



Utah High School Activities Association

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UHSAA Board of Trustees Considering Format and Procedures for Alignment of Schools

The Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) will adopt format and procedures to align member schools into classifications and regions for years 2015-2017.

The UHSAA Board of Trustees met on Thursday, June 12, 2014, for a third consideration of format and procedures regarding the 2015-2017 realignment of member schools. In an attempt to get feedback from the various groups who have an interest in the format and procedures, the UHSAA will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 27, 2014, at the UHSAA offices (199 E. 7200 S. in Midvale).

In addition to the hearing on August 27, the UHSAA is seeking comment on the proposed format and procedures. To provide input, please use the following link: <http://uhsaa.org/realignment>

Under the proposal, the UHSAA Board of Trustees will review and gather input from member schools and districts regarding the recommendation and adopt a final alignment format and procedures in August.

As proposed, once October 1 enrollment numbers are released by the State Office of Education, schools will be assigned to a classification based on enrollment. Once schools are assigned to a classification, they will be assigned to regions within the classifications and a public hearing on placement of schools will be held in November.

The assignment of schools to regions will be completed in November, allowing time for schools and the new regions to organize and schedule for the two-year alignment period. The first contests under the new alignment will take place the following August. The enrollment data upon which the alignment is based will be less than one year old. The UHSAA Board of Trustees retains the responsibility for realignment of all member schools.

Third Consideration Proposal made by the UHSAA Board of Trustees on June 12, 2014

Proposed Format:

1. Realignment shall be completed on a two year cycle.

2. 2A-5A classifications (including 3AA for football) shall have 2 or 4 regions. 1A shall have regions as determined by the Board of Trustees.
3. No region shall contain schools from multiple classifications (no split regions).
4. Regions within a classification, other than the 1A classification, shall be as equal as feasible (within one school if possible) in having the same number of full member schools in each region. Each region shall qualify the same number of teams or individuals for post season.
5. No school may move out of an aligned classification; however, prior to the final consideration of assigned classifications, a school may apply to a higher classification. Such school will be considered with other tied schools (see procedure #6) for classification placement by the Board of Trustees.
6. There shall be six classifications for football.

Proposed Procedures:

1. Members of the Realignment Committee include the following: a chairperson, five BOT members representing all classifications, five Executive Committee members one from each classification, an Athletic Director and UHSAA Staff. In the case where a charter or private school is not represented on the committee, then a charter or private school representative may serve as an ex-officio/non-voting member.
2. Realignment Committee reviews trends and school sizes to determine a range of schools in each classification and the total number of regions.
3. Executive Committee provides BOT a range of schools in each classification and the total number of regions.
4. The BOT shall have adopted a range of schools in each classification and the total number of regions prior to October 1 of even calendar years.
5. Classifications are established based on October 1 data of senior and junior classes without self-contained students per state office of education in even calendar years. Alternative high school student enrollments shall be counted. (**Alternative high school student enrollment counts are reported by the district. First entry alternative high school students are counted with the boundary school. If a high school student withdraws to attend an alternative school, the student is counted with the member school from which they withdrew.*) Once schools have been aligned into classifications and the largest two classifications determined, the assignment of schools to the smallest three classifications (four for football) shall be determined using enrollment numbers in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades.
6. Once schools are initially aligned into classifications, any school with a classification enrollment plus or minus 35% of the school with the highest enrollment in a classification shall be considered tied in enrollment for the purposes of classification assignment. The BOT shall resolve the tie and retains the responsibility for alignment of all member schools.
7. **For the football alignment, enrollment figures will be adjusted based on state tournament qualification and success in state tournament play. The maximum enrollment adjustment possible shall be 15% of the school's established enrollment (see procedure #5).**

8. Region assignments shall be finalized in November of even calendar years and region organizational meetings are conducted the following spring of odd calendar years.
9. Competition under the new alignment begins August of odd calendar years.
10. The recommended range of schools in each classification is as follows:

5A	24-32
4A	24-32
3A	16-24
2A	16-24
1A	Remainder

11. The recommended range of schools in each football classification is as follows:

5A	24-32
4A	24-32
3AA	12-16
3A	10-16
2A	10-16
1A	8+

**Words in italics are used for explanation and to provide clarity.*

****Changes made from the last consideration are bolded and underlined.**

About the Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA)

The UHSAA is the leadership organization for high school athletic and fine arts activities in Utah. Since 1927, the UHSAA has led the development of education-based interscholastic athletic and fine arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The belief is these activities are an essential part of the high school experience and go a long way to improving academic performance and producing better citizens.

The UHSAA reaches 136 member schools and over 88,000 participants in high school activity programs. The organization sanctions 10 girls' sports and 10 boys' sports and music, theatre and speech/debate in five different classifications. The UHSAA is governed by a 30 member Board of Trustees made up of elected school board members and superintendents representing all regions and areas throughout Utah, principals from each of the five classifications and a state board of education representative. The organization is committed to stressing educational and cultural values, improving the participation experience in activities, promoting life skills and lessons involved in competitive activities, fostering sportsmanship and mutual respect and assisting those who oversee high school sports and activities in UHSAA member high schools. For more information, visit the UHSAA website at www.uhsaa.org.