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 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**
   - **Winter Sports: March 15**
   - **Spring Sports: May 15**

   *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 weight classes) 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>Five sport classification numbers</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA – 965 and up</td>
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<tr>
<td>A – 500-964</td>
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<tr>
<td>B – 270-499</td>
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<tr>
<td>C – 150-269</td>
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<tr>
<td>D – 149 and below</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class AA – 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class A – 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class B – 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class C - 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class D - 30%</td>
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  *Beginning with the 2018-2019 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 number (9-10-11 plus ungraded) _______ Current classification _______ *

Address ______________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ________ Zip Code ______________

Combining school district(s) __________________________________________________

Combining school enrollment (9-10-11) _______ 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 *

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* Beginning with the 2018-2019 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 – 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: _______________________________________________________________________

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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**

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**MHAL League Action:**

_____ Approved

_____ Defeated

League President: _________________  Print Name: Tom Casatta  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.