

IHSAA/IGHSAU Conference Realignment Committee By-Laws

Purpose and Authority

The Conference Realignment Committee shall take action to bring about a reasonable conference affiliation and relationship for high schools that are members of the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union. Reasonable conference affiliation and relationship with member high schools may include total movement of member schools, sport- specific relief, or scheduling assistance.

While it is not generally the intent to make wholesale changes in existing conference membership, the Conference Realignment Committee retains the following authority to:

1. Approve
 - a. Realignment of existing athletic conference, or
 - b. The creation of a new athletic conference(s),
2. Reject the request for conference realignment or creation of a new athletic conference(s), and
 - a. Recommend how to best bring about reasonable athletic conferences that are members of the IHSAA and/or IGHSAU.

The Conference Realignment Committee recognizes that the initial authority and responsibility for conference development, membership, and alignment rests with the board of directors of each public school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school.

Principal Place of Business

The principal place of business for the Conference Realignment Committee shall be the Office of the Iowa High School Athletic Association, 1605 South Story St. Boone, Iowa 50036.

Powers and Duties

The Conference Realignment Committee shall:

- a) Take action to bring about a reasonable conference affiliation and relationship for high schools that are members of the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union. Reasonable conference affiliation and relationship with member high schools may include total movement of member schools, sport- specific relief, or scheduling assistance. When taking action to

bring about a reasonable conference affiliation and relationship for member high schools, the committee shall consider all of the following:

- i. The current total enrollment of the member high schools and the projected total enrollment of the member high schools in the future.
 - ii. Travel distances between member high schools.
 - iii. The comparability of instructional programs provided by member high schools.
 - iv. Traditional rivalries between member high schools.
 - v. The number of member high schools currently in the conference and the number of high schools that may be added to the conference.
 - vi. The comparability of athletic programs and other school- sponsored programs provided by the member high schools.
- b) Review all requests that are submitted to the committee by school districts and accredited nonpublic schools that are members of an organization related to changing the extracurricular interscholastic athletics conferences the school belongs to, including moving a member school to a different conference. A request submitted under this subparagraph division must contain an analysis of how the change will affect the school district or accredited nonpublic school submitting the request along with how the change may affect other school districts and accredited nonpublic schools that are members of the organization.
- c) When determining whether to approve or reject the request, the committee shall consider the factors described in subparagraph division a) and how to best bring about reasonable interscholastic athletics conferences that are beneficial to students enrolled in school districts and accredited nonpublic schools that are members of the organization. After making a decision, the committee shall provide a copy of the request and the committee's decision to the applicable organization and order the organization to take all actions necessary to effectuate the committee's decision. If the committee's decision rejects the school district's or accredited nonpublic school's request, the committee shall recommend an alternative conference alignment or allow the school district or accredited nonpublic school to opt for independent status.
- d) Develop an expedited review process for requests to change an extracurricular interscholastic athletics conference membership that are submitted to the committee by all school districts and accredited nonpublic schools that may be affected by the change. The expedited review process must require the committee to provide a copy of the requests received under this subparagraph division to the applicable organization and to direct the applicable organization to take all actions necessary to effectuate the committee's decision.
- e) Review extracurricular interscholastic athletics conference changes at least once every two years.

- f) Allow a school district or an accredited nonpublic school to appeal to orders issued by the committee to the director of the department of education.

Members

The conference realignment committee shall consist of eighteen members, subject to the following requirements:

- a) The executive directors of the two organizations make appointments to the committee, including filling vacancies. The executive directors of the two organizations will divide committee memberships into two cohorts and alternate making appointments to each cohort every four-year cycle. Each cohort will contain at least one representative of a nonpublic school.
- b) Nine members shall be superintendents employed by school districts or accredited nonpublic schools located in different geographical regions of the state.
- c) Nine members shall be activities directors employed by school districts or accredited nonpublic schools located in different geographical regions of the state.
 - i. A quorum of the committee shall consist of ten members. The members of the committee shall elect a chairperson of the committee.
 - ii. Each organization shall appoint nine members to the committee pursuant to a process established by the state board of education by rule.
- d) Members serve four-year terms and are eligible for reappointment once.
- e) The committee will select a chairperson and a vice-chairperson to serve for two years.
- f) One of the executive directors of the organizations (or his or her designee) shall serve as the secretary of the committee.
- g) Any committee member whose school and/or conference is involved in an application for realignment, shall recuse themselves from related discussion, review of information and determination for approval/denial of such applications.

Appeals

A member school may appeal a committee's decision to the director of the Iowa department of education within 60 days of the date of the decision.

- a) The director will receive the records of the committee, and no new evidence will be permitted, except for good cause shown.
- b) The committee's decision is presumed correct, and the appellant has the burden of demonstrating the committee's decision is based on a failure to follow the processes and standards set out in Iowa Code section 280.13D as enacted by

House File 783, on factual findings that have no evidentiary basis, or on legal conclusions that are manifestly erroneous.

- c) The director may refer the matter to an administrative law judge for a proposed decision.
- d) The director's decision is due within 60 days of the date of the appeal.