

**Proposed Amendment to the
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Recommendation

This amendment would set the number of teams advancing to the playoffs at two (2) teams per district in specific circumstances. In activities where two complete conferences are combined for play during the regular season, but then those conferences are split back into separate conferences for the post season, this rule would set the number of teams advancing to the playoffs from each district for the smaller conference at two (2).

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

In some activities conferences are combined for regular season participation because of the reduced number of participating schools and travel concerns. However, for competitive balance purposes, those conferences prefer to be separated in the post season so schools are not participating for championships against schools that are much larger than they are. Due to the low number of participating schools with smaller enrollments in those activities where this occurs, advancing more than two (2) teams to the playoffs leads to brackets with too many empty slots, too many byes in playoff rounds and teams advancing deep into the playoffs without actually having to play any post season games.

C. Proposed Recommendation

The Coaches Manuals of applicable activities would be amended as noted below if approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education:

-Teams Advancing to the Playoffs

Conference 1A: the top two teams from each district advance to the playoffs*.

Conference 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A: the top four teams from each district advance to the playoffs.

*Applies only when 1A and 2A are combined for participation in the regular season, but separated for post season / playoff purposes.

D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools

If additional teams advance to the playoffs, there could be expenses associated with that participation, however, these games could also generate revenue to offset those expenses.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2016.