



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director

Date: September 16, 2024

RE: Non-Public G Volleyball – Golf – Non-Public Lacrosse Classifications

Background

The 2023-2024 school year is the first in a new two-year classification cycle. Prior to each new classification cycle, NJSIAA staff reviews the number of schools competing in each sport to ensure the classifications used are consistent, where appropriate. Therefore, in an effort to continue to normalize its classifications, NJSIAA staff recommend the following classifications be used for non-public girls volleyball, golf, and non-public lacrosse. All recommendations are based on the total number of schools competing in each sport relative to other sports of like nature or based on recommendations from host facilities.

Proposal

This proposal recommends changes to the current classifications for four sports.

1. Non-Public G Volleyball – due to the increase in number of non-public schools hosting girls volleyball, it is recommended that north and south sections be added to each non-public group. The total number of non-public schools hosting girls volleyball has grown to 53, which is consistent with girls soccer and softball. The previous classifications included two non-public groups and no sections; therefore, this proposal will add two sections (north and south) per group and bring them in line with girls soccer and softball.
2. Golf (Girls) – due to the increase in number of schools hosting girls golf, it is recommended that the non-public schools be separated from the public schools. The total number of public schools is 97 and the total number of non-public schools is 26. Previously, three sectional tournaments were hosted (North, Central, and South) with teams advancing to the state championships. This proposal will classify two public groups (Group A and Group B) each with two sections (north and south) and one non-public group, which will allow for an equitable number of teams in each public section and non-public group. NJSIAA staff confirmed with both the tournament staff and host facilities that all golf courses can accommodate these new classifications.

3. Golf (Boys) – based on feedback from host sites, the golf committee recommends using two sections per each public group (north and south) instead of four (NI, NII, Central, and South). In addition, the golf committee recommends one non-public group with two sections (north and south) instead of two non-public groups, each with two sections. This will ensure the best teams qualify based on the iWannamaker raking system.

4. Non-Public Lacrosse – the total number of non-public schools hosting girls lacrosse is 42 and the total number hosting boys lacrosse is 39, which are consistent with swimming and tennis who both have one non-public group. The previous classifications included two non-public groups (no north and south sections) for both genders and the state tournament was a statewide bracket. This proposal will consolidate the two non-public groups into one non-public group but will maintain a statewide tournament bracket (no north and south sections). Due to competitive balance concerns, both lacrosse committees recommend staying with a statewide bracket and seeding the top 24 teams – this will allow teams seeded #1 - #8 to have a first round bye which will provide for more competitively balanced first round games.