



media information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2002-03 School Classifications Announced

EAST LANSING, Mich. – March 28 – The 2002-03 school year classifications for Michigan High School Athletic Association elections and post-season tournaments in traditionally classified sports (A,B,C,D) have been announced.

Classifications for the upcoming school year are based on a second semester count date, which was February 21. The enrollment figure submitted for athletic classification purposes may be different from the count submitted for school aid purposes, as it does not include students ineligible for athletic competition because they reached their 19th birthday prior to Sept. 1 of the current school year and will not include alternative education students if none are allowed athletic eligibility by the local school district.

After all the counts are submitted, the 755 tournament-qualified member schools are ranked according to enrollment, and then split as closely into quarters as possible. For 2002-03, it works out that 188 schools are in Class A, and 189 schools are in Classes B, C and D.

Effective with the 2002-03 school year, schools with 1026 or more students are in Class A in MHSAA competition. The enrollment limits for Class B are 492 to 1,025; Class C is 243 to 491; and schools with enrollments of 242 and under are Class D. The break increased 18 students between Classes A and B; increased 4 students between Classes B and C; and the break between Classes C and D remained the same.

Schools were recently notified of their classification. MHSAA Executive Director John E. "Jack" Roberts said that schools may not appeal their classification if the appeal is to play in a lower class. However, if revised enrollment figures indicate that a school should be playing in a higher class, that school would be moved up.

The new classification breaks will see 21 schools move up in class for 2002-03, while 11 schools will move down.

Schools have the option to play at any higher classification for a minimum of two years, but must exercise the option by April 15 for fall sports, August 15 for winter sports, and October 15 for spring sports.

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2-2-2 – 2002-03 Classification Breaks

MHSAA tournament sports conducted in traditional classifications are Basketball, Girls Competitive Cheer, Girls Gymnastics, Skiing, Swimming and Diving, and Girls Volleyball. Sports which will compete in nearly equal divisions in 2002-03 are: Baseball, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Boys and Girls Golf, Ice Hockey, Softball, Boys and Girls Tennis, Boys and Girls Track and Field, and Wrestling. Boys and Girls Soccer will have 20 percent of sponsoring schools in Division 4 and the remaining schools divided equally into Divisions 1, 2 and 3. The division breaks in those sports, except football, will be announced in April. (Media can visit the respective sports pages on the MHSAA Web Site to review the divisional alignments) The eight divisions of the MHSAA Football Playoffs will be announced on Selection Sunday, Oct. 27, 2002.

Here is a complete list of the schools changing classification for 2002-03 (Note: This list does not include schools opting up in class/division for tournaments):

Moving Up From Class B To Class A

Auburn Hills Avondale
Chelsea
Gaylord
Mattawan
Petoskey
Stevensville-Lakeshore
Wayland Union

Moving Down From Class A To Class B

Clio
Eaton Rapids
Grand Rapids Central
Hamtramck
Ionia

Moving Up From Class C To Class B

Calumet
Hemlock
Livonia Clarenceville
Muskegon Heights
Parchment
White Cloud

Moving Down From Class B To Class C

Ferndale-Academy of Oak Park
Flint Beecher

Moving Up From Class D To Class C

Academy of Inkster
Carsonville-Port Sanilac
Detroit Dominican
Detroit Loyola
Detroit-Mich. Inst. For Construction Trades & Tech.
Martin
Mio

Moving Down From Class C To Class D

Detroit Benedictine
Detroit Rogers (Boys tournaments)
Detroit School of Industrial Arts
Johannesburg-Lewiston

New Schools in 2002-03

Canton Plymouth (Class C)
Rochester Hills Stoney Creek (Class B)
Walled Lake Northern (Class B)

Enrollment Breaks By Classes – 2002-03 (Number of schools in parenthesis)

Class A	1,026 and above (188)
Class B	492 to 1,025 (189)
Class C	243 to 491 (189)
Class D	242 and below (189)

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