

Basic Concepts of Athletic Alignment September 2022 through June 2025



I. Conferencing

A three (3) Conference system will be in effect for the duration of the Alignment agreement. Conference membership will be determined by class size or five sport NYSPHSAA classification numbers.

The Section One Athletic Council will operate as the governing body of the Conferences.

A. Basic Athletic Conferences

Conference I	Class AA/A schools (<i>BEDS of 820 and higher</i>)
Conference II	Class A/B schools (<i>BEDS of 471 and higher</i>)
Conference III	Class B, C and D schools & K-8 (<i>BEDS of 470 and lower</i>)

B. Conference Placement

- School enrollment numbers (five sport classification) were used as a guideline in determining Conference placement.

C. Classification

- The enrollment figures utilized for Sectional competitions will be the BEDS figures as provided by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). In accordance with NYSPHSAA, the formula used to calculate the school enrollment numbers is 9th grade plus 10th grade plus an average of 9th /10th grade. The adopted numbers reflect the final numbers reported to SIRS on June 30th of the previous year.
 - If a school's BEDS number change after the first year, each year thereafter, the school will be placed in the appropriate Conference based on their current year's BEDS numbers.
- NYSPHSAA allows any school which has been re-classified to a lower classification may, after examination of its circumstances, exercise the option to petition the **Section One Athletic Council**, subject to the approval of the **Section One Executive Committee** prior to the start of the sport season to remain in its present classification by sport. If approved, the school must compete in post-season play in the higher classification. However, the Section One policy is more restrictive than NYSPHSAA and requires the school to remain at their BEDS classification as per the respective sport.

- As per the NYSPHSAA, each Section is required to review and classify all programs of Non-Public (Private/Parochial), Charter and Special Act schools. The review is focused on two sets of information: 1) Team performance over a five (5) year period and 2) Review of varsity and junior varsity team rosters for the respective sport offerings.
- With input from the Sport Chair, this review will occur after the appropriate season every two years and placement will be made for a two (2) year period, unless otherwise noted.
 - Schools are requested to complete all required documents. If any of the documents are incomplete, the evaluation will be subject to the discretion of the Section One Alignment Committee.
 - Failure to submit all requested information will forfeit the right to any appeal on the placement.

II. Sport Classifications for Sectional and State Play

The Classification structure for all sports as approved by the NYSPHSAA, Inc. and member Sections can be found at www.nysphsaa.org. If the enrollments for Classification are adjusted by the NYSPHSAA, the placement enrollment figures will be adjusted to mirror the state placement parameters.

III. League Placement

League placement within the Conference will be constructed utilizing geography as a factor. Schools were aligned by size given the parameters as directed and the challenges of the topography of Section I. Base league alignment within a Conference will be determined by a majority vote.

Conferences may consider alternate league structures based upon a 2/3 approval of Conference membership. The 2/3 vote for approval is based on the Conference members present at the time of the vote. Abstentions are to be recorded as a non-vote. Therefore 2/3 of the sum of the yes and no votes are needed to approve an alternate league placement.

The basis for any Conference approved alternative league(s) shall be based on the needs of the Conference membership. Alternative leagues are subject to the approval of the **Section One Athletic Council** and the **Section One Executive Committee**. The **Section One Executive Committee** can require a 2/3 referendum vote of approval by the Conference members for any recommended league adjustment.

Conference Basic League Placement shall be determined based on the following:

- The Conferences shall prepare schedules for presentation and adoption for the subsequent year as follows:
 - Fall Season – December 15th
 - Winter Season – March 15th
 - Spring Season – May 15th

- Any private or parochial program that has moved classification through Committee review will be scheduled within the defined Basic Athletic Conference structure defined in Article I, letter A. However, the school is required to compete within the appropriate classification in the post-season.
- Utilizing the NYSPHSAA Combining of Teams formula, merged teams will be scheduled within the defined Basic Athletic Conference structure defined in Article I, letter A.
- A lack of Conference approval of alternative leagues results in the use of the leagues as established in this Alignment document (approved basic league alignment).
- Any Cross Conference recommendation for alternative leagues must be submitted to the **Section One Athletic Council** at least one (1) month prior to the established scheduling deadlines.
- Cross-conference leagues are required in the following sports: Boys & Girls Ice Hockey, Fencing, Gymnastics, Boys & Girls Swimming, Boys & Girls Skiing, Boys & Girls Bowling, Boys & Girls Tennis, Boys & Girls Lacrosse, and Boys Volleyball.

IV. Schedule Responsibility

The Conference format **MUST** provide for the development of league schedules, including crossovers, to complete a sport's schedule.

V. Scheduling

Scheduling will be accomplished in the following manner:

- By league, within the Conference, with the provision for Crossovers to complete a schedule. Additional games can be scheduled at a cross-conference scheduling meeting by sport based on parameters a school has for additional games. Crossovers can only be dropped if mutually agreed upon.
- Varsity B teams will be provided an opportunity to fill their schedule from the other two Conferences.
 - Varsity B teams need to be identified to all Conference Presidents no later than January 1st.
 - The Sport Schedulers will review and discuss the needs of each Conference prior to the presentation of schedules. Sport Schedulers will strive to assist in fulfilling Varsity B schedules.
 - Varsity B teams will be provided at least eight (8) games from within their Conference.
- By total Conference, where there is a limitation on the number of programs offered by Conference member schools.

- d. By the Section, where cross-conference sports are scheduled. Schedules must be approved by a majority of participating Athletic Directors.
- e. By the Section One Athletic Council, where severe limitations of competition exist.
- f. A school may decide to declare independent status, as they would be responsible for developing their own schedule and would not qualify for post-season awards or tournaments. An Independent Declaration Form must be completed and submitted prior to scheduling.

A minimum number of contests will be required in each sport, which shall be accomplished by the various scheduling committees utilizing the aforementioned criteria. In some instances, due to the necessity to employ b, c, d and/or e, extensions of travel may be required. If a Conference has scheduled a crossover contest that both participating schools agree to cancel, there will be no commitment on the Conference to provide a contest for those schools.

VI. Length of Alignment

Three-year commitment for all sports. This agreement covers the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

VII. Size of League

It is required that a league consist of no less than four (4) schools competing in a given sport.

VIII. Appeal Process

An appeal process related to appeals of the approved Athletic Alignment for Conference Placement is in effect. Alignment appeal forms may be obtained from the SWBOCES / Section One, Center for Interscholastic Athletics office. All materials must be returned to the SWBOCES / Section One, Center for Interscholastic Athletics office within 15 calendar days of the proposed alignment.

IX. BEDS Data Submission

All schools must submit a copy of the Official BEDS Building Enrollment Data Form to the **NYSED via SIRS SYSTEM** of each year to determine State Classifications for the NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR. A copy of the Building Principals BEDS Form that is submitted to the NY State Education Department for the next academic year is then used by Section One to determine classifications.

X. Approval of Athletic Alignment

Each member school of Section One will have one (1) vote related to the approval of this alignment language and attached conference and league configurations. Two-thirds of the membership must cast a vote, and a majority vote is required for approval.

If not approved, as outlined above, the previously approved Basic Concepts of Athletic Alignment will be effective for the following year.