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2005-06 School Classifications Announced

EAST LANSING, Mich. – March 28 – Classifications for Michigan High School Athletic Association elections and post-season tournaments in traditionally classified sports (A, B, C, D) for the 2005-06 school year have been announced, and the enrollment breaks for post-season tournaments set up by divisions will be announced on Thursday (March 31) on the MHSAA Web site.

Classifications for the upcoming school year are based on a second semester count date, which was February 23. 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 756 tournament-qualified member schools are ranked according to enrollment, and then split as closely into quarters as possible. For 2005-06, it works out that 188 schools are in Class A; 189 schools are in Classes B and D; and 190 schools are in Class C.

Effective with the 2005-06 school year, schools with 1,058 or more students are in Class A in MHSAA competition. The enrollment limits for Class B are 496 to 1,057; Class C is 251 to 495; and schools with enrollments of 250 and under are Class D. The break increased 22 students between Classes A and B; increased 9 students between Classes B and C; and the break between Classes C and D increased by 18 students.

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 11 schools move up in class for 2005-06, while 23 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.

MHSAA tournament sports conducted in traditional classifications for 2005-06 are Basketball, Bowling, Girls Competitive Cheer, Girls Gymnastics, Skiing and Girls Volleyball. Football will use traditional classifications to determine playoff points. Sports which will compete in nearly equal divisions are: Baseball, Cross Country, Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, and Wrestling. 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 on Thursday. (Note: 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. 23, 2005. A complete list of school enrollments used to determine classifications for the 2005-06 school year can be found on the Administrators page of the MHSAA Web site.

(more)

2-2-2 – 2005-06 Classification Breaks

The MHSAA Representative Council will be considering at its May meeting proposals from sports committees in Bowling, Girls Competitive Cheer, Skiing, Soccer, Lower Peninsula Swimming & Diving, and Girls Volleyball to either move to divisions or to restructure existing divisions. Unless normal procedures are waived, no change will occur in any of these tournaments before the 2006-07 school year.

Here is a complete list of the schools changing classification for 2005-06 (Note: This list does not include schools opting up in class/division for tournaments, which can be found on the Administrators page of the MHSAA Web site):

Moving Up From Class B To Class A

Farmington Hills Harrison
St. Clair Shores Lakeview
Jackson Northwest
Dexter
Wayland Union

Moving Down From Class A To Class B

St. Johns
Mason
Petoskey
Redford Thurston
Chelsea
Lansing Waverly
Grand Rapids Creston
Zeeland East

Moving Up From Class C To Class B

Detroit Communication Media Arts
East Jackson
Albion

Moving Down From Class B To Class C

Saginaw Nouvel
Vassar
Wyoming Kelloggsville
Berrien Springs
Flint Beecher
Grandville Calvin Christian
White Cloud

Moving Up From Class D To Class C

Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart
Dearborn Heights Star International Academy
Harper Woods HEART Academy

Moving Down From Class C To Class D

L'Anse
Eau Claire
Muskegon Western Michigan Christian
Pellston
Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett
Lutheran Westland
Lawrence
Ontonagon

New Post-Season Eligible Tournament Schools in 2005-06

Detroit Academy of Arts & Sciences (Class B)
Zeeland West (Class B)
Detroit Old Redford Preparatory (Class C)
Detroit Cesar Chavez Academy (Class C)
Roseville Conner Creek Academy East (Class D)
Pontiac Greater Life Academy (Class D)
Ypsilanti Calvary Christian Academy (Class D)
Fremont Providence Christian (Class D)
Byron Center The Learning Center Academy (Class D)

Enrollment Breaks By Classes – 2005-06

(Number of schools in parenthesis)

Class A -- 1,058 and above (188)

Class B -- 496 to 1,057 (189)

Class C -- 251 to 495 (190)

Class D -- 250 and below (189)

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by over 1,800 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments, which attract approximately 1.6 million spectators each year.

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