

# Proposal to Amend Article 6.2.4 – Classification of Schools

(First Reading)

**QUESTION:** *Should the Delegate Assembly approve the proposed amendments to Article 6.2.4(a) Petition to Play Down as recommended by the Petition to Play Down Task Force?*

**RATIONALE:** The Petition to Play Down Task Force concluded its work and has suggested an overhaul of the Petition to Play Down policy. These amendments allow the policy to be more responsive to the rapidly changing landscape of schools and the success of their programs. In addition, the amendments consider more programs in a school in which some activities may have to remain or return to their originally assigned classification.

**RULE CHANGE SPONSORED BY:** OSAA Executive Board, Petition to Play Down Task Force

**NEXT STEP IF PASSED:** Forwarded to April Delegate Assembly Meeting for consideration.

**POSSIBLE RULE CHANGES:**

KEY: <b>Add</b>
Delete

**(a) Petition to Play Down.**

**[\(Petition to Play Down\)](#)**

- (1) Submission Deadline.** Except as specified in [Article 6.2.2 \(c\)](#), a member school seeking to play in a lower classification than assigned under [Article 6.2.4](#) shall be required to complete and submit a “Petition to Play Down” to the OSAA prior to October 1 preceding the quadrennial December Classification and Districting Meeting.
- (2) Athletics and Activities Affected.** Any “Petition to Play Down” granted by the Executive Board shall apply to all OSAA athletics and activities in which the member school participates, except as outlined below.
  - a) ~~**Dominant Team Sport Activity.** A point based system based on state championship success shall be used to determine a dominant team sport activity. Teams reaching a quarterfinal shall earn one point; team reaching a semifinal shall earn four points; and teams reaching a final shall earn six points. A team earning a total of eight points in the previous three-year period shall be considered a dominant team sport activity and shall continue competing at their original classification while the school’s remaining programs compete at the lower classification.~~

***Sport/Activity Returning to or Remaining at Original Classification. Any school sport or activity playing below their classification based upon an approved Petition to Play Down will return to their original classification if the following occurs:***

- 1. Team Sports: If a team sport qualifies for the state playoffs and wins a contest while playing down or in the immediately preceding season to the Petition to Play Down being granted, that specific team sport will return to or stay at their original classification for the next school year.***
- 2. Individual Sports and Activities: If an individual sport or activity team receives a trophy at their state championship while playing down or in the immediately preceding season to the Petition to Play Down being granted, that specific***

*individual sport or activity team will return to or stay at their original classification for the next school year.*

- (3) **Duration.** Any "Petition to Play Down" granted by the Executive Board shall apply to the classification placement of the petitioning member school during the entire subsequent four-year time block, except as outlined ~~below~~ **above**.

~~a) **Two-Year Review.** A varsity team earning a total of 10 points during the first two years of a time block would be considered a dominant team sport activity and would be returned to its original classification for the remaining two years of the time block. The school's other team would remain at the lower classification for the remainder of the time block.~~

- (4) **Required Information.** A member school submitting a "Petition to Play Down" shall provide the following information for consideration by the Executive Board **over the previous three years of the time block**: Petitioning schools that meet all four criteria listed below shall be automatically approved. Schools meeting some but not all criteria will have their petition reviewed by the Executive Board:

a) **A school's overall in-class winning percentage over the immediately preceding three-year period in team sports that is less than 20% (excluding football).**

Documentation showing the school's percentage of students on free lunch at 50% or higher.

b) **A school's individual sports participation numbers that are less than the standard deviation compared to the average of the schools in their current classification.**

Documentation showing that the school's teams finished in the bottom 50% of the final frozen rankings at their current classification at least 75% of the time for the previous three years.

~~c) Documentation showing that the school's teams finished in the bottom 20% of the final frozen rankings at their current classification at least 50% of the time for the previous three years.~~

~~d) Documentation showing that the winning percentage for the school's teams in team sports was 25% or less at least 40% of the time for the previous three years.~~

- (5) **Additional Information.** A member school submitting a "Petition to Play Down" may provide additional information to the Executive Board in support of the petition including, but not limited to, evidence of intervention undertaken by the district to address lack of competitive success and a letter of current league support for the "Petition to Play Down."

- (6) **Appeal Process.** *A school not meeting the criteria set forth above but wanting to Petition to Play Down may appeal to the OSAA Executive Board at the quadrennial December Board meeting. To be able to appeal, schools must meet one of the criteria above in section 4. In addition, the school must meet both of the following criteria:*

a) **A school's overall in-class winning percentage over the immediately preceding three-year period in team sports is under 30% (excluding football).**

b) **Have no more than 20% of the activities sponsored by the school that would remain at the original classification per the "Sport/Activity Returning to or Remaining at Original Classification" (above)**