

Section VI Guidelines: Charter Schools

Approved by the Athletic Council 3/19/08

Revised Athletic Council 5/20/09

NYSPHSAA requires that all MEMBERS who desire league affiliation be provided league membership. In response, Section VI has drafted guidelines for **league placement and subsequent classification within a league.**

PLACEMENT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

Phase 1:

Prior to requesting membership in the Section and placement into a league for competition, Charter School personnel should spend one school year preparing for membership by taking the following steps:

1. Contact Section VI staff no later than September 1 of the school year prior to the desired start of competition.
2. Establish membership in Section VI, and in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA).
3. Charter School Leadership; including the Chief School Administrator and one Board of Education representative will meet with the Section VI Committee to become familiar with the regulations of the Commissioner of Education 135.4 and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. Key Resource: New York State Athletic Administrators Association (NYSAAA) Handbook.
4. The administration and coaching staff of the Charter School must willingly accept full fiscal and programmatic responsibility associated with competition in Section VI.
5. The Athletic Director and Building Administrator will attend Section VI Council meetings regularly to become familiar with the structure and governance of Section VI as well as the rules and constitutional procedures of the Section and its leagues.
6. Observe contests in sports for which the Charter School plans to field teams to assess the existing competitive levels and compare them to the skill level of the Charter School's program.
7. Develop written internal personnel policies, procedures, and handbooks to assure the effective management of the program in line with all applicable regulations (see #3).
8. Develop and present a short and long range facility plan that assures facility availability during appropriate timeframes for competition and accommodates spectators in a safe and orderly manner.
9. Design and present a draft athletic budget for the coming year and a 3-5 year financial plan.

Phase 2:

No later than September 1 of the year prior to the first year of competition, a formal written request must be made to the Section VI for participation in Section VI. The request must include the following:

1. Documentation of steps taken in Phase 1.
2. Enrollment information including: Maximum enrollment projections per grade level along, BEDS data for the current year, projected numbers for the coming year including any factors expected to impact that enrollment, and enrollment projections for the following three years
3. Sports in which the school intends to compete outlining; competitive levels, plan for implementation, and specific time frames
4. Document that all coaches meet certification requirements established by the State Education Department
5. Document that all facilities meet requirements established by the State Education Department, Department of Health, and any other regulatory authorities
6. Provide a written plan that assures safe and appropriate educational and competitive environment for all home contests
7. A plan for the future development of their interscholastic program including a time line and flow chart
8. Other plans and objectives for the development of the interscholastic athletic program
9. A signed request by the Board of Education President.

Phase 3:

No one criteria area will be the single determining factor in the recommendation for appropriate competition. The decision for competitive placement will be made in line with developmental programming that prepares students for safe and appropriate competition, and in the best interest of the student athletes. .

Options will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Independent schedules
2. The development of a League specifically made up of Charter Schools
3. Placement into an established league.

The decision will incorporate all criteria areas.

1. Geographic Location: Consideration will be given to convenience for participating schools and travel time to contests.
2. Enrollment: According to NYSPHSAA, classification is currently based on actual enrollment
3. Program Features
 - a. Strength of program
 - b. Availability of developmental experiences, school or community based, that prepare students for the demands of organized competition
 - c. Adequate facilities and event management capacity
 - d. Capacity to sustain programs

An annual report on the competitive placement of each Charter School will be made by the school to the Section VI Committee by mid-April. The Committee will review the reports and make their recommendation for placement for the following year at the May Athletic Council meeting. Annual reports must include the following:

- a. Win/loss records
- b. Completion of season
- c. Follow-through on financial commitments
- d. Procedural and/or program management issues
- e. Facilities update
- f. Sportsmanship
- g. Other pertinent information as determined by League Officials

A minimum classification will be established for the school based on the information provided. A review and potential adjustments will be made annually by the Section VI Committee based on the program strength of a specific sport as well as the overall capacity of the program.

CHARTER SCHOOLS AS LEAGUE MEMBERS:

Phase 4:

- 1. A charter school will become a regular member of a league upon league approval. As a regular member of a league, the charter school is exempt from the Placement Portion of the Guidelines for Charter Schools. (Phases 1-3)
- 2. The classification of a charter school as a league member will be according to BEDS numbers.
- 3. A review and potential adjustments will be made annually by the Ad Hoc Committee based on the program strength of a specific sport as well as the overall capacity of the program.
- 4. Section VI and the State Association have the right to override BEDS classification based on strength of program.

We understand the attached Section VI Guidelines regarding Charter Schools:

Charter School: _____ Date: _____

Superintendent or Highest Administrative School Officer:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____

President of the Board of Education or Head of Trustees:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____

Athletic Director or Administrator Responsible for Athletics:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____