ISSUE 1B – Team Membership - Bylaw 1-6-4

Interscholastic teams/squads sponsored by a member school shall not consist of students from more than one school unless otherwise mandated within the Ohio Revised Code or in accordance with the exception below:

EXCEPTION: Member schools containing grades 7 and 8 may combine students from two or more schools within the school district/system to form one or more interscholastic teams in a sport. Requests for permission to combine students from two or more schools in the same public district or non-public system must be submitted annually to the OHSAA in writing by the superintendent of the public district or non-public system.

The written request must contain the following:
1. Names of the schools involved
2. Total number of students from each school involved in the sport
3. Total number of boys or girls in each grade of each school in the combination
4. Rationale for requesting the combination to form more than one team/squad in each sport
5. The name of the principal, name of the combined school (which must be the name of one of the member schools represented within the combination) for purposes of registration into the MYOHSAA system, and the complete address (including email) of the one administrator responsible for the conduct and operation of each combined team or teams.

For purposes of tournament assignment, eligibility and placement, the Board of Directors and the Executive Director’s Office of the OHSAA shall adopt and publish from time to time, such rules as deemed necessary and proper for the timely, accurate and transparent implementation of this bylaw so as to give effect and meaning to this section.

COMMENTS:

1. Some public school districts and non-public school systems have reported having difficulty fielding teams, due to disparate numbers of interested students in the 7-8th grade schools under their jurisdiction.
2. Having some flexibility to sponsor more than one team per sport would provide some relief when there are larger numbers of participants at one school as opposed to other schools in that district or system.
3. Some have indicated a concern about large public school districts using this provision to gain an athletic advantage.
4. When combining in sports like cross country and track and field, the OHSAA will permit the one school to compete in the OHSAA-sponsored 7-8th grade tournaments in those sports ONLY if the superintendent...
authorizes the combining, the combination is approved by this office, and the member school that will be the sponsoring school receives a Hy-tek code for that school. To facilitate this process, note that item #5 requires the superintendent to designate the name of the member school (which shall be the actual name of one of the member schools) for registration purposes, the principal’s name, and the contact information and name of one administrator who will be responsible.

5. The preliminary statement authorizes the Board and/or Office to provide business rules for the proper management of this bylaw.

6. Please note that the name of the combined school, for purposes of registration into an OHSAA post-season tournament, shall be the name of one of the member schools represented within that district/system.