



Date: April 5, 2024

To: DDCA Membership

From: DDCA Board of Directors

Subject: State Category Options for Change

The Board has heard from several coaches that there is a need to make changes to our State qualifications and division setting processes.

With the goal of ensuring that we walk away from the meeting with a clear path forward to the OSAA, the Board has decided to proceed with the following process.

Step 1: Each of the items that we have heard would improve state divisions, including the reasons, will be up for a vote at the membership meeting.

Step 2: Each item will be discussed and voted on as *yes, include* or *no, discard*. This will happen item by item. The Top 2 items will be incorporated into a proposal. If we end up with more than two "includes" the membership will rank them in order of importance.

Step 4: After the meeting the Board will draft the final proposal and send it to the membership for vote over email.

What the Board has heard as ideas to improve State divisions:

Option 1. Adjust the score to qualify a second routine. Right now, the proposed idea is 70 (6A), 65 (5A), 60 (4A-1A).

Option 2. Adjust the number of teams to make a division. Right now, the proposed idea is 5 (6A), 4 (5A), 3 (4A-1A). Trophies to 50% up to five teams.

Option 3. Write into the OSAA collapse policy, that if 4A-1A fields enough teams, and 5A doesn't then 5A will automatically roll-up into 6A.

Option 4. Write into the OSAA collapse policy, that if 4A-1A fields enough teams, and 5A doesn't, 5A will be rolled into the classification with the fewer number of teams.

Example: 6A Traditional has 11 teams, 5A Traditional has 4 teams, 4A-1A Traditional has 9 teams. 5A would be combined with 4A-1A.

Example: 6A Pom has 6 teams, 5A Pom has 3 teams, 4A-1A Pom has 7 teams. 5A Pom would be combined with 6A Pom.

It is our goal that by more active participation from the membership, we will get a proposal with broad support which will in turn strengthen our case at the OSAA level.

Specific Details:

Option 1. Adjust the score to qualify a second routine. The proposal is:

- **70 (6A)**
- **65 (5A)**
- **60 (4A-1A)**

Option 1 Reasons:

- 1) One of the main goals of changing to a category style state was to increase involvement and give student athletes more opportunities, we have been excluding teams from participating in the state championships because of the current requirements.
- 2) It would give more teams the opportunity to compete two routines in the final competition of the year.
- 3) At State 2024, three additional teams would have qualified two routines (2 in the 4A-1A classification; 1 in the 5A classification).

a. Data Points

Year	4A-1A	5A	Total
2024	2 routines	1 routine	3 routines
2023	0 routines	0 routines	0 routines

Option 1 Ramifications:

- 1) More teams would be able to participate in the OSAA State Championships
- 2) Additional performances would length the competitive rounds at the State Championships.

Option 2. Adjust the number of teams to make a division. Trophies to 50% up to five teams. The proposal is:

- **5 teams (6A)**
- **4 teams (5A)**
- **3 teams (4A-1A)**

Option 2 Reasons:

- 4) Smaller schools (1A-4A and 5A) have fewer schools with dance teams, it requires about 50% of the teams to choose a category in order to have enough teams to create a category at state, otherwise, they get collapsed into another division.
 - a. Could prevent classifications from collapsing resulting in dedicated 4A-1A, 5A, and 6A divisions.

- 5) If we add a 3rd category possibility at state, this would allow more teams to participate because achieving a category would be more possible
- 6) One of the main goals of changing to a category style state was to increase involvement and give student athletes more opportunities, we have been excluding teams from participating in the state championships because of the current requirements.

Option 2 Ramifications:

- 1) Fewer trophies would be awarded in those categories with fewer teams (see above).
- 2) Could result in additional trophy expenses as more divisions reach 9 or more teams.

Option 3. Write into the OSAA collapse policy, that if 4A-1A fields enough teams, and 5A doesn't then 5A will automatically roll-up into 6A.

This change would continue to support DDCA Proposal #71 in our DDCA log that already collapses 4A/3A/2A/1A schools for State Championships – written 3/30/2013

This change would ensure OSAA does not further collapse 1-4A classification if there are enough entrants to make a division

Option 3 Reasons:

- 1) Our 1A-4A schools are dwindling for Dance/Drill. Currently registered for Dance/Drill through OSAA: (1) 2A school, (4) 3A schools, (10) 4A schools, (22) 5A schools, and (38) 6A schools – the opportunities for 5A and 6A schools to have their own category divisions at State far outweigh the possibility for the 1A-4A schools.
- 2) There are tangible struggles for 1A-4A schools (money, distance, community resources, number of students, and potential available pool of participants, etc.), which is why OSAA has divisions for Oregon's sports and activities – to create viable solutions to make things more equitable. However, 1A-4A schools in Dance/Drill are getting the lowest priority to sustain a category division of their own. As a result, fewer 1A-4A teams are competing at state.
- 3) At the DDCA Winter meeting, it was suggested that all divisions be transparent with the routines we take to state, to avoid some of the collapsing of categories that happened in 2023. Our small 1A-4A division coaches transparently communicated to try and keep the numbers up in categories for state. They accomplished this with Traditional – 1A-4A had 8 teams registered for State. OSAA still chose to collapse them with the (4) 5A division teams, whom they could have given their own division (like kick the previous year) or combined them with 6A Traditional, which their scores were more congruent and less varied in comparison to 1-4A.
- 4) This 2024 Traditional collapse put **ALL four** 5A teams in the top block at State, which means their scores were all naturally higher than 6 of our 1A-4A schools. As a result, the top two of our 1A-4A teams received a trophy, but the other 3 trophies were given to 5A schools. This is significant since this was the *ONLY CATEGORY* that 1A-4A could have competed in their own division. For the 1A-4A schools to lose the opportunity of 2 or 3 trophies, it is a huge deal for these small communities. It is a lost

opportunity to prove their worth to their districts and to help grow our programs in the future. By the OSAA guidelines of at least five teams in a division – this could and should have been avoided in order to protect our declining 1-4A bracket schools.

Option 3 Ramifications:

1) IF 1A-4A has enough to make a division, it could push 5A to compete with 6A in one or more divisions, or it could mean OSAA gives 5A schools their own division for that category (OSAA had empty divisions that were not filled in 2024). OSAA could also allow the option for a division that falls short to change their category or opt to compete up.

2) IF 1A-4A schools have at least one division of their own, it would mean more trophies could go to a 1A-4A school – which could encourage other smaller schools to compete at State, giving them a chance to succeed. A state trophy represents a sense of pride and accomplishment, which is especially important in these small or rural communities who have fewer options or resources for students.

3) By protecting our 1-4A classification schools, it shows good faith that OSAA values the efforts of a declining classification and will support our DDCA organization with growth of our dance programs.

4) Continuing to collapse 1A-4A when they have enough to make their own division will inevitably continue to push disheartened teams out of competing at state (especially with the financial burdens) - we need to grow our 1A/2A/3A/4A schools.

Option 4. Write into the OSAA collapse policy, that if 4A-1A fields enough teams, and 5A doesn't, 5A will be rolled into the classification with the fewer number of teams.

Example: 6A Traditional has 11 teams, 5A Traditional has 4 teams, 4A-1A Traditional has 9 teams. 5A would be combined with 4A-1A.

Example: 6A Pom has 6 teams, 5A Pom has 3 teams, 4A-1A Pom has 7 teams. 5A Pom would be combined with 6A Pom.

Option 4 reasons:

- 1) Current OSAA manual language: *Section 1.4.3 Minimum Division Size. If fewer than five teams enter for a division, the division shall be combined with another division.*
- 2) This change would provide some guidance for how divisions are combined with a focus on finding balance between the two state divisions in a particular style.
- 3) Reduces the unknown for how divisions will be combined.

Option 4 Ramifications:

1) This option doesn't have a specific carve out for 1A-4A teams to not be combined with 5A if there are 5 teams from 1A-4A registered.