
 1. In classifying and aligning schools for participation in Association activities, the Board of Trustees shall have plenary power to make such classification and alignments as shall promote the best interests of the Association.
 2. Realignment shall be completed on a two year cycle.
 3. Realignment shall consist of a general alignment and a football alignment.
 4. Prior to the first consideration of assigned regions or divisions, any school may apply to a higher classification in the general alignment and/or the football alignment.
 5. Prior to the first consideration of assigned regions or divisions, any school may apply to compete in a higher classification for a specific sport or activity if the school is already competing at that higher level in that sport or activity, or if it has finished with an average in the top 15 percent of its classification in that sport during the past three seasons.
Application does not guarantee approval. Once a school is placed in a higher classification, it must remain there for that sport or activity for the full duration of the established two-year alignment. In the general alignment, schools will remain in their assigned classification and region during region competition. However, the school will compete in the higher classification for postseason competition.
 6. Regions may be reduced to divisions by the Executive Committee depending on the sport.
 7. Each classification shall qualify teams or individuals for post season as determined by the Executive Committee.
- C. **Procedures for the 2027-2029 Alignment of Schools as Adopted by the Board of Trustees**
 1. Classifications are based on October 1 data for junior and sophomore classes, excluding self-contained students, as reported by the State Office of Education in even calendar years.
 2. UHSAA member schools shall be placed into classifications based on a Composite Realignment Index (CRI) score. The CRI score is calculated using a combination of enrollment (size), socio-economic status (SES), and competitive performance. The number of schools in each classification shall be established by the Board of Trustees (BOT). Schools will be assigned to classifications based on a CRI score with

higher scores placed in higher classifications and lower scores placed in lower classifications. A school may submit an appeal for classification placement based on geographic considerations. The BOT will review all appeals and determine if an adjustment is warranted. The BOT retains the responsibility and final authority for alignment of all UHSAA member schools.

- 3. To accommodate geographic adjustments, regions may have schools in different classifications.*
- 4. Region assignments shall be finalized in December of even calendar years. Region organizational meetings are conducted the following spring of odd calendar years with competition under the new alignment beginning the following August of odd calendar years.*
- 5. For consideration during an established alignment, any school with at least 40% reduction in enrollment may appeal prior to January 15 of even calendar years to move down no more than one classification.*
- 6. The minimum number of schools in each classification is as follows:*

<u>6A</u>	<u>21+</u>
<u>5A</u>	<u>21+</u>
<u>4A</u>	<u>21+</u>
<u>3A</u>	<u>8+</u>
<u>2A</u>	<u>8+</u>
<u>1A</u>	<u>8+</u>

- 7. The minimum number of schools in each football classification is as follows:*

<u>6A</u>	<u>21+</u>
<u>5A</u>	<u>21+</u>
<u>4A</u>	<u>21+</u>
<u>3A</u>	<u>8+</u>
<u>2A</u>	<u>8+</u>
<u>1A</u>	<u>8+</u>
<u>8-Player</u>	<u>8+</u>

- D. A school directly affected by a change in placement during the meeting in which an alignment is established, may petition for a reconsideration of placement. Such a petition for reconsideration shall only be based on new information or new circumstances not previously considered by the Board of Trustees and shall be filed in writing with the Executive Director no more than 10 days following the action of the Board of Trustees establishing an alignment of schools. The Executive Director shall publish the petition to association member schools, the Executive Committee and to the members of the Board of Trustees and provide a means of accepting comment for a period of no less than 10 days following the initial publication of the petition. Reconsideration of the alignment regarding schools indicated by such petition(s) shall take place in a meeting of the Board of Trustees (see UHSAA Constitution, Article 2, Section 1-B8).*