1-5-2 If and when a school or school district sponsors or authorizes a varsity, subvarsity, 7th or 8th grade squad/team that competes with other interscholastic squads in a recognized sport, the school or school district shall be responsible for assuring that any and all such squads/teams comply with all OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations, particularly those related to scholarship, age limitations and contest limitations. For purposes of this bylaw, a “sponsored” team or squad shall include any “club” sport or team/squad.

Section 6. Team Membership

1-6-1 Girls may play on a boys team. A female to male (FTM) transgender student may participate on boys teams as long as he is compliant with the OHSAA transgender policies. Please see the OHSAA policies on the Transgender Student here at http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/TransgenderPolicy.pdf

1-6-2 A girl or transgender male (FTM) who is compliant with the OHSAA transgender policies and who is a member of a boys team shall follow all contests rules and regulations regarding the sport as specified for the boys.

1-6-3 Boys may not play on girls’ teams unless the overall opportunities, as referenced in the 1979 US Department of Education’s Title IX Policy Interpretation in accordance with Part 1 of the three part test, for interscholastic competition for boys are less than for girls and the competing schools mutually agree. A male to female (MTF) transgender student may participate on girls’ teams as long as she is compliant with the OHSAA transgender policies. Please see the OHSAA policies on the Transgender Student here at http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/TransgenderPolicy.pdf

1-6-4 Interscholastic teams/squads sponsored by a member school may not consist of students from more than one school unless otherwise mandated within the Ohio Revised Code or in accordance with the exception below:

EXCEPTION: Member schools containing grades 7 and 8 may combine students from two or more schools within the school district/system to form one or more interscholastic team in a sport. Requests for permission to combine students from two or more schools in the same public district or non-public system must be submitted annually prior to the start of each sports season to the OHSAA in writing by the superintendent of the public district or non-public system. The written request must contain the following:
1 — Names of schools involved.
2 — Total number of students from each school involved in the sport.
3 — Total number of boys or girls in each grade of each school in the combination.
4 — Rationale for requesting the combination to form more than one team/squad in each sport.
5 — The name of the principal, name of the combined school (which must be the name of one of the member schools represented within the combination) for purposes of registration into the MyOHSAA system, and the complete address (including email) of the one administrator responsible for the conduct and operation of each combined team or teams.

For purposes of tournament assignment, eligibility and placement, the Board of Directors and the Executive Director’s Office of the OHSAA shall adopt and publish from time to time, such rules as deemed necessary and proper for the timely, accurate and transparent implementation of this bylaw so as to give effect and meaning to this section.

Section 7. Team Competition Between Sexes

1-7-1 Teams of the opposite sex shall not compete against each other in any interscholastic athletic contests. However, the Executive Director’s Office may waive the prohibition of this bylaw on a case-by-case basis provided the administrators of the proposed competing schools follow the procedures for obtaining such a waiver as prescribed by the Executive Director’s Office.

BYLAW 2 — DIVISIONS AND TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS

Note: As a result of the May 2014 referendum, Bylaw 2 relating to classification and organization was significantly amended, effective beginning with the 2017-18 school year. Please visit the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org) for further details on the competitive balance plan, which should help administrators understand how to proceed. While the bylaw had an effective date of 2017-18, ‘roster data’ collection began in 2016 and is ongoing. Please continue to check the OHSAA website for updates and guidance, including the business rules for competitive balance.
Section 1 — Divisions and Tournament Assignments

2-1-1 School teams or individuals that wish to compete in OHSAA-sponsored tournaments may compete in only those tournaments to which assigned. Furthermore, by entering into an OHSAA sponsored tournament, schools, on behalf of their teams and individuals, agree to compete at the sites, dates and times assigned to them by the OHSAA.

Note: In team sports, schools are permitted to enter only one team in OHSAA-sponsored tournaments. In individual sports, schools are only permitted to enter the maximum number of individuals in OHSAA-sponsored tournaments as prescribed in the respective sports’ playing rules and/or tournament regulations.

2-1-2 Enrollment information used for assigning schools to divisions shall be provided by the State Department of Education’s enrollment report. All boys and girls in grades 9, 10 and 11 included in the school’s October enrollment report shall be counted for enrollment purposes except for students who are identified as children with disabilities within the OHSAA Business Rules for Obtaining Enrollment Data.

The Board of Directors is authorized to adopt policy for assigning students, who are not specified as assigned to a particular high school, to the appropriate member high school and to publish the policy on the Association’s website.

Note: The policy, Business Rules for Obtaining Enrollment Data, was first prepared in April 2007, has since been modified, and is posted on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

2-1-3 High schools in school districts that consolidate will be placed into divisions based on school enrollment of boys or girls in grades 10, 11 and 12 as of September 10 of the effective year of consolidation in accordance with the business rules, plus the real-time Adjusted Enrollment Count (outlined in Bylaw 2-2-1) in all applicable sports. In the event of the opening of a new high school or transfer of territory under Section 3311.38 of the Ohio Revised Code, member school division assignments will be based upon actual number of boys or girls enrolled in grades 10, 11 and 12 as of September 10 of the current year in accordance with the business rules, plus the real-time Adjusted Enrollment Count (outlined in Bylaw 2-2-1) in all applicable sports.

Section 2. Tournament Assignment – Team Sports of Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball and Softball

2-2-1 Teams in the sports of football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball shall be assigned to a division based upon that school team’s Adjusted Enrollment Count. For purposes of this section, Adjusted Enrollment Count is the count as determined by adding the Initial Enrollment Count (EMIS reported number of boys or girls) and the Additional Roster Count for the given sport (Initial Enrollment Count + Additional Roster Count = Adjusted Enrollment Count).

2-2-2 The Additional Roster Count is determined by multiplying designated students on the given sport’s Initial Roster by the specific factor or Tier and adding them together.

- In the sports of soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball – the designated students shall include students on a team’s tournament roster and anyone else who played in a varsity contest during the regular season.

- In the sport of Football – the designated students shall include students in grades 10-12 on any roster and any freshman who played in a varsity contest during the regular season.

Note: The annual submission of the Initial Roster Count for each respective sport shall be utilized to help determine the division to which that team shall be assigned the following school year.

2-2-3 Factors shall be assigned three levels of points: Tier 0, Tier 1 and a Tier 2. The purpose of the
Factors is to determine from where the student-athletes come, from what system of education they come or if they are non-enrolled students in accordance with state law, and to make appropriate adjustments accordingly.

2-2-4 For public member schools, Factors shall be assigned as follows:

— Tier 0 – the student and at least one parent currently reside within the school district/designated/assigned attendance zone (unless the student is participating as a non-enrolled student at the member high school in accordance with state law).

— Tier 1 – the student and at least one parent currently reside outside the school district and/or designated/assigned attendance zone but the student has been continuously enrolled in the district since the beginning of 7th grade (or the student is participating as a non-enrolled and student at the member high school in accordance with state law, or the student is participating on a J1 Visa).

— Tier 2 – the student and at least one parent currently reside outside the school district and/or designated/assigned attendance zone and the student has not been continuously enrolled in the district since 7th grade.

2-2-5 For non-public member schools, Factors shall be assigned as follows:

— Tier 0 – the student attended the same system of education continuously since the beginning of the 7th grade and attended one of the designated/assigned feeder schools continuously since the beginning of 7th grade.

— Tier 1 – the student attended the same system of education continuously since the beginning of 7th grade but did not attend one of the designated/assigned feeder schools continuously since the beginning of 7th grade or the student is participating on a J1 Visa.

— Tier 2 – the student did not attend the same system of education continuously since the beginning of 7th grade.

Exception: If a non-public school system assigns all students to a specific high school based on the geographic location of the student’s parents, Factors shall be assigned as follows:

— Tier 0 – the student attended the same system of education continuously since the beginning of the 7th grade and the student and at least one parent currently resides within the assigned attendance zone.

— Tier 1 – the student attended the same system of education continuously since the beginning of 7th grade but the student and at least one parent currently resides outside the assigned attendance zone.

— Tier 2 – the student did not attend the same system of education continuously since the beginning of 7th grade.

2-2-6 The Tier 2, or Sport Specific Factors, shall be as follows:

— Three (3) in the sport of football.

— Seven (7) in the sports of soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball.

2-2-7 The Board of Directors and the Executive Director’s Office of the OHSAA shall adopt and publish from time to time such rules as deemed necessary and proper for the timely, accurate and transparent (verifiable) reporting of the roster data in order to give effect and meaning to this section.

NOTE: Schools that do not sponsor a respective team the immediately preceding season shall be assigned to a division in accordance with the Competitive Balance business rules that have been adopted by the Board of Directors. http://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources/Competitive-Balance-Resource-Center.