
Classes

Posted by larymac47 - 2009/10/07 08:59

Being new to SIJHSAA, how do we classify the schools? I see class L, M and S, is that it? Are they classed according to enrollment? Who classes them, IHSA or SIJHSAA? Thanks.

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Re:Classes

Posted by Geff Purcell - 2009/10/07 09:32

That is covered by Article XII in the By-Laws. I have posted it below. To read the entire By-Laws click on the By-Laws link on the Administrative menu above.

ARTICLE XII: CLASS SYSTEM

Enrollment figures are based on the number of students in grades K-8.

Section 1. The classes for each SIJHSAA sport are currently as follows:

BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, BOYS' BASKETBALL, GIRLS' BASKETBALL, and VOLLEYBALL

- 3 Classes L = the largest 32 participating schools
- M = the next largest 32 participating schools
- S = the remainder of the participating schools

BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY, GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY, BOYS' TRACK, GIRLS' TRACK

- 2 Classes L = 501 and above
 - S = 500 and below
- =====

Re:Classes

Posted by sidebite - 2009/10/07 11:33

With more schools entering the association, I think they need to change the rule of top 32 to class L and the next 32 to class M. It makes more sense to just split it up by top 1/3 are class L, next 1/3 are class M, and bottom 1/3 are class S. It is kind of sad that the class S schools have double the number of schools in a regional as the big schools. You would think that it would be distributed more evenly.

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Re:Classes

Posted by CBC Coach - 2009/10/07 13:50

That is true - the reason that the current system is in place because there are many more small schools (enrollments 250 and less) than there are large schools. Actually what happens in the large class is that often you have schools of around 550 playing schools that maybe double that size or more. Trust me when I say the SIJHSAA administration has looked at the situation and feels the current system is the most fair. Someone is always slighted in a class system but that is the case however the classes are determined.

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Re:Classes

Posted by CBC Coach - 2009/10/07 13:58

Often what happens in the current system is the large class has enrollments that vary from around 550 to some schools that are double and triple that size. The SIJHSAA administration does a good job of trying to keep the same size schools playing each other - that is why there are many more teams in the small regions. If you do a percentage system many small - class s schools would be forced to play up in against school that may be 5 or 6 times larger than they are. No system is perfect and some school are border line every year of what class they are in.

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Re:Classes

Posted by 1027 - 2009/10/09 19:38

I think it is harder for small schools with enrollments of 80 or 100 to compete with schools 200 or 220. The smallest schools might have 5 boys in each grade to pick from. The larger class S schools still have about 10 boys in each class to pick from. If a school has 500 kids in it, they should have plenty 7th and 8th graders for 2 teams. The schools with 80 kids usually need 5th and 6th graders just to have JV and Varsity teams.

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Re:Classes

Posted by merlinjones18 - 2010/03/10 11:05

I absolutely agree...I wish the SIJHSAA would consider the following...Keep your 32 L and 32 M, but of the remaining small schools, split them in half and create a VS (very small) and S (small)! This would cure the schools with 3-5 players in the 8th grade from playing the larger "small" schools with 10-15 players in 8th grade...It seems to be fairer the way I have described...The very small schools barely have a chance against the larger "small" schools!

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Re:Classes

Posted by NCOCoach - 2010/03/10 13:06

Related to this topic, why are the K-5 students counted in the enrollment? Is it because this is a number that is more easily calculated by schools? I could see where there will be schools that could be really small in the eight grade but have a large overall enrollment or a small enrollment but have a large 8th grade class.

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Re:Classes

Posted by Coach4Kids - 2010/03/10 14:42

I also would like to see the SIJHSAA look into a 4 class system with the "very small" schools. I also wondered what the magical number of 32 is for class m and l. Why not set an enrollment number and have all schools over that size in enrollment compete against each other? It is frustrating as a coach that we have to defeat twice the number of teams to make it to state.

I also wish the SIJHSAA would look into setting a match limit for the school year in volleyball like they have in basketball. Schools that have the opportunity to play 2 season in junior high volleyball are definitely going to have an advantage over those that only have from January 1 to the state tournament to get the games in. These teams are also participating in 2 state tournaments which again gives an unfair advantage. I could play 5 nights a week, but again my main focus for my kids should be their education first. Each year we are facing teams that will have nearly 50 matches in and we really only have the opportunity to get maybe 20.

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Re:Classes

Posted by ltown4 - 2010/03/10 18:33

I coach at a very small school and I honestly do not agree with that. I think the system is good right now. If you made 4 different classes, I believe it would water everything down. Also if you won your regionals it wouldnt feel as good, at least thats just my opinion. 3 class system is good already, I mean yes there are some pretty big "small" schools but thats just how it is, there arent enough member schools in the sijhsaa to have 4 classes.

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Re:Classes

Posted by coachsmith15 - 2010/03/10 19:28

I think the 3 class system is good but I also agree that setting a standard enrollment number would be a lot better than the current 32 number usage. Such as 250 & under-class s, 250-600- class m, 600 & over- class l. According to this years enrollment numbers for boys basketball that would have put 34 schools into class l, 52 schools into class m, and 68 schools into class s.

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Re:Classes

Posted by golfer3 - 2010/03/11 08:29

well im finally glad i got some responses....Logically when you look at, the IESA goes from I-70 All the way to chicago, and they have four classes, we are just the southern part of illinois, i dont think we can justify 4 classes. I know there are very small schools, i coach one of the smallest, there is always the option to coop. I was more interested in why the 32??? NO MATTER HOW YOU DIVIDE IT, YOU ARE NOT GONNA MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY!!! To me, it just seems the fair and easy way, is to divide it into thirds. This is Just the opinion of a coach who thinks he knows more than what he does.....me.....lol

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Re:Classes

Posted by golfer3 - 2010/03/11 12:47

Yes, i think a standardize number is also better....Thats what the IHSA uses....And i believe there enrollments follow like this, Class S would be 0-346, Class M 347-792, Class L 793 and up...Again, i dont understand where the 32 comes in at....

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Re:Classes

Posted by kprsn1 - 2010/03/11 13:13

I personally too would maybe like to see the classes more evenly divided, thirds is fair. No matter what divisions are made though, there are going to be schools on the bubble. Here's a story that I think illustrates the issue. I recently attended a jr. high sporting event and after the game I overheard fans talking how they shouldn't be playing this team in the regionals because they should be in a smaller class and not competing against this "big" school. Well, when you get down to the enrollment levels, the "bigger" school has about 50 more total kids. Not what I would consider a significant difference but there's a perception that it's not fair because a particular school is "bigger." I think we are all aware that there are some small schools out there that can, and will, beat some of the biggest schools in southern Illinois.

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Re:Classes

Posted by NMS Coach - 2010/03/11 15:36

We are a class M School that plays in a conference with class L schools. Most of our non conference games are class M schools. We have more trouble defeating the class M schools than the class L. Just because you have more people to choose from does not mean those players are better. If you have five really good kids that can play together, that is all you need. Year in and year out the larger schools probably will have more consistant teams, but there are always some really good small schools each year, and believe me there are always some really bad large schools. I like the three class system, my only change would be to set up the regionals based on records and performance rather than location. That way you don't have two 20 win teams in one regional and 4 teams below 500 in another regional. (I know this would be too complicated to do in grade school. People would have to submit thier records or there would have to be some people that would be willing to go out and watch these teams play.)

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Re:Classes

Posted by Flames Basketball - 2010/03/11 15:53

Very Nice Topic.

I agree with the enrollment dictating the classes and not the standard 32 number. The Class M needs to be beefed up, the class M State tournaments and regionals have been very week the last couple of years, I believe because of the majority of new schools entering are class M or L. This pushes teams down to the Class S level. Class S has more quality teams year in and year out. In reality why would a Small School not COOP, the guide lines are to easy for the COOP. COOP usually benifit only one school(the weaker of the two COOPS). New guide lines should be lined up for the COOP before class system gets changed.

1.) Must COOP for Min 5 years

2.) Failure to do so will result in suspension from the SIJHSAA

for 5 years, to many teams are COOP ing just to add one or two players, I believe every COOP teams would have enough for their own school team, probably not being very competitive but thats the way it goes.

or

3.) All COOPS are Class M

Now lets adjust the Class System.

Now the very small schools wont have to compete with COOP teams.

Check the number of COOPS 10 years ago compared to this year,WOW.

I Believe this needs to be addressed before any class adjustment.

By the way I Coach a COOP School.

This did give kids a chance to be competitive, but if the kids(PARENTS) want their kid to be on a winner they can just transfer or move, this happens very often!!!

Re:Classes

Posted by ltown4 - 2010/03/11 21:09

Golfer I think you bring up a great point. 3 classes is good and honestly you probably can't have more because there just arent enough teams. 32 is such a strange number though also. I agree that it should be split up by how many kids are in your school just like the IHSA does it.

Re:Classes

Posted by 2old2slow - 2010/03/18 09:53

There is no way to make everyone happy. However the classes are divided there will be some school who will feel slighted. I do agree with most of the posters in that the number of schools in each class could be balanced out a little. We don't need 4 classes. As someone else stated, it would water everything down even more. By that I mean we don't really play a "state" tournament anyway. We just determine a champion for the southern portion of the state.