



Classification of Non-Public & Charter Schools

These criteria and procedures are for NYSPHSAA Section Classification Committees to utilize when evaluating the athletic classifications of non-public and charter school sport programs. It establishes performance-based guidelines for potential movement between classifications, defines processes for incorporating updated enrollment data, and sets forth a clear review timeline aligned with seasonal sports. Additionally, the document details the appeal process available to member schools and Sections to ensure transparency, consistency, and fairness in classification decisions. While providing this standardized framework, Sections retain the authority to assign classifications for non-public and charter schools, provided such decisions are made in accordance with consistent criteria and within the established timeline.

1) Criteria for Section Classification Committee

Movement Up in Classification:

Non-Public & Charter school sport programs may be subject to annual reclassification based on performance and enrollment data. A Non-Public or Charter school team may be considered for **movement to a higher classification** if at least one of the following criteria is met:

1. The team achieves a winning percentage of .750 or higher in any of the following categories: overall record, league record, or in-class record (with a minimum of four games played).
2. The team is recognized as a league and/or playoff champion.
3. The team is a sectional semifinalist.
4. The team wins a state championship.

Remain in Current Classification:

A Non-Public or Charter school team may **remain in its current classification** if it meets at least one of the following during the season:

1. a winning percentage of .500 or above in-class, overall regular season, or league competition;
2. the team qualifies for sectionals or wins a first-round sectional game.

Move Down in Classification:

If a non-public or charter school team was previously moved up in classification but does not meet any of the criteria listed above (*#1 & #2 of remain in current classification*), the Section Classification Committee will consider moving the team down one classification level. Any exception to this downward reclassification will require clear, objective justification. However, a team may not be placed in a classification lower than the level determined by its BEDS (*Basic Educational Data System*) number under any circumstances.



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Changes in BEDS or Sport Variation Numbers

If updated BEDS numbers or changes to NYSPHSAA sport classification cutoff numbers would result in a non-public or charter school's team moving down a classification, a review of the team's placement may be initiated. The criteria used to justify reconvening the Section classification committee will mirror those required to consider a move up in classification.

2) Examination process

Timeline:

The Section Classification Committee will convene three times a year to review the classification of Non-Public and Charter schools and the dissemination of information.

Fall Sports – Section Classification Committee Meeting in January

*To be reported at February NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting

Winter Sports – Section Classification Committee Meeting in April

*To be reported at May NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting

Spring Sports – Section Classification Committee Meeting in June

*To be reported at July NYSPHSAA Central Committee meeting

Information to be reviewed:

Relevant information should be submitted to the Section Classification Committee.

1. Sectional tournament brackets, scores and results.
2. Section Transfer information.

Decision to be made for the following school year by the Section Classification Committee.

3) Appeal process

Any NYSPHSAA Section may submit an appeal request to the NYSPHSAA Classification Oversight Committee no less than 15 calendar days following the information being reported to the NYSPHSAA Executive/ Central Committee. Upon receipt of such a request, the Committee will conduct a comprehensive review of all relevant information submitted by both the appealing Section and the Section in which the non-public or charter school is located. Based on the totality of the evidence and circumstances, the Classification Oversight Committee maintains the authority to assign the non-public or charter school to the classification it deems most appropriate.

In instances where a NYSPHSAA member school is directly affected by a decision rendered by its Section's Classification Committee, that school must first exhaust all administrative remedies available to it under its Section's governing documents (e.g., bylaws, constitution, or other applicable policies and procedures). Only after those avenues have been pursued in full may further appeal or review be considered at the state level in accordance with the NYSPHSAA Handbook.