

## **120 Combining Teams for Athletic Participation**

Updated June 2013

### **Combining Teams for Athletic Participation**

The combining of teams from two or more schools to form a single team may be permitted by the Section in order to foster the emergence of a new sport, support a school that has a declining number of participants in a sport and/or financial reasons. The combining of teams will be subject to the following guidelines:

120.1 A school may not combine with another member school unless the sport in question has Board of Education approval in both districts.

120.2 Schools will combine teams for a period of one year. Classifications will be determined by utilizing the newly adopted criteria and graduated structure below. An annual application and approval will be required at various levels. (see 120.3)

120.2a: The school(s) with the higher(est) classification number will be known as the Host School. For every school that is combining with the Host School, a percentage is dependent upon the association's "5 sport classification cut off numbers."

Class AA = 50%

Class A = 40%

Class B = 30%

Class C = 30%

Class D = 20%

120.3 The Request Form (on the Section VI website - Forms and Information) must be submitted, with all signatures included, to the following in the order listed for approval:

a) All leagues involved.

The respective sports chairperson would need to be notified. Federated sports would apply directly to the Athletic Council.

b) Athletic Council - via Executive Director.

c) N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. – via Executive Director.

It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director(s) of schools involved to see that the request is forwarded to the league(s) and Section. (It is recommended that copies be made for all concerned.)

120.4 Final approval by the Athletic Council must meet the following deadlines:

- Fall Sport: Must be approved by the previous March meeting
- Winter Sport: Must be approved by the May meeting.
- Spring Sport: Must be approved by the September meeting.

Applications received after their deadline will only be considered for unforeseen and extenuating circumstances, not for administrative error.

120.5 If the request is not approved at the league level, the Section will not hear the request. If the request is not approved at the Section level, the State Association will not hear the request.

If the request is not approved, schools will be notified, in writing, why the request was denied. For example; missing signatures, continual dominant performance by combined team, inconsistent data, etc.

If, however, the request for a combined team is denied, the school(s) would have the opportunity to request an appeal to the Section VI Athletic Council, in accordance with the Section VI Constitution Article 11 - Grievance/Appeal Procedure.

120.6 A written evaluation must be submitted to the Leagues involved and the Section after the season according to the following schedule:

- Fall Season: December 1
- Winter Season: March 1
- Spring Season: July 1

The written evaluation will include a three year span of enrollment and participation numbers.