



6 Athletic Districts to 4 Regionals...

"The Challenge"

Yes...it can get complicated. How do you get 4 Regional Qualifiers out of SIX different Athletic Districts? It starts by the following facts:

- Each Athletic District has a certain number of teams in its boundaries
 - The number of teams that qualify to a Regional is in proportion to the number of TOTAL teams in that division in that District.
- Years ago (and have no idea who is credited with this... a formula was developed for determining representation...and it has stood the test of time.

This formula has 2 steps:

Step 1

Determine a RATIO figured by the number of teams in the division state-wide (x) divided by the number of teams in a regional (16) or ...
 $X/16 = \text{Ratio}$

Step 2

Total teams in DISTRICT / Ratio = # of Qualifiers

Using this example for BOYS Soccer:

Step 1

There are 185 total Div. I teams in Ohio. 185 divided by 16 (see above) = 11.5625

Step 2

Take the # of teams in a District and Divide it by the Ratio created for that sport (11.5625)

Let's Look at this Current Representation Scenario:

- The Northwest has 19 Division I Boys' Teams while the NE has 72! Since there are 185 TOTAL Division I teams in Ohio, the NE gets a greater number of Regional qualifiers than the NW (Makes sense so far!)

So, let's do the math using the above formula:

The NW has 19 teams. $19 / 11.5625 = 1.6432$

The NW gets 2 (rounded) qualifiers to the Regional in Division I

The NE has 72 teams. $72 / 11.5625 = 6.2270$

The NE gets 6 (rounded) qualifiers to the Regional in Division I

For every 1 Regional Qualifier, that means one District tournament. The NW has only 2 District tournaments while the NE must have 6.

Since only 4 teams make up a Regional Tournament, this is where it gets complicated. It is relatively 'easy' to set up a Regional tournament for FOUR of the NE District qualifiers. But what about the other 2? OHSAA rules require the other 2 to combine with other districts. It may be easy to figure that since the NW has 2, then 2 from the NE can make up the 4 needed. As you can see, the number is a ratio between the number of schools in that district in that division to the TOTAL number in the state in that division.

So how many Regional Qualifiers does each Athletic District get?

	Div. I	Div. II	Div. III
Central	4	2	2
East	0*	2	2
Northeast	6	5	5
Northwest	2	3	2
Southeast	0*	1	0*
Southwest	4	3	4
Total	16	16	16

When the ratio figures to "zero", the schools are combined with schools in another district at the sectional/district level. In those marked with an () in 2013 the teams from the East and Southeast are combined with teams in the Central District at the Sectional/District level.

And yes...it works this way in all Team Sports in Ohio that have sectional and district qualifiers to a Regional Tournament.

Making Tournaments Consistent Across the State

"Tournament Regulations". All sports have them and all are adopted by the OHSAA's elected Board of Directors. They are designed to keep the administration of tournaments consistent across the state while also providing latitude to each District Athletic Board. These regulations (which you can view at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/so/sorglts.pdf>) are the basis for consistency. They identify the number permitted in uniform, specify seeding procedures, list requirements for such things as 'official game ball', etc.

Tournament Governance

'District Athletic Boards (DAB's) are set up by the OHSAA Constitution (approved by the member schools!) with the authority to conduct Sectional and District tournaments under the overall tournament regulations mentioned above. This provides each of the 6 District Athletic Boards the sole authority to determine such things as "open draws", "assigned sites" (see below), assignment of teams to sites, host sites and assignment of Officials to games (again, see below). This presents some 'challenges' at the NEXT level of games (regional) and the main challenge to this is highlighted in the column on the left.

Open Draws vs Assigned Sites

This dominates discussion at so many District Coaches' meetings. And for obvious reasons. Most know that the geography in Ohio is extremely diverse. There are places where you can see one school out the window of another (Wynford and Bucyrus for example) and there are locations where a league trip is EASILY 2 hours away (the SE Ohio area). For that reason, DAB's have always maintained the authority within the above mentioned regulations to determine whether teams are assigned to Sectional sites or are permitted to choose their Sectional site (open draw). Most opinions on seeding are derived from the NCAA tournament that takes all the teams in the nation that qualify and seed them accordingly. Traveling from the east coast to Seattle for a first round game? No problem (though they have tried to be better at that). Much debate, but it is simply not done in Ohio. Nor is it done on a Regional level and each DAB maintains the authority to do it on a District level. No doubt it is controversial. Coaches ALWAYS want to win one more game and would be willing to drive across the state on a Tuesday night to do so. Though the 'we have never done it that way' is never a good answer, the decision to maintain that policy has stood the test of time and has made more economic sense for the OHSAA and schools.

Assignments of teams to tournaments can be found at each DAB's website:

- East DAB: www.eastohsaa.org
- Northwest DAB: www.nwdab.org
- Northeast DAB: www.nedab.org
- Central DAB: www.cdab.org
- Southeast DAB: www.seodab.org
- Southwest DAB: www.swdab.org



Determining Tournament Sites

Why do we play 'there'?!? It is not a perfect science, but few understand the factors that enter in to site selection. First, sites do not 'bid' to host. In other words, the OHSAA does not have a revenue stream from sites that WANT to host. The OHSAA actually RENTS facilities for tournaments - from a Sectional tournament all the way through the state finals. So, factor number one: rental costs come into play. It is a simple fact to be fiscally responsible. Secondly, not all schools are WILLING or ABLE to host. Fall banquets, other events, etc. often tie up a school's facilities (parking!) making it unavailable. Each "DAB" contracts Sectional/District sites while the OHSAA contracts Regional and State sites.

Officials

Each "DAB" has the responsibility of assigning officials registered in their District to Sectional and District Tournament games. This must be done utilizing approved 'pools' of officials. These pools; Alternates, Sectional/District, Regional, and State Pools) are determined from a combination of Rating and Voting from the previous season (check out the Pre-Season manual for complete explanation. There are additional requirements for officials to be "Tournament Eligible" and they must complete application to be considered. The OHSAA assigns officials to Regional and State games from these same pools.