

**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](mailto: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 Director's 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, must be completed and received by the Section IX Combining of Schools Committee by the deadlines listed below\*:

**Fall Sports: January 15<sup>th</sup> (Football Mergers must be received by January 1<sup>st</sup>)**  
**Winter Sports: March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Spring Sports: May 15<sup>th</sup>**

*\*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. The Combining of Teams Committee will review all documents with Section IX Sport Chairperson.
3. The Combining of Teams Committee will send its recommendation to the leagues for a vote.
4. 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".
5. If approved by the Council, combining schools bring the request to their Board of Education for approval.
6. 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.
7. 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", with applicable Section IX dues waived (for the shadowing school or schools) for the 2016-17 school year.

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(3), b. golf(5), gymnastics(5), alpine skiing(4), nordic skiing(4), swimming(7), outdoor track(4), winter track(7) and 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.

**Combining of Teams Form**

School year \_\_\_\_\_ Sport \_\_\_\_\_

Host school district \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Host enrollment number (9-10-11 plus ungraded) \_\_\_\_\_ Current classification \_\_\_\_\_ \*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Combining school district(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Combining school 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Insufficient number of participants

\_\_\_\_\_ Inadequate facilities

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please explain)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\* Five sport classification numbers 2015-16**

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AA – 910 and up    A – 480-909    B – 280-479    C – 170-279    D – 169 and below  
Class AA – 50%    Class A – 40%    Class B/C - 30%    Class D - 20%.

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## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Combining School District**

Superintendent of Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Education President: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Combining School District**

Superintendent of Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Education President: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Combining School District**

Superintendent of Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Education President: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**MHAL League Action:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved

\_\_\_\_\_ Defeated

League President: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: Antonia Woody Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a statement to support the league action.

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**OCIAA League Action:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved

\_\_\_\_\_ Defeated

League President: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: Michael Bellarosa Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a statement to support the league action.

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**Section Action:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved

\_\_\_\_\_ Defeated

Executive Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: Gregory Ransom Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a statement to support the section action.