

# 1. Classification

A student is considered a high school student when he or she is actually registered as a high school student, not when earning high school credit as may be given to junior high students.

The following conditions apply:

A. Schools are classified by their enrollments in grades 9-12 according to the previous school year's October report to the Department of Education and Early Development. Non-enrolled alternative education program students who participate in a member public, private or religious school's interscholastic activity program will be added to the prior October count in determining the school's total number for future classification purposes.

B. The following sports and activities have state-culminating competitions based on the following school classifications:

## ONE CLASSIFICATION

- All-State Art
- All-State Music
- Drama, Debate, & Forensics
- Esports
- Nordic Ski
- Solo & Ensemble
- Swim & Dive
- Tennis
- World Language Declamation
- Wrestling - Girls

## TWO CLASSIFICATIONS

- Baseball - Division II (1-850 students), Division I (851 students & above)
- Cheer Competition - Division II (1-500 students), Division I (501 students & above)
- DDF Team - Division II (1-500 students), Division I (501 students & above)
- Hockey - Division II (1-850 students), Division I (851 students & above)
- Soccer - Division II (1-850 students), Division I (851 students & above)
- Softball - Division II (1-850 students), Division I (851 students & above)
- Track & Field - Division II (1-500 students), Division I (501 students & above)
- Wrestling - Division II (1-500 students), Division I (501 students & above)

## THREE CLASSIFICATIONS

- Cross-Country Running - Division III (1-150 students), Division II (151-500 students) Division I (501 students & above)
- Football - Division III, Division II, Division I (Board places schools into Divisions)

## FOUR CLASSIFICATIONS

- Volleyball - Mix Six (1-60 students), 2A (61-150 students), 3A (151-500 students), 4A (501 students & above)

Basketball - the ASAA Board of Directors has adopted the following classification system:

1. With the exception of schools defined by Item 2 all schools will be classified by their enrollment. 1A (1-60 students), 2A (61-150 students), 3A (151-500 students), 4A (501 students & above)
2. All statewide boarding schools and all schools within 25 miles of the following municipalities: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Wasilla, Soldotna will be moved up one classification from where they participated the previous classification cycle. For the teams involved a two-step analysis of data will be used to determine its classification.

#### Step One Analysis

- a. Winning percentage in regular season games against ASAA member teams at a higher classification over the last five years concluding with a state tournament. Teams with greater than 40% winning record earn a  $\surd$ . Teams with over 75% earn an additional  $\surd$ . (Teams must have at least 15% of their games played against teams at a higher classification for this factor to be considered.)
- b. Winning percentage in regular season games against ASAA member teams at the same classification over the past five years concluding with the state tournament. Teams with greater than 50% winning record earn a  $\surd$ . Teams with over 75% winning record will earn two  $\surd$ s.
- c. State Tournament Appearances over the past eight years: Teams earn a point for each appearance. Teams earning five points receive a  $\surd$ .
- d. Cumulative State Points: Points as follows - (State Points based as follows: 1st place 8 points, 2nd place 7 points, 3rd place 6 points, 4th & 5th place 4 points, 6th, 7th & 8th place 0 points). Teams earning over 40 points over the past eight years earn a  $\surd$ .
- e. Teams receiving less than five  $\surd$ s will remain at their previous classification. Teams receiving five or more  $\surd$ s move to step two for further analysis.

#### Step Two Analysis

- a. Teams with players participating in out of season games and scrimmages/leagues during the months of August through April earn a  $\surd$ . Schools will be required to report this. Failure to do so may result in penalties and/or loss of playoff privileges for one year.
- b. Teams having four or more transfers over a three-year period earn two  $\surd$ s.
- c. Public schools which allow students from outside their boundaries to attend earn two  $\surd$ s. Any schools, such as private schools, boarding schools or alternative schools, which do not have traditional limited geographical boundaries, earn two  $\surd$ s.
- d. Teams receiving less than two  $\surd$ s return to their previous classification. Teams receiving two or more checks in step two remain at their new higher classification.

3. Future Classification Cycles - The classification will remain in effect until the next classification cycle (See item C)

- a. At the next classification cycle, teams moved to a higher classification in a prior classification cycle will be again analyzed. When conducting the Step One Parts A and B analysis for such teams, each team will be analyzed based on the classification they were prior to being moved to the higher classification level. (See examples below)
  1. If a team earns two or less  $\surd$ s in step one it will be lowered a classification unless it receives three or more  $\surd$ s in step two, in which case the team will remain at its current classification.
  2. If it earns three or four  $\surd$ s in step one, it will remain in the current classification.
  3. If it earns more than five  $\surd$ s in step one, the team will be placed in the next highest classification for the next three years if it earns 2 or more checks in step two.
- b. Teams not moved up the previous classification cycle, will be analyzed under the two-step analysis outlined above in Paragraph 2.

Examples for each classification:

For schools moved from 3A to 4A

Step One Part A Analysis:

Year 5	results versus 4A
Year 4	results versus 4A
Year 3	results versus 4A
Year 2	results versus 4A
Year 1	results versus 4A

Step One Part B Analysis:

Year 5	results versus 3A
Year 4	results versus 3A
Year 3	results versus 3A
Year 2	results versus 3A
Year 1	results versus 3A

For schools moved from 2A to 3A

Step One Part A Analysis:

Year 5	results versus 3A and 4A
Year 4	results versus 3A and 4A
Year 3	results versus 3A and 4A
Year 2	results versus 3A and 4A
Year 1	results versus 3A and 4A

Year 5	results versus 2A
Year 5	results versus 2A
Year 5	results versus 2A
Year 5	results versus 2A
Year 5	results versus 2A

For schools moved from 1A to 2A

Step One Part A Analysis:

Year 5	results versus 2A, 3A and 4A
Year 4	results versus 2A, 3A and 4A
Year 3	results versus 2A, 3A and 4A
Year 2	results versus 2A, 3A and 4A
Year 1	results versus 2A, 3A and 4A

Step One Part B Analysis:

Year 5	results versus 1A
Year 4	results versus 1A
Year 3	results versus 1A
Year 2	results versus 1A
Year 1	results versus 1A

### C. Reclassification Enrollment Policy

Every third spring, the board will analyze enrollments of member schools based on that school year's October OASIS report, while adding the participation numbers of alternative education program students participating under AS.14.30.365 and AS 14.45.350.

D. Request to play at a higher classification

Member schools may request to “opt up” in a specific activity. For the request to be granted, it must:

1. Be made in conjunction with the three year “reclassification policy” cycle.
2. Be for both gender’s activity.

Unless there are unforeseeable circumstances, once granted the request will remain in effect until the next “reclassification policy” cycle.

E. Ineligible 5th Year Students:

If a school’s enrollment for grades 9-12 for the previous school year is higher than thirty (30) students due to enrolled, ineligible 5th year seniors, as verified by the superintendent, and if the school would otherwise qualify to have 8th grade students participate under Article 12, Section 2.D., (Use of Junior High or Middle School Students), the superintendent may request that the ineligible 5th year seniors not be included in the total number enrollment for the purposes of this section.

After forgiveness for ineligible 5th year students has been granted, schools will be assigned to classifications. Schools which will be reclassified to a higher level under this policy may appeal the reclassification based on the average enrollment data for the current and 2 previous years. Schools which are reclassified will remain in their current classifications until the beginning of the second school year, at which time they will move to their new classifications. Schools will remain in their new classifications for three years; at which time the cycle begins again.

F. Unforeseen Circumstances: The Association may consider a request from a member school by the school’s superintendent for the Association to make an allowance for a specific school for unforeseen circumstances of the classification policy outlined in 1A-B.1. An example for when an allowance may be granted would include emergency transfers that increase a school’s classification. In reviewing such a request, the Association may also consider, financial, geographical, scheduling, and competitive factors. Schools making a request for a waiver shall do so by September 15 after receiving the notice from ASAA of the school’s classification by sending a written request to the Executive Director.

Classification Time Schedule

April 2026 – check enrollments/reclassify schools/schools may appeal

2026-27 – schools remain at current classifications

2027-28 – schools move to new classifications

2028-29 – schools remain at current classifications

April 2029 – check enrollments/reclassify schools/schools may appeal

2029-30 – schools remain at current classification

2030-31 – schools move to new classifications

2031-32 and thereafter – schools remain at current classifications

April 2032 – check enrollments/reclassify schools/schools may appeal

2032-33 – schools remain at current classification

2033-34 – schools move to new classifications

2034-35 and thereafter – schools remain at current classifications

Narrative Example:

Smith High School is a 2A school with an enrollment of 155 in April of 2026 (including alternative education program students). There is no request for forgiveness, so the board reclassifies Smith High School to 3A beginning in 2027-28 (the school remains at the 2A level in 2026-27). Smith High School is a 3A school in 2027-2028, 2028-2029, 2029-2030.