



## Petition to Play Down

Excerpt OSAA Handbook, Constitution, Article 6, Classification of Schools.

**6.2.4. Classification of Schools – Classification Thresholds.** During the four-year time block, the following Average Daily Membership (ADM) thresholds will be used by the Executive Board when considering school placement or classification changes:

**6A: 1005 or more    5A: 608 to 1004    4A: 311 to 607    3A: 146 to 310    2A: 75 to 145    1A: 10 to 74**

**EXCEPTION.** OSAA member schools shall participate based upon ADM in the classifications defined in this Article unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Board in response to the submission of a Petition to Play Down, a Petition to Play Up, or Placement in a Different Classification – Football Only.

### (a) Petition to Play Down

- (1) **Submission Deadline.** Except as specified in Article 6.2.2 (c), a member school seeking to play in a lower classification than assigned under Article 6.2.4. shall be required to complete and submit a "Petition to Play Down" to the OSAA prior to October 1 preceding the quadrennial December Classification and Districting Meeting.
- (2) **Athletics and Activities Affected.** Any "Petition to Play Down" granted by the Executive Board shall apply to all OSAA athletics and activities in which the member school participates, except as outlined below.
  - a) **Sport/Activity Returning to or Remaining at Original Classification.** Any school sport or activity playing below their classification based on an approved Petition to Play down will return to their original classification if the following occurs:
    1. **Team Sports.** If a team sport qualifies for the state playoffs and wins a contest while playing down or in the immediately preceding season to the Petition to Play Down being granted, that specific team sport will return to or stay at their original classification for the next school year.
    2. **Individual Sports and Activities.** If an individual sport or activity team receives a trophy at their state championship while playing down or in the immediately preceding season to the Petition to Play Down being granted, that specific individual sport or activity team will return to or stay at their original classification for the next school year.
- (3) **Duration.** Any "Petition to Play Down" granted by the Executive Board shall apply to the classification placement of the petitioning member school during the entire subsequent four-year time block, except as outlined above.
- (4) **Required Information.** A member school submitting a "Petition to Play Down" shall provide the following information for consideration by the Executive Board over the previous three years of the time block.
  - a) A school's overall in-class winning percentage over the immediately preceding three-year period in team sports that is less than 20% (excluding football).
  - b) A school's individual sports participation numbers that are less than the standard deviation compared to the average of schools in their current classification.
- (5) **Additional Information.** A member school submitting a "Petition to Play Down" may provide any other information to the Executive Board in support of the petition including, but not limited to, evidence of intervention undertaken by the district in an effort to encourage address lack of competitive success and a letter of current league support for the "Petition to Play Down."
- (6) **Appeal Process.** A school not meeting the criteria set forth above but wanting to Petition to Play Down may appeal to the OSAA Executive Board at the quadrennial December Board meeting. To be able to appeal, schools must meet one of the criteria in (a)(4) above and the school must meet both of the following criteria:
  - a) A school's overall in-class winning percentage over the immediately preceding three-year period in team sports is under 30% (excluding football).
  - b) Have no more than 20% of the activities sponsored by the school that would remain at the original classification per (a)(2)a) above.

See OSAA Handbook, Constitution, "Article 6, Classification of Schools" for additional information.

Member School: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Classification and District: \_\_\_\_\_ Desired Classification and District: \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Please submit this form with all other required materials to the OSAA Office.**