

The OHSAA Rebounder's Report

The Ohio High School Athletic Association

2011 Final Issue



"March Madness" provided a great finale to the basketball season. Banquets are over and the focus turns to 'next year' in this final issue. The OHSBCA will make its proposals to the Board of Directors at the April 7 meeting and the Board will act on those proposals at its May meeting. Thanks for reading and remember that answers to most off-season questions (which I update frequently when I hear a 'new one') can be found at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bk/girls/2011/2010-11BasketballQAs.pdf>

Jerry Snodgrass
Assistant Commissioner

New Divisional Alignments Being Calculated

No doubt, most coaches want to know how soon the 'new 2 year alignment' will be complete. The divisional breakdown in basketball (4 divisions) all begins with the official count of the number of boys' and girls' that are in a school. Here are a few facts about 'the count':

- The count is based upon a count submitted to the ODE in October of 2010.
- The count includes students in grades 9-11 in October of 2010.
- The count is done separately; the number of boys and the number of girls
- Schools are provided this number first and given a chance to challenge any errors that may have occurred in the reporting to the ODE.

Can the count be 'manipulated' to help a school?

No. The importance of using the official count from the ODE prevents a school from 'having their cake and eating it too'. Each school in Ohio receives a just over \$5,800.00 per student from state foundation money. Obviously that money is important, so no school is going to 'miss' a student in their count. However, *most* coaches would like to see that count LOWER. (lower count = lower division). Since the state foundation dollars are tied to the official count, the number is not one that can be altered simply to benefit a schools' athletic potential success. You can imagine this scenario when our divisions are released: Divisions are released and a coach calls indicating we should not count a certain number of students. The next phone call comes from the Superintendent indicating "you BETTER count those students....that is money to our school".

How are the DIVISIONS actually calculated?

An interesting question. Once the official numbers for all schools are provided, all schools that participated in the 2011 tournament are listed in descending numerical order. Let's use the easy example that 800 schools participated in the 2011 tournament. It is easy to 'draw a line' every 200; giving an equal 200 teams in each division. This is done separately for boys' and girls' so it is possible for a school to be Division I in boys (for example) and Division II in girls. Actually, there were 803 total boys teams used for the last 2 year cycle and 798 girls teams. Believe it or not but every year there are schools that sponsor a varsity basketball team that actually do not participate in the tournament. This doesn't happen as often in basketball as it might in some other sports.

What about "ties"?

No doubt. There COULD be two schools that tie with the same number of boys for example. For example, with a theoretic cutoff of 128 boys and below for Division IV, if there were 3 schools that had 128, it might possible lead to an additional 1 or 2 teams in Division IV and 1 or 2 less in Division III. That is why for the 2009-11 divisional breakdown, the following exists:

Boys		Girls	
Division I:	200 schools	Division I:	199
Division II:	200 schools	Division II:	200
Division III:	201 schools	Division III:	199
Division IV:	202 schools	Division IV:	200

What about the "Competitive Balance" proposal?

No doubt, most coaches are now aware of the referendum item to be voted upon by member schools that offers a solution to 'competitive balance'. The particulars of the PROPOSED referendum are explained at this link: <http://www.ohsaa.org/schools/CompetitiveBalanceGuide.pdf> The member schools will vote on this in May. IF approved by the member schools, this would occur no later than the 2013 school year. More to come on this.

Who Were Those "Golden Voices" at the State Tournament?

We were proud to include students (most student-athletes) from our member schools as performers of our National Anthem at this year's boys' and girls' state tournaments. The singers and a short bio for those performing this year:

Maya Brown: A senior 3-sport Athlete at Tiffin Columbian High School. Maya sang prior to the Division II Girls' State Championship game.

Spencer White: A junior at Norwalk High School. Spencer performed prior to the Division II Boys' State Championship game.

Taylor Endley: A sophomore at Cambridge High School. Taylor's performance was just before the Division IV Boys' state final.

Allison Mintus: Allison, a junior at John F. Kennedy High in Warren will sang prior to the Division III Boys' State Championship game.

The Bluffton High School "Shirts & Pants": The uniquely named group comprised of Bluffton 9-12 grade performed prior to the Division I Championship game on Saturday night.