



Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union
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Iowa High School Athletic Association
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On April 29, 2026, the Conference Realignment Committee (“Committee”) heard Decorah CSD’s request for the creation of a new conference in Northeast Iowa to include Decorah, Charles City, Osage, North Fayette Valley, Allamakee (Waukon), Howard-Winneshiek (Crestwood), and New Hampton.

The Committee has considered all evidence presented, and finds the following facts to be particularly relevant.

Three of the schools included for membership in the new conference left the previous North East Iowa Conference due to their concerns of competitive imbalance and enrollment disparity related to Decorah.

Of the included schools only Decorah and Osage expressed interest in establishing the conference. Charles City expressed openness to discussing the idea but also stated concern about the long term viability due to the fractured relationships between some of the included schools. NFV, Waukon, Crestwood, and New Hampton were adamantly opposed.

The Committee has considered the governing legal principles set forth in Iowa Code section 280.13E and Iowa Administrative Code chapter 281-37. After considering this evidence and the rest of the record, the Committee concludes the following legally mandated considerations are to be accorded great weight, in light of the facts found above.

The code language is ambiguous as to whether the committee does or does not have the ability to remove schools from their current conference and place them into another conference at the request of another school.

The majority of the Committee did not support moving schools who were not interested in changing their conference affiliation. The Committee also did not believe doing so would result in stability in the created new conference.

For these reasons, the Committee denies Decorah’s request for the creation of a new conference.

The Committee considered other conference affiliations for Decorah within the committee’s authority, based on the criteria in 280.13E including the Top of Iowa, Upper Iowa, North Central, and WaMaC Conferences. The Committee recognizes that Decorah’s size and location create concerns relative to all options and notes that none of the available conferences is an ideal fit. The Committee deemed size as the determining factor in eliminating the Top of Iowa Conference and Upper Iowa Conference from consideration. The Committee deemed travel as the determining factor to eliminate the North Central Conference from consideration.

For these reasons, the Committee finds and concludes that the most reasonable conference membership for Decorah is the WaMaC Conference.

The Committee RECOMMENDS that Decorah be placed in the WaMaC Conference beginning competition in the 27-28 school year.

A member school to whom this decision applies may appeal this decision to the Director of the Iowa Department of Education within sixty days of the date of this decision. Any appeal is governed by Iowa Administrative Code rule 281-37.3.

Dated on _____, 20____.

Signed,

Conference Realignment Committee, by

Chair