

X-1

Florida High School Athletic Association Urban/Rural Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Recommendation 1 – Creation of a Division II Classification:

A new division of participating schools (private and public) needs to be created. This “Division II” would be comprised of member high schools in communities, which have been designated as rural by the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED) **and** whose student enrollment is 500 or less¹. The FHSAA should establish the district classifications based on the responses from member schools, which qualify for the Division II status. This classification shall be limited to the following sports: Boys & Girls Basketball, Baseball, Football, Boys & Girls Soccer, Softball, and Girl’s Volleyball. The FHSAA is charged with soliciting the acceptance of this rural school Division II status, as defined herein, prior to the time of reclassification.

Recommendation 2 – Recruiting violation Penalties:

Penalties for an offense of recruiting or any violation(s) of eligibility Bylaws needs to be very severe, including but not limited to: program and/or school suspension from the Association, program and/or school restrictive probation to include exclusion from state series playoff events, and increased financial penalties.

Recommendation 3 – Limitation on International Students:

The FHSAA should investigate the use of a “clearinghouse” for international student eligibility similar to the clearinghouse system utilized for school accreditation. The FHSAA should present research to member schools regarding what other state Associations are doing in regard to international and foreign exchange student eligibility and participation. The committee recommends that no more than one international student be eligible to participate on each varsity level team.

Recommendation 4 –

The FHSAA should seek input from member schools regarding reclassification and redistricting processes.

¹ The student population of 500 is an approximation and the actual student population number should be determined by the FHSAA staff and should be based upon the actual number of schools required to create a competitive Division II classification.