

ARTICLE 5: CLASSIFICATION AND ALIGNMENT

SECTION 1: Action on Classification and Alignment

- A. The Board of Trustees shall assign each member high school to a classification and to a region within that classification.
- B. Final action on assignment of member schools to a classification and region alignment shall be taken only in properly scheduled and noticed meetings of the Board of Trustees, and only after the subject has been considered in at least two meetings, including the meeting in which the action is taken.
- C. In classifying and aligning schools for participation in Association activities, the Board of Trustees shall have plenary power to make such classification and alignments as shall promote the best interests of the Association.

Interps & Guidelines 5.1.1: ALIGNMENT OF MEMBER SCHOOLS

- A. *According to Articles 2 and 5 of the UHSAA Constitution, the Board of Trustees of the UHSAA has the responsibility and plenary authority for the classification of schools and the assignment of schools to a region within those classifications. In order to fulfill that responsibility, the Board of Trustees adopts format and procedures for aligning each of the UHSAA member schools into a classification and region.*
In considering the adoption of format and procedures for the alignment of schools, the Board of Trustees:
 1. *May take into account any factors that affect "fair and prudent competition in the activities sponsored by the Association" (UHSAA Constitution Article 2, Section 1-A-2-e). These may or may not include school enrollment including demographics, travel costs, time out of school, natural rivalries, competitive success, etc.*
 2. *Shall permit any member school authority or governing organization of a member school to appear and promote or oppose the format and procedures under consideration or to counsel or advise the Board of Trustees regarding proposed format and procedures.*

B. Format for 2025-2027 Alignment of Schools as Adopted by the Board of Trustees

1. *In classifying and aligning schools for participation in Association activities, the Board of Trustees shall have plenary power to make such classification and alignments as shall promote the best interests of the Association.*
2. *Realignment shall be completed on a two year cycle.*
3. *Realignment shall consist of a general alignment and a football alignment.*
4. *Only bubble schools (see procedure #2) may move down a classification as determined by the Board of Trustees.*
5. *Prior to the first consideration of assigned regions in all sports, any school may apply to a higher classification. Schools will be considered secondary bubble schools following the consideration of the original bubble schools (see procedure #3) as determined by the Board of Trustees.*
6. *Prior to the first consideration of assigned regions in all sports except football, any school with at least 50.0% free and reduced lunch per state office of education 2023 Child Nutrition Program (CNP) survey may appeal to move down one classification. Schools will be considered secondary bubble schools following the consideration of the original bubble schools (see procedure #2) as determined by the Board of Trustees. A school may not apply both an original bubble status and a secondary bubble status in the general alignment.*
7. *For the football alignment only, any school with at least 50.0% free and reduced lunch per state office of education 2023 Child Nutrition Program (CNP) survey may appeal to move down one classification after the consideration of original bubble schools (see procedure #2) and prior to the first consideration of as*

signed regions. A school may apply both an original bubble status and a secondary bubble status (double bubble) in the football alignment only.

- 8. Regions may be reduced to divisions by the Executive Committee depending on the sport.*
- 9. Each classification shall qualify teams or individuals for post season as determined by the Executive Committee.*

C. Procedures for the 2025-2027 Alignment of Schools as Adopted by the Board of Trustees

- 1. Classifications are established based on October 1 data of senior and junior classes without self-contained students per state office of education in even calendar year. Alternative high school student enrollments shall be counted. (**Alternative high school student enrollment counts are reported by the district. First entry alternative high school students are counted with the boundary school. If a high school student withdraws to attend an alternative school, the student is counted with the member school from which they withdrew.) Once schools have been aligned into classifications and the largest three classifications determined, the assignment of schools to the smallest three classifications shall be determined using enrollment numbers in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades.*
 - 2. Once schools are initially aligned into classifications, any school with a classification enrollment plus or minus 10% of the school with the highest enrollment in a classification shall be considered tied (bubble schools) in enrollment for the purposes of classification assignment. The BOT shall resolve the tie, and may use a member school profile number based on a success factor approved by the BOT, along with other factors, when determining classification placement. The BOT retains the responsibility for alignment of all member schools.*
 - 3. For consideration prior to an established alignment, any school may apply to a higher classification in a specific sport or activity. Once a school is placed in the higher classification, then the school must remain in the new placement for that specific sport or activity for the duration of the established two-year alignment.*
 - 4. Region assignments shall be finalized in December of even calendar years. Region organizational meetings are conducted the following spring of odd calendar years with competition under the new alignment beginning the following August of odd calendar years.*
 - 5. For consideration during an established alignment, any school with at least 40% reduction in enrollment may appeal prior to January 15 of even calendar years to move down no more than one classification.*
- D. A school directly affected by a change in placement during the meeting in which an alignment is established, may petition for a reconsideration of placement. Such a petition for reconsideration shall only be based on new information or new circumstances not previously considered by the Board of Trustees and shall be filed in writing with the Executive Director no more than 10 days following the action of the Board of Trustees establishing an alignment of schools. The Executive Director shall publish the petition to association member schools, the Executive Committee and to the members of the Board of Trustees and provide a means of accepting comment for a period of no less than 10 days following the initial publication of the petition. Reconsideration of the alignment regarding schools indicated by such petition(s) shall take place in a meeting of the Board of Trustees (see UHSAA Constitution, Article 2, Section 1-B8).*