



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 | 4A: 311 to 607 | 2A: 75 to 145 |
| 5A: 608 to 1004 | 3A: 146 to 310 | 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) Dominant Team Sport Activity.** A point-based system based on state championship success shall be used to determine a dominant team sport activity. Teams reaching a quarterfinal shall earn one point; team reaching a semifinal shall earn four points; and teams reaching a final shall earn six points. A team earning a total of eight points in the previous three-year period shall be considered a dominant team sport activity and shall continue competing at their original classification while the school’s remaining programs compete at the lower classification.
- (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 below.
 - a) Two-Year Review.** A varsity team earning a total of 10 points during the first two years of a time block would be considered a dominant team sport activity and would be returned to its original classification for the remaining two years of the time block. The school’s other team would remain at the lower classification for the remainder of the time block.
- (4) Required Information.** A member school submitting a “Petition to Play Down” shall provide the following information for consideration by the Executive Board. Petitioning schools that meet all four criteria listed below shall be automatically approved. Schools meeting some but not all criteria will have their petition reviewed by the Executive Board:
 - a)** Documentation showing the school’s percentage of students on free lunch at 50% or higher.
 - b)** Documentation showing that the school’s teams finished in the bottom 50% of the final frozen rankings at their current classification at least 75% of the time for the previous three years.
 - c)** Documentation showing that the school’s teams finished in the bottom 20% of the final frozen rankings at their current classification at least 50% of the time for the previous three years.
 - d)** Documentation showing that the winning percentage for the school’s teams in team sports was 25% or less at least 40% of the time for the previous three years.
- (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.”

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.