

SECTION
IX
ATHLETICS

APPLICATION FOR COMBINING OF TEAMS

**Section IX Athletics
P.O. Box 656
Goshen, NY 10924
Gregory Ransom, Executive Director**

General Merger Information

SECTION IX ATHLETICS

Section IX, a member organization of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (hereafter referred to as NYSPHSAA) has adopted the following procedures for combining of teams within member school districts.

Student bodies of NYSPHSAA member public school districts within Section IX may be combined for interscholastic athletic competition and field a common participating team(s) with the consent of the Section IX Athletic Council.

1. Mergers will be evaluated on a yearly basis. Application for combining of teams must be made annually. NYSPHSAA classification procedures will apply for all contests.
2. Where applicable, the combined teams may play in a higher classification as dictated by the NYSPHSAA classification policy.
3. When the application to field a common participating group is made, one of the schools shall be designated to administer the program.
4. The petitioning schools shall not institute, or be party to, legal proceedings against Section IX, OCIAA, MHAL, or NYSPHSAA in matters associated with combining of team applications.

Documents should be sent to:

**Section IX Athletics
Combining of Teams Committee
PO Box 656
Goshen, NY 10924**

**Email: josbornesection9@gmail.com
Fax: 845-291-7306**

Statement of Purpose for Combining of Schools:

*This document is to be completed by the Host School and signed by all Athletic Directors that are a party to the request.

The Statement of Purpose is a letter that is to be written by the host school and addressed to the Combining of Teams Committee. Within this document, the host school shall provide details of the requested merger such as:

The sport, level(s), host school, combining school(s), reason for combining, number of athletes from combining schools, experience of athletes from combining schools, future plan and/or steps being taken for combined schools to develop individual programs, and any other pertinent information.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. The Application, which includes the Statement of Purpose and the Combining of Teams Request Forms, including the signature page, is to be completed and received by the Section IX Combining of Schools Committee by the deadlines listed below*:

Fall Sports: January 15th (Football Mergers must be received by January 1st)

Winter Sports: March 15th

Spring Sports: May 15th

**Extensions beyond the above dates may be considered by the Executive Director on a case by case basis. Requests for extensions and the circumstances must be provided in writing. However, this does not guarantee approval.*

2. Combining of teams applications will **not** be considered after the 5th day of team tryouts/practice, based on approved Section IX seasonal start dates..
 - a. If the combining of schools application is received after the team schedules have been released **and** the result is a change of classification for the team, they will be considered an “independent team” and not be eligible for sectional playoffs and beyond.
3. The Combining of Teams Committee will review all documents with the Section IX Sport Chairperson.
4. The Combining of Teams Committee will send its recommendation to the leagues for a vote.
5. Leagues will bring their recommendations back to the Section IX Athletic Council for a vote. All Council votes will be considered “pending school board approval of all combining schools”.
6. If approved by the Council, combining schools bring the request to their Board of Education for approval.
7. If approved at Board of Education level, Resolutions from all involved combining schools must be sent to the Combining of Teams Committee before the request is considered ratified.
8. Once the Section IX Athletic Council has approved the combining of teams, the Executive Director, or designee, will submit the combined teams to NYSPHSAA.

Explanation of Determination of approval for combining schools:

For individual sports (with the exception of boys' & girls' tennis) requests for combining of teams will be supported by the *Combining of Teams Committee* if each of the schools applying does not have enough players to prevent that school from being mathematically eliminated from a potential win of the overall contest. These numbers are determined by the rules of the specific sport. Otherwise, schools falling below this number will be required to "shadow".

In team sports, combining of teams applications will be supported by the *Combining of Teams Committee* if one team has an insufficient number of students-athletes to participate in a team contest. Absent extenuating circumstances, the Section IX Combining of Teams Committee has an expectation of a demonstration of progress toward the establishment of an independent team.

● **NYSPHSAA identifies Individual and Team sports as follows:**

Team Sports: Baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball.

S9 Individual Sports: Bowling(3), cross-country(5), g. golf(4), b. golf(6), gymnastics(5), alpine skiing(4), nordic skiing(4), swimming(7), outdoor track(4), winter track(7), g. wrestling(7), b. wrestling (8) and *tennis.

*Tennis is treated as a team sport for the purpose of committee recommendation, based on the fact that only one contest can be completed each day.

The school(s) with the higher(est) classification number will have a percentage of the other school(s) classification number added according to the graduated scale below.

The percentage is dependent upon the association's "Sport Specific classification cut-off numbers"

- o **Six Classes** (Class AAA 100%, Class AA 100%, Class A 100%, Class B 100%, Class C 50%, Class D 40%)
- o **Five Classes** (Class AA 100%, Class A 100%, Class B 100%, Class C 50%, Class D 40%)
- o **Four Classes** (Class A 100%, Class B 100%, Class C 50%, Class D 40%)
- o **Three Classes** (Class A 100%, Class B 50%, Class C 40%)
- o **Two Divisions** (Division I 100%, Division II 50%)

- Beginning with the 2018-19 school year: The graduated scale is used for up to 3 "team" mergers and mergers with 4 or more "teams" take 100% of their BEDS; ONLY in team sports.

Combining of Teams Form

School year _____ Sport _____

Host school district _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Host enrollment BEDS# number (9-10-11 plus ungraded) _____ Current classification _____ *

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Combining school district(s) _____

Combining school BEDS# enrollment (9-10-11 plus ungraded) _____ Current classification _____ *

_____ First request _____ Subsequent request (previously approved)

Program administered by _____

Practices to be held at _____

Home contests to be played at _____

Number of student athletes on each of the combining teams.

School 1: _____ / _____

School Name / team participation #

School 2: _____ / _____

School Name / team participation #

School 3: _____ / _____

School Name / team participation #

Reason for combining of teams – Please check the appropriate reason(s):

_____ Insufficient number of participants

_____ Inadequate facilities

_____ Other (please explain)

Combining of Teams – Sport Chairperson(s) Comments:

This form is to be sent to the Sports Chairperson by the host school and must be returned with the Combining of Teams Application to the Committee.

This section is to be completed by the Host School:

Host School: _____

Combining School(s): _____

School Year: _____

Sport: _____

Level(s): _____

This section is to be completed by the Sport Chairperson(s)

Notes: _____

Sport Chairperson Signature: _____

Combining of Teams Request

(This form goes to leagues for approval. The Section IX Secretary will distribute this to the leagues)

- Application completed by all schools
- Chairperson has reviewed request

Host School: _____

Combining School(s): _____

School Year: _____

Sport: _____

Level(s): _____

Combining of Schools Committee Recommendation:

League Approval: YES / NO

If "NO", reason for
rejection: _____

League President Signature: _____

Combining of Teams Signature Page

*The following signatures are required **after** the leagues and section approve the combining of teams' request.

Requesting (Host) School District

Superintendent of Schools: _____

Board of Education President: _____

Athletic Director: _____

Combining School District

Superintendent of Schools: _____

Board of Education President: _____

Athletic Director: _____

Combining School District

Superintendent of Schools: _____

Board of Education President: _____

Athletic Director: _____

Combining School District

Superintendent of Schools: _____

Board of Education President: _____

Athletic Director: _____

***For Section Use only – DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE.**

MHAL League Action:

_____ Approved

_____ Defeated

League President: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Please attach a statement to support the league action.

OCIAA League Action:

_____ Approved

_____ Defeated

League President: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Please attach a statement to support the league action.

Section Action:

_____ Approved

_____ Defeated

Executive Director: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Please attach a statement to support the section action.