

ORGANIZED 1946

MEMBER OF THE  
NATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATIONS



TELEPHONE: (410) 767-0376  
FAX: (410) 333-3111

R. ANDREW WARNER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maryland State Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

## CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

### GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFICATION AND REGIONAL ALIGNMENTS (PROPOSAL APRIL 2026)

#### CLASSIFICATIONS

For the purpose of parity and equity in state championship competition, the following criteria shall be used for determining classifications.

1. Classifications shall be established according to COMAR 13A.06.03.06 *Classification*.
2. **Member MPSSAA School Data:** For the purpose of classifications, member MPSSAA school data is defined as: "Local educational agency report of actual school enrollment of students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 as of September 30 in each even number year."
3. The classification committee shall use a summary of sport offerings for each member school as well as enrollment figures as of September 30<sup>th</sup> for grades 9, 10, and 11 submitted by the local school systems to conduct an individual analysis of each MPSSAA-administered sport. The classification committee shall then assign classifications and region/section alignments for each sport.
4. Boys/Girls teams in the same sport/same school shall be assigned to the same classification.
5. A new member MPSSAA school that opens or a member school whose enrollment is significantly changed by growth or consolidation during the two-year period shall be placed in the proper classification by the Classification Committee. "Significantly changed" means a decrease or an increase in enrollment of more than 25 percent. This new placement shall affect only the involved school and may not affect the classification of other member schools.
6. When a member MPSSAA school does not have all three grades included in the enrollment figures upon which the classification is based in the even-numbered year, but will have all three grades in the following odd-numbered year when classification becomes effective, the enrollment figure shall include the existing grades and average of the current class sizes applied to each projected grade.

#### REGIONAL ALIGNMENTS

1. Regions/~~sections~~ shall be numerically balanced as best as possible.
2. Regions/~~sections~~ shall be geographically clustered as best as possible.

3. Schools within the same city/county/conference shall be aligned in the same region whenever possible.
4. Boys/Girls teams in the same sport/same school shall be assigned to the same region/~~section~~ whenever possible.

### **GENERAL**

1. The Classification Committee and the Executive Director of the MPSSAA will present a recommendation of classifications and region/~~section~~ alignments of member schools to the MPSSAA Board of Control. The Board of Control will ratify all classifications and region/~~section~~ alignments at the annual meeting.
2. Classifications for each sport shall be listed in their respective sport bulletin.