



Competitive Balance 101

The Basics

Voted in place by the OHSAA member schools in May 2014, Competitive Balance is a process which makes modifications to how schools are placed into tournament divisions in the team sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball. The modifications are based on which students are actually on each respective roster. The roster data collection takes place in ArbiterGame within the 'Students' tab, and the data is entered by each respective athletic administrator or his/her designee. There is a window either near or after the conclusion of each season when roster data is required to be entered and a deadline date when all roster data must be received. Failure to submit roster data may result in penalties as determined by the OHSAA. Refusal to submit roster data or falsification of roster data may result in removal from the OHSAA tournament.

The Formula

Initial Enrollment Count (from EMIS - all students in grades 9 through 11 in a school)

+ **Additional Roster Count** (the students on a respective team, which is determined by multiplying each student on the Initial Roster Count by either Tier 0, Tier 1 or Tier 2 Sport Specific Factor {which is explained below} and adding them together)

= **Adjusted Enrollment Count** (count used for tournament division placement; calculated by the OHSAA office)

Explanation of Tiers

A student's Tier is determined based on how the student came to your school (or came to have a participation opportunity at your school). This formula will vary depending on if you are a public or non-public school. There are three Tiers (Tier 0, Tier 1, Tier 2) and each Tier is a multiplier.

Tier 0 = each student on a particular team's roster meeting the criteria of this factor, multiplied by 0 (so that number will always be 0)

Tier 1 = each student on a particular team's roster meeting the criteria of this factor, multiplied by 1 (so that number will always be 1)

Tier 2 = each student on a particular team's roster meeting the criteria of this factor, multiplied by the sport specific factor (Football = 3; Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, & Softball = 7). Note that the Tier 2 sport specific factor multiplier changed beginning with 2019-20 roster data entry following referendum voting in May 2019.

Tier 1 Non-Enrolled = each student on a particular team's roster meeting the criteria of the factor, multiplied by 1 (so that number will always be 1)

How Do I Determine Tiers?

There is a fundamental difference in how public schools and non-public schools determine Tiers. For a **public school**, begin with "Does the student and at least one parent currently reside within your school district (or within your attendance zone for multiple high school districts)?" For a **non-public school**, begin with "Has the student been continuously enrolled in the same system of education since the start of 7th grade?" A more detailed explanation for each of the three scenarios is provided below.

Public Schools - Determining Tiers (Single High School Districts)

Ask: "Does the student and at least one parent currently reside within your school district?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 0. **** (Visit www.ohsaa.org for non-enrolled students)**

If No, Ask: "Has the student maintained continuous enrollment inside your district since the start of 7th grade (likely via open enrollment)?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 1. **If No:** Enter this student as a Tier 2.

Public Schools - Determining Tiers (Multiple High School Districts)

Ask: "Does the student and at least one parent currently reside within your attendance zone?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 0. **** (Visit www.ohsaa.org for non-enrolled students)**

If No, Ask: "Does the student and at least one parent currently reside within your school district?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 1.

If No, Ask: "Has the student maintained continuous enrollment at a school inside your district since the start of 7th grade (likely via open enrollment)?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 1. **If No:** Enter this student as a Tier 2.

Non-Public Schools - Determining Tiers

Note: For non-public schools, it **does not matter** where the student and his/her parents currently reside.

Ask: "Has the student maintained continuous enrollment in the same system of education since the start of 7th grade?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 2.

If No, Ask: "Did the student attend your designated feeder school since the start of 7th grade and, if he/she did not enter the high school at the beginning of 9th grade, has he/she maintained continuous enrollment in the same system of education?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 0. **If No:** Enter this student as a Tier 1.

Key Roster Data Entry Notes

Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball and Softball

All students who are listed on your OHSAA tournament roster in soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball or softball (even if those students never played in a varsity regular season contest), plus **ANY** student who played in a varsity regular season contest (including those who DID play but later transferred, became ineligible or are now sitting out due to the OHSAA transfer consequence), **MUST** annually be entered in the rostering system and assigned a specific tier.

Football

All football players in grades 10 through 12 listed on **ANY** roster (including those who did not play in a regular season contest, later transferred, became ineligible or are now sitting out due to the OHSAA transfer consequence), plus **ANY** ninth-grade student who played in a varsity regular season football contest (including those who DID play but later transferred, became ineligible or are now sitting out due to the OHSAA transfer consequence), **MUST** annually be entered in the rostering system and assigned a specific tier.

NOTE: These are all changes from past practice when all students in grades 9 through 12 were entered.

For a more detailed description of Competitive Balance plus specific parent and/or student movement situations and more 'unique' situations, look for the Competitive Balance Resource Center on the OHSAA website (<https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources/Competitive-Balance-Resource-Center>).