

“Neighboring School” Interpretation and Determination – 2018

Smaller schools are allowed to combine as long as the combined enrollment is 400 or fewer for grades 9-12 for the high school enrollment of those schools.

We feel the combining schools should be from the same area and stated this last year. This year we tightened the “suggestion” by stating the combining schools “should be from neighboring schools”.

I feel we have three teams scheduled for upcoming tournaments that are stretching the spirit of this guideline in order to field a team.

Had we addressed this issue with them earlier, we may have counseled them out of this combination. However, since 1) we did not address it with them earlier, and since 2) “should be neighboring schools” is not stated as a rule or requirement, we have accepted these teams as fully eligible to play this year as they have complied with the under 400 enrollment requirement.

We respect the challenge smaller schools have to find enough players and to compete with larger schools, so it is also within this spirit that we are allowing these “stretched combinations” this year.

The mission of our playoff system is to develop “Hometown Teams” and not to provide an “all-star” team format, so our guidelines will be further adjusted in 2019 to become more defined, keeping the “community/school” team focus intact.

Thank you to those who have provided input, and thank you to all teams for playing.

Jeff

Jeff McCarron
Director
jeff@pacesetternet.com