ARTICLE 8

CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER HIGH SCHOOLS

8.1 CLASSIFICATION AND ALIGNMENT – A Conference is a group of member schools, each of whose October 1 enrollment falls within the same size range. A Region is a group of schools within the Conference.

8.1.1 Member School – The October 1 enrollment figure in an odd-numbered year will automatically place the school in a Conference for the next two-year block period. Schools shall be promptly notified of their placement. Conference placement becomes effective for school years beginning with an even-numbered year.

8.1.1.1 The October 1 student enrollment figure for a member school whose student enrollment will be affected by a newly created member school shall be based upon projected student enrollment figures. All schools that submit projected student enrollment figures under this clause in an even-numbered year will automatically be placed in a Conference based on the projected enrollment figure.

8.1.1.2 The October 1 student enrollment figure does not include International students on a Visa, other than students attending on a J-1 Visa.

8.1.2 Established Nonmember School – When an established nonmember school enters the AIA, the October 1 enrollment figure of the school year during which application for membership is made will automatically place the school in a Conference.

8.1.3 Newly Created School

8.1.3.1 For the initial Conference placement of a newly created school, the projected October 1 enrollment of the school year of the second senior class will automatically place the school in a Conference.

8.1.3.2 For the second conference placement of a newly created school, the projected October 1 enrollment of the school year of the fourth senior class will automatically place the school in a Conference. All subsequent Conference placements shall be based on the rules for existing member schools.

8.1.3.3 Newly created schools that enter the AIA will be scheduled at the direction of the Executive Board under 11.2.2.

8.1.4 Home School Students – A home school student, if a member of a school team, shall be included in the school's enrollment count.

8.1.5 Charter School Students

8.1.5.1 Domicile Within Sponsoring Public School District – A student enrolled in a nonmember charter school sponsored, owned and operated by and located within a public school district in which his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are domiciled shall be included in the enrollment count of and may be eligible to participate in interscholastic competition at the school in the attendance zone in which the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are domiciled.

8.1.5.2

8.1.5.2.1 All other eligibility requirements must be met.

8.1.5.3 Domicile Outside Sponsoring Public School District – A student enrolled in a nonmember charter school sponsored, owned and operated by and located within a public school district which is outside the domicile of the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall be included in the enrollment count and may be eligible for interscholastic competition at the member school in the sponsoring public school district whose attendance zone is closest to the domicile of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

8.1.5.3.1 All the other eligibility requirements must be met.

(Section 8.1 cont'd. on next page)

8.1.6 Classification of Schools – INITIAL PLACEMENT

Member schools shall be divided equally into small and large conferences, with small defined as the 1A, 2A and 3A Conferences and large defined as the 4A, 5A and 6A Conferences.

8.1.6.1 1A Conference – The first (smallest enrollment) 30%-40% of schools with student enrollment of 1,000 or less.

8.1.6.2 2A Conference – The next largest (in enrollment) 30%-40% of schools with student enrollment of 1,000 or less.

8.1.6.3 3A Conference – The largest (in enrollment) 30%-40% of schools with student enrollment of 1,000 or less.

8.1.6.4 4A Conference – The smallest (in enrollment) 33% of schools with student enrollment of 1,000 or more.

8.1.6.5 5A Conference – The middle (in enrollment) 33% of schools with student enrollment of 1,000 or more.

8.1.6.6 6A Conference – The largest (in enrollment) 33% of schools with student enrollment of 1,000 or more.

8.1.6.7 In the case of an uneven number of schools with student enrollment above 1,000 or more, the school(s) shall be placed in the lower conference. (For example, if there are 113 schools, the 4A and 5A Conferences will initially have 38 members and the 6A Conference will initially have 37 members).

8.1.6.8 Football Placement – Schools will first be placed in the conference in which the school competed during the previous season. With the exception of the 1A Conference, using the average weighted (over 3 years for schools placed in the 4A/5A/6A Conferences and 5 years for schools placed in the 2A/3A Conferences) AIA Rankings powered by Maxpreps, schools with a standard deviation of plus 2 or more move up 1 conference, schools with a standard deviation of plus 1, 0 or minus 1 do not move, schools with a standard deviation of -2 or below move down 1 conference.

Standard Deviation	**Conferences**
Plus 2 or greater	Up 1 Conference
1, 0, -1	No Movement
Minus 2 or greater	Down 1 Conference

8.1.6.8.1 *If a school's enrollment conference placement is different than their football conference placement, the football program will be moved, during football reclassification.*
If playing football in a conference lower than the other team sports…

- *Football will be moved up one conference if, by using the same average weighted AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps used in the reclassification process, their football ranking is in the top 33% of their current football conference or was rated in the top 50% for both years of their prior scheduling black. (**Emergency Legislation – Ex. Brd 5/18/2026)***

If playing football in a conference higher than the other team sports…

- *Football will be moved down one conference if, by using the same average weighted AIA rankings powered by MaxPreps used in the reclassification process, their football ranking is in the bottom 33% of their current football conference or was rated in the bottom 50% for both years of the prior scheduling block.*

8.1.6.8.2 Football reclassification will take place every two years during the year opposite other sports reclassification.

(Section 8.1 cont'd. on next page)

8.1.6.8.3 A school may not be placed more than 2 conferences above or below the conference of the other team sports it participates in.

8.1.6.8.4 For initial placement, new schools will be placed in the same conference as the initial placement of other team sports. For the second conference placement of a newly created school, the projected number of the fourth senior class will automatically place the school in a conference. All subsequent conference placements shall be based on the rules for existing member schools.

8.1.7 Two 1A Conference member schools may, by mutual agreement and with the approval of the Executive Board, join together to form one team in any sport. Eligibility for post season play will be at the discretion of the Executive Board.

8.1.8 All single-sex schools shall have enrollment doubled for purposes of Conference classification and dues.

8.1.9 All three-year high schools must count their ninth graders for Conference classification.

8.1.10 Conference Placement Appeals – A school may appeal to be placed in a higher or lower Conference.

8.1.10.1 The Conference Committee to which a school is appealing will initially review, consider and decide the appealing school's request to be placed in a higher or lower Conference utilizing as a general guideline the following criteria:

8.1.10.1.1 Number of level (freshman/sophomore, junior varsity and varsity) of athletic and activity programs;
8.1.10.1.2 Student enrollment, including previous four (4) school years;
8.1.10.1.3 Position (support or opposition) of sending and receiving conference on school's appeal;
8.1.10.1.4 Geography / loss of school time;
8.1.10.1.5 Make-up of student population;
8.1.10.1.6 Competitive history over last four (4) years in all sports, at all levels;
8.1.10.1.7 Record of cancellation of games and/or sports at all levels over last four (4) school years;
8.1.10.1.8 Any other information considered significant by the appealing school or the Conference Committee.

8.1.10.2 An appeal to be placed in a higher or lower Conference must be submitted in writing to the Conference committee no later than the date set by the Executive Board of odd-numbered years.

8.1.10.3 Schools denied their appeal to a different Conference may appeal said decision to the Executive Board. Appeals to the Executive Board must be made within five (5) business days following the decision by the conference.

8.1.10.4 The burden of providing evidence in support of the appeal is solely the responsibility of the appealing school. The weight given to any particular criteria is in the sole discretion of the Conference Committee and if appealed to the Executive Board, at the sole discretion of the Executive Board.

8.2 REGION ALIGNMENT

8.2.1 Region Alignment – The Conference Committee will be responsible for placing a school in a Region, based on the following:

8.2.1.1 Geographical location of the school relating to loss of school time by students;

8.2.1.2 Overall Conference travel and expenses;

8.2.2 Region Alignment Appeals – The procedure for a school to appeal its Region placement is as follows:

8.2.2.1 An appeal to the Executive Board shall be submitted no later than the date designated in the Reclassification Timeline.

(Section 8.2 cont'd. on next page)

8.2.2.2 The AIA Executive Board shall make the final decision on a school's Region alignment appeal.

8.2.3 Region Alignment Appeals Criteria – The AIA Executive Board will review and consider an appealing school's request for placement in another Region using the following criteria:

8.2.3.1 Geographical location of the school relating to loss of school time by students;

8.2.3.2 Overall Conference travel and expenses;

8.2.3.3 Recommendation of the Conference Committee.

8.3 CONFERENCE RESPONSIBILITES

8.3.1 The Conferences shall be responsible for assigning member schools to Regions. It is recommended where, feasible that each Conference be divided into a minimum of four (4) Regions.

8.3.2 Except for Varsity Football, each Conference shall require that each of its Regions make a two-year master schedule for all home and away contests. This schedule will be a valid contract between schools.

8.3.2.1 Changes to the master schedule require the consent of both schools or a situation where a school must cancel the entire level of a program. (Example: School A must cancel the remainder of their JV schedule due to lack of eligible participants.)

8.3.2.2 All changes to the varsity master schedule must be approved by the Conference or Conferences in which the schools involved reside.

8.3.3 Each Conference shall require that a member school of a region participate in the master schedule in order for its team to be eligible for post-season tournaments.

8.3.4 Conferences will provide input into the mechanics and procedures of Conference sponsored tournaments and meets.

8.4 CONFERENCE MEETINGS – All AIA Conference or affiliated organization meetings shall be open to the public. Notice of a meeting shall be posted on the AIA website at least three (3) calendar days prior to the meeting.

8.4.1 Interested parties in attendance at an AIA Conference meeting may be called upon for advice or information.

8.5 REGION MEETINGS - All AIA Region or affiliated organization meetings shall be open to the public. Notice of a regular or special meeting shall be posted on the AIA website at least three (3) calendar days prior to the meeting.

8.5.1 Interested parties in attendance at an AIA Region meeting may be called upon for advice or information.

8.6 DIVISION AND SECTION PLACEMENT PROCESS (for individual sports: badminton, cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track, wrestling) – A school shall be placed in a Division based on the Division Placement Determination (see below). A school's Section placement for the sports of wrestling and cross country shall be based on the recommendations of the Wrestling Sports Advisory and Cross Country Sports Advisory committees, respectively. A School may appeal its Division or Section placement directly to the Executive Board, following the procedure and timeline adopted by the Board for that purpose. The Board's consideration of any Division or Section appeal will utilize the criteria set out under Bylaws 8.1.10.1 and 8.1.10.4.

Division Placement Determination

Rationale: the number of schools that compete in these sports vary from sport to sport, thus some conferences will be split or combined to maintain the state tournament format for these sports. Qualifying to the state tournament is unique to each individual sport and must be thought of differently than team sports. Continuing with the division model in individual sports allows the AIA to continue competitive fairness in qualifying for individuals into the respective state tournaments.

1. Badminton – Division I – II
    a. Division I – 6A schools
    b. Division II – All remaining schools

2. Beach Volleyball – Division I – II
    a. Division I – 6A and 5A schools
    b. Division II – All remaining schools

3. Cross Country – Divisions I – IV
    a. Division I – 6A schools
    b. Division II – 5A schools and top 17 4A schools based on enrollment
    c. Division III – All remaining 4A school and 3A schools
    d. Division IV – 2A and 1A schools

4. Boys Golf – Divisions I – III
    a. Division I – 6A schools and top 15 5A schools by enrollment
    b. Division II – All remaining schools
    c. Division III – Spring – 3A/2A/1A schools

5. Girls Golf – Division I – II
    a. Division I – 6A schools
    b. Division II – All remaining schools

6. Spiritline – Divisions I – IV
    a. Division I – Enrollment 2,075 and up
    b. Division II – Enrollment between 1,500 and 2,074
    c. Division III – Enrollment between 600 and 1,499
    d. Division IV – Enrollment less than 599

7. Swim / Dive – Divisions I – III
    a. Division I – top 30% of schools
    b. Division II – next 35% of schools
    c. Division III – lowest 35% of schools
    **Passed as Emergency Legislation – Executive Board – 10.16.2023*

8. Tennis – Divisions I – III
    a. Division I – 6A schools and top 20 5A schools by enrollment
    b. Division II – Remaining 5A schools and 4A schools
    c. Division III – 3A/2A/1A schools

9. Track & Field – Divisions I – V
    a. Division I – 6A schools
    b. Division II – 5A schools
    c. Division III – 4A schools
    d. Division IV – 3A school
    e. Division V – 2A and 1A schools

10. Boys' Wrestling – Divisions I – IV
    a. Division I – 6A Schools
    b. Division II – 5A Schools and top 10 4A schools based on enrollment
    c. Division III – All remaining 4A schools and top 20 3A schools based on enrollment
    d. Division IV – All remaining schools

11. Girls' Wrestling – Divisions I – II
    a. Division I – 6A and 5A schools
    b. Division II – 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A schools