

Summer

2024

MSHSL

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

NFHS Summer Meeting



MSHSL



Classification – A Modified Approach

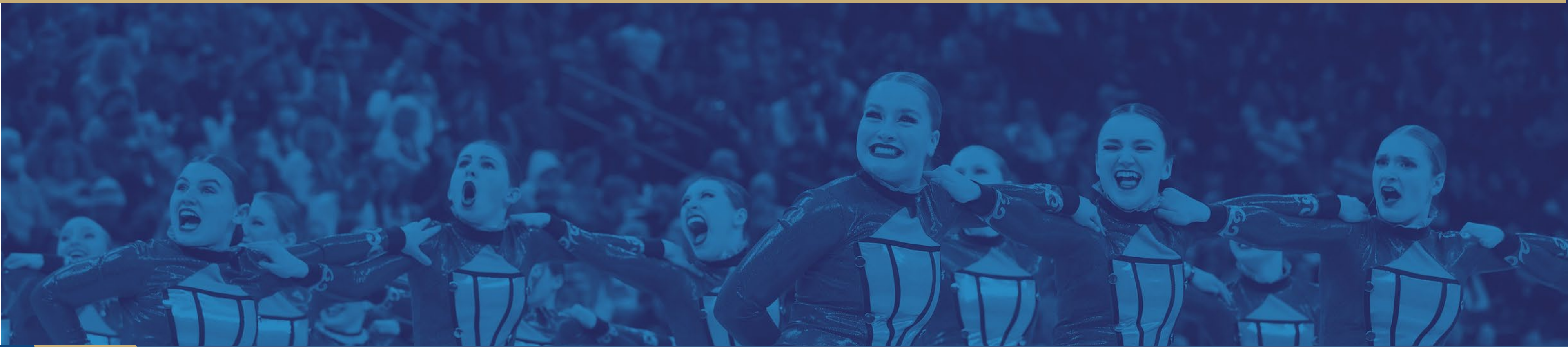


Staff

- **Erich Martens, Executive Director**
- **Bob Madison, Senior Associate Director**
- **Laura Mackenthun, Director of Information Services**
- **Amanda Johnson, Executive Assistant**



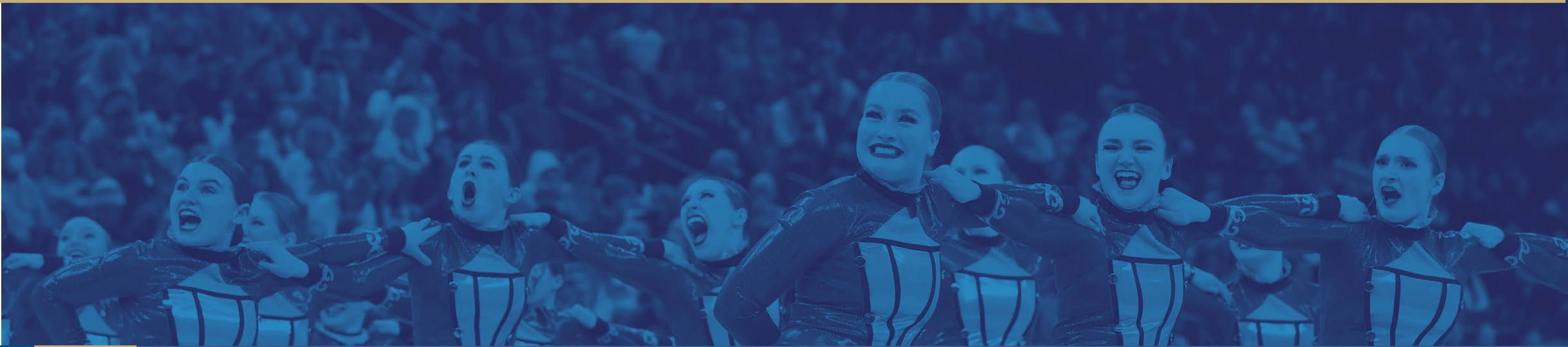
Education and Leadership for a Lifetime



The Minnesota State High School League provides educational opportunities for students through interscholastic athletics and fine arts programs and provides leadership and support for member schools.



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MSHSL By the Numbers

50 Activities and Sports

5 Fine Arts
9 Adapted Sports
2 Presenting Partners

650 Member Schools

370 Public Schools
84 Non-Public Schools
50 Charter Schools
146 Home Schools

50 State Tournaments

11 Fall
19 Winter
20 Spring



Classification and Competitive Section Placement

**400.00 BYLAWS: ADMINISTRATION OF
ATHLETIC PROGRAMS
BOARD POLICIES**



Leading Questions

1. Is your classification process perfect?
2. Does your classification serve all your schools best?
3. In what areas do you wish it were more representative of your member schools and their programming?

Topics

- Purpose and Background
- Definitions
- Opt Up Process
- Appeal Process
- Mapping Sections



Purpose of Classification and Process

- **Increase the opportunity for all schools to participate safely and effectively in postseason competition.**
- **Provide competitive equity**
- **Regularly review the placement of teams.**
- **Reduce the loss of programs in schools.**



Definitions

- **MSHSL Enrollment** - Total students 9 – 12 minus 40% of students receiving educational benefits (free and reduced)
- **Classification** – Assigning teams to classes of competition by enrollment. Computed sport by sport.
- **MDE** – Minnesota Department of Education. MDE computes average daily membership for schools.
- **Opt Up** – Schools choose to compete at a higher class than computed.
- **Appeal (Down)** – Request to compete at a lower class than computed.



Definitions

- **Class** – The group of schools, in an activity, across the state that compete in the postseason at the same level for the chance to go to state tournament.
- **Section** – The regional group of teams that compete against one another to advance to the state tournament.
- **Cooperative Agreement** – Two or more MSHSL members schools choose to combine in a specific sport.
- **Co-op enrollment** – 100% of largest school's MSHSL Enrollment and 50% of remaining schools.



Important Concepts

- 1. Classification and Competitive Section Placement is done every two years**
- 2. Classification is done by Activity (not by school)**
 - May be different for boys and girls in the same sport
- 3. Team vs Individual Sports:**
 - Team Sports may appeal their classification (not their section)
 - Individual Sports may opt up, but are not permitted to appeal

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The Classification Process

- 1. Raw Enrollments are determined.**
 - Oct. 1, public schools report to Dept of Ed (MDE)
 - Dec. 1, non-public schools may complete a Nonpublic report Form with MDE (includes free/reduced student count)
- 2. Schools complete any co-op agreements and schools/teams determine if they will “opt up” (End of January)**
- 3. MSHSL Enrollments are calculated and assigned. (early Feb.)**
 - Use MDE raw enrollments and free/reduced student count to determine the MSHSL Enrollment for every team. (subtract 40% F/R)

The Classification Process (pg. 2)

3. Rank order lists of teams are created in every sport based on MSHSL Enrollment (Late Feb.)
4. The “cut lines” are established using the determined number of classifications and the method of classification in each sport/fine arts program. (Late Feb.)
 - “Opt ups” are moved up to the class they have selected.
 - The number of teams, starting with the opt ups, are counted and lines are drawn.

Method to Determine Classification

Baseball	Top 64 - Class AAAA Next 64 - Class AAA AA - Divided equally in 1/2 A - Divided equally in 1/2
Basketball / Boys & Girls	Largest 64 = Class AAAA Next 64 = Class AAA Next 128 = Class AA Remainder = Class A
Cheerleading	NA
Clay Target	NA
Cross Country Running /Boys & Girls	Largest 64 = Class AAA Next 96 = Class AA Remainder = Class A
Dance Team / High Kick & Jazz	Divided equally by thirds
Debate	NA
Football	Largest 32 = 6A Next 48 = Class AAAAA Next 48 = Class AAAA Next 54 = Class AAA AA - Divided equally in 1/2 A - Divided equally in 1/2 9-Man = 150 Enrollment



ACTIVITY CLASSIFICATIONS for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

Below are only those activities in which appeals are allowed, the remaining activities will be released at a later date.

Activity	Class	Range
Base ball	AAAA	1197 and above
Base ball	AAA	559-1196
Base ball	AA	216-558
Base ball	A	215 and below
Basketball, Boys	AAAA	1182 and above
Basketball, Boys	AAA	584-1181
Basketball, Boys	AA	211-583
Basketball, Boys	A	210 and below
Basketball, Girls	AAAA	1182 and above
Basketball, Girls	AAA	572-1181
Basketball, Girls	AA	211-571
Basketball, Girls	A	210 and below
Dance	AAA	1197 and above
Dance	AA	431-1196
Dance	A	430 and below
Football	AAAAAA	1630 and above
Football	AAAAA	1017-1629
Football	AAAA	598-1016
Football	AAA	313-597
Football	AA	212-312
Football	A	151-211
Football	9MAN	150 and below

The Classification Process (pg. 3)

- 5. Schools are given the option to appeal in team sports only if they meet criteria. (Early March)**
 - Must meet criteria for an appeal
 - Must complete the questionnaire required for rubric scoring
- 6. All information supplied is presented by the appealing school and reviewed and scored by our ADs Advisory Committee.**
- 7. ADs Advisory Committee recommends granting of appeals to Board of Directors Executive Committee for approval. (Early April)**

Appeals

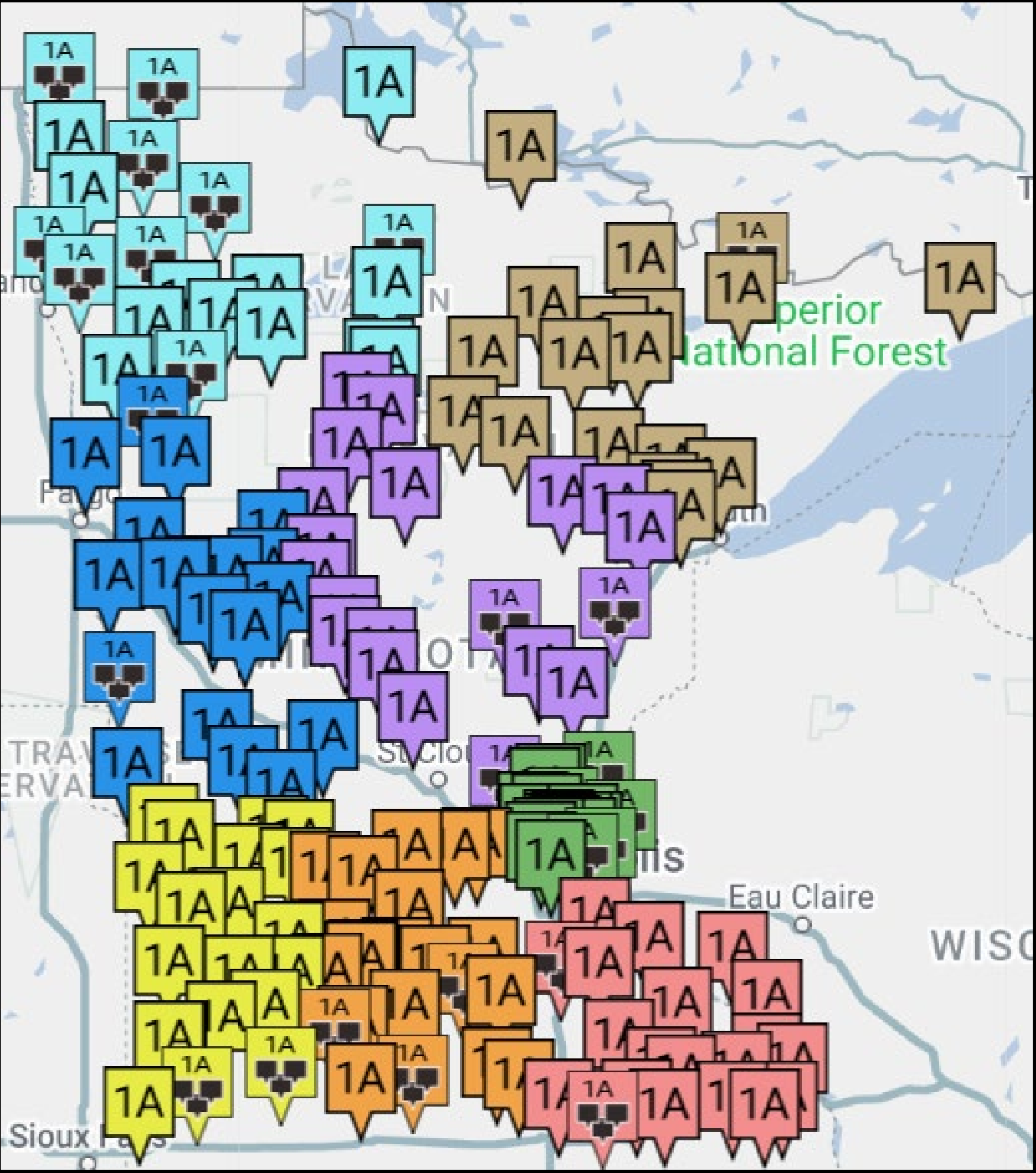
A school or co-op must meet one of these two qualifications to appeal to a lower classification:

- Co-op or school enrollment must exceed 50% free/reduced lunch,
and/or
- MSHSL enrollment must be within 10% of the enrollment cut-off for that sport or activity

Rubric Scoring

- Enrollment trend
- Proximity of enrollment to the classification cut-off
- Free and Reduced lunch percentage
- Percentage of Free and Reduced that participate in that sport
- SLIFE % and % of SLIFE that participate by sport
- Regular season and postseason records the past five years
- Participation numbers in the sport, total for grades 9 -12 for each of past five years
- Religious and/or cultural factors that impact participation
- Mobility of students/transient population
- Economic factors in your school's community
- Additional information unique to your school community

Boys Basketball – Class A



School Year

2022-2023

Activity

Basketball, Boys

School

-- All Schools --

Show Co-ops

Changes Only

Sections/Amounts

1

x21

2

x22

3

x20

4

x23

5

x20

6

x19

7

x19

8

x21

Unconfirmed

x0



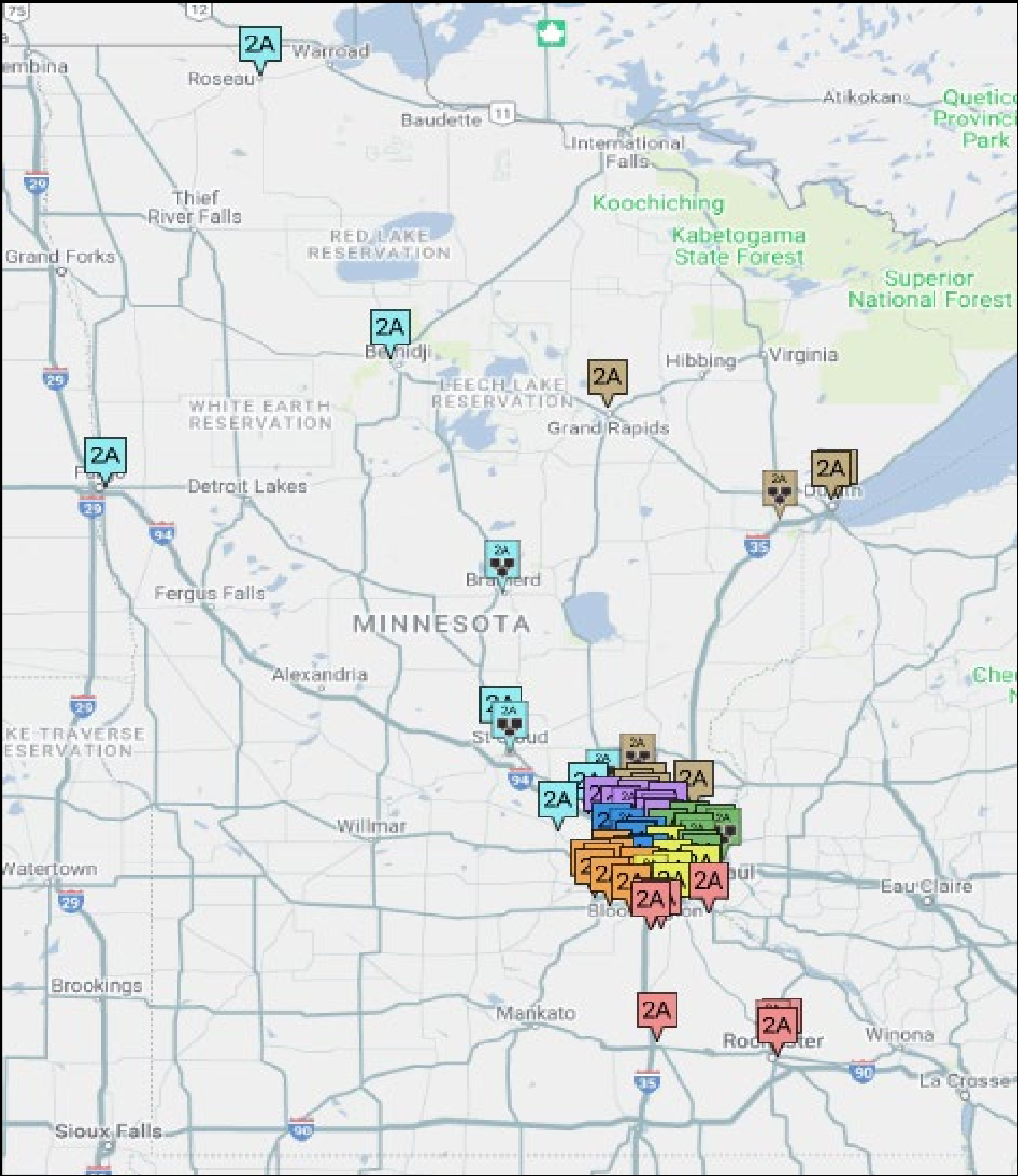
Competitive Section Placement

Criteria for Competitive Section Placement shall include, but will not be limited to the following:

- **Geographic/contiguity**
 - No school inside of the boundaries of a section may be placed in a different section.
- **Section balance**
 - The number of total schools in every section must be:
 - Within two for classes of our “big” schools.
 - Within four for classes of our “small” schools.

Competitive Section Placement

Boys Hockey – Class AA



School Year

2022-2023

Activity

Hockey, Boys

School

-- All Schools --

Show Co-ops

Changes Only

Sections/Amounts

1

x8

2

x8

3

x7

4

x8

5

x9

6

x8

7

x10

8

x9

Unconfirmed

x0



Competitive Section Placement

The Differential in Number of Assigned Teams in Competitive Sections at the time of placement shall be as follows:

Two classes:

- Class AA: Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, in the initial year of the two-year assignment, the differential shall not exceed two (2) teams in each competitive section.
- Class A: Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, in the initial year of the two-year assignment, the differential shall not exceed four (4) teams in each competitive section.

Multiple Class (three or more):

- Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, in the initial year of the two-year assignment, the differential shall not exceed two (2) team for any class.

Thank You!

