

Conference Realignment  
Application Subcommittee  
Wednesday, February 25 @ 10:30 am  
[Zoom Link](#)

Subcommittee Members: Andy Crozier, Julie Girsch, Brent Jorth & Adam Riley

Agenda:

- A. Call to Order: 10:35 a.m.
- B. Roll Call
  - 1. Present: Andy Crozier, Brent Jorth & Adam Riley
  - 2. Absent: Julie Girsch
- C. Consider Adoption of Agenda
  - a. MM: AR
  - b. 2: AC
  - c. 3-0
- D. New Business
  - 1. Discuss Application Materials
  - 2. Discuss Prioritization of Applications
  - 3. Discuss Timelines for Consideration of Applications, Hearings, Decisions and Appeals
- E. Adjourn: 11:36 p.m.
  - a. MM: AR
  - b. 2: AC
  - c. 3-0

**Application Materials**

- A. Petitioner(s): member school(s) requesting a change in conference affiliation
  - 1. Cover Letter
    - a. Summarize the member school's position detailing how the new conference will provide a more meaningful opportunity for students than what is currently being offered, may include:
      - i. Attempted solutions and resolutions,
      - ii Proposed solution  
Rationale for leaving the current conference,
      - ii. Benefits of joining/creating a new conference,
      - iii. Impact of Movement
        - 1. Identify the number of schools that the departing conference will have
        - 2. Identify the number of schools that the entering conference will have
        - 3. Impact to traditional rivalries and/or development of new rivalries.
- 2. Enrollment Data: for each current and proposed conference member
  - a. Minimum of 3-years of 9th-11th grade BEDS enrollment history and
    - i. To include FRL percentage (?)
  - b. Minimum of 3-years of 9th-11th grade BEDS projected future enrollment.
  - c. Additional relevant enrollment information as determined by the local district.
    - i. Participation Data
- 3. Travel: miles and estimated time to each current and proposed conference member.
- 4. Instructional Programs, Athletic Programs, & Extra-Curricular Activities
  - a. Identify the programs and levels offered, and

b. A narrative describing the hardship in the current conference and benefit of joining the new conference.

b. Additional relevant participation information as determined by the local district.

5. Additional Documentation for Consideration

- a. School board minutes or resolution verifying the community's commitment to changing athletic conferences,
- b. Conference Bylaws,
- c. Letter of exit from current conference,
- d. Letter of entrance to new conference,
  - i. Letters of support from member schools who support the change in conference affiliation.
- e. Letter of summary relating to relevant sportsmanship data from IHSA and IGHSAA
  - i. Ejection data for student-athletes and coaches
- f. Athletic Records for varsity competitions for minimum of 3-years,
- g. Additional relevant information as determined by the local district.

B. Respondent(s): member school(s) opposing "Requested Solution" for conference realignment

1. Cover Letter

- a. Summarize the member school's position including a description of the undue hardship that will be faced if a change is made,
- b. Rationale for maintaining the current conference composition, and
- c. Impact to traditional rivalries and/or development of new rivalries.
- d. Additional relevant information as determined by the local district.

*Resources to Reference:*

- Google Form from Wisconsin PDF-[Link](#)

**Prioritizing Applications**

Schools seeking scheduling relief due to one or more factors,

- A. New member school,
- B. Competing as an independent,
- C. Enrollment change,
  - a. Growth or decline has led cancellation of or inability to schedule varsity, junior varsity, or other non-varsity contests
  - b. Socio-economic changes have impacted overall participation of students.
- D. Increased travel,
  - a. Loss of instructional time and/or
  - b. Increased financial burden.
- E. Competing in a conference impacted by previous realignment that has resulted in unintended consequences,
- F. Other compelling arguments:
  - a. Increase or decrease in programming offered,
  - b. Specific scheduling relief needed due to a conference experiencing a number of schools not

able to offer a specific sport due to declining participation and/or co-op programming, c.  
Number of schools in a conference prior to realignment or as a result of realignment i.  
Conference membership size viability

1. ie: is a 5 school conference viable?
2. ie: is a 15 school conference viable?

### *Further Discussion Needed*

G. The CRC may consider special requests for solutions outside of the established timeline process when a school has experienced a hardship due to:

- a. Competing as an independent for two consecutive years
- b. A decrease in competing schools in a specific sport within a conference due to a lack of participation or establishment of cooperative programs

### **Timeline**

#### Possible Timeline of Work Flow

- October 1 - Deadline to Initiate the Application
  - Notification/Letter/Email of Intent to IHSAA & IGHSAU (?)
- November 1 - Deadline to Submit the Application for Review
  - Submission of Google Form / Application Materials Received by CRC Chair
    - Or should applications be submitted to Executive Directors of IHSAA/IGHSAU?
  - November 8
    - Applications assigned to Subcommittees
      - Subcommittees 1) reviews application, 2) requests additional information as needed, 3) considers any alternative conferences
- ~~- November 3 or 5: CRC Application Subcommittee Meets Virtually to Confirm Receipt of Applications & All Necessary Materials (?)~~
- ~~- November - 3rd Week (November 15)
  - ~~- Publish realignment "Requested Solutions" and "Fast Track Requests" on IHSAA/IGHSAU websites~~
  - ~~- Send mass email to IHSAA/IGHSAU membership of "Requested Solutions" and "Fast Track Requests"~~
  - ~~- Send information to Conference Realignment Committee~~
  - ~~- In the third week of November the Conference Realignment Committee meets to assign work groups for application review~~
  - ~~- Realignment work groups begin review of applications~~~~
- December - 1st Week
  - Conference Realignment Committee Meets
  - Review and approve/deny fast track request applications
  - Reports from Subcommittees
  - Prioritize applications for hearings
  - Schedule hearing dates
  - Notification to schools and conference commissioner(s) of hearing dates
    - Respondent paperwork due January 1
    - Schools that are denied a hearing due to number
- ~~Review applications and listen to work group summaries of "Requested Solutions"~~
- ~~- Begin preliminary realignment solution discussions~~

- ~~Further Discussion Needed: Important to notify other schools that may be impacted, but not initially included in the proposed solution.~~
- Schedule hearings for January
- January - Hearings (first and second week)
  - Schedule hearings for the first two weeks of January of "Requested Solutions"
- January 30 - Determination
  - Conference Realignment Committee Meets for Approval, Denial or Recommended Solution final determination of "Requested Solutions" or "Modified Solutions"
  - Publish Realignment solutions on IHSAA/IGHSAU website
  - Send approval of "Requested Solutions" to member schools
    - Appeal of "Requested Solutions" - 60 Days to the Director of the Department of Education
- Implementation within 18-24 months (not the next school year [26-27], implementation for the following school year [27-28])
  - Send "Modified Solutions" to member schools
- February 28 - Appeal of "Modified Solutions"
  - Deadline for appeal to the Conference Realignment Committee of the "Modified Solutions"
- March 30 - Hearing of "Modified Solutions" (if needed)
  - Schedule hearings of "Modified Solutions"
- April 30 - Determination of "Modified Solutions" (if needed)
  - Conference Realignment Committee Meets for final determination of "Modified Solutions" - Appeal of "Modified Solutions" - 60 Days to the Director of the Department of Education - Publish "Modified Solutions" on IHSAA/IGHSAU website
  - Implementation for next school year (26-27) / following school year (27-28)

*Resources to Reference*

- [Link to Wisconsin Model](#)
- Realignment Flow Chart Link (Page Below)

