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ASHEBORO - Teams from Randolph County will be vying for one of 48 postseason berths for each classification when the new realignment takes effect in the next school sports season.

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Board of Directors approved a proposal from the Bylaw Committee that determines the number of teams which will qualify for the state playoffs.

Schools were informed of the numbers Monday.

Each of the 1-A through 7-A classifications will have 48 teams in the playoff bracket, while the 8-A classification, which features far fewer teams, will have a 32-team playoff bracket. Each of the classifications from 1-A to 7-A are limited to 64 schools, while the 8-A division is limited to 32.

"We believe this would enhance competitiveness, equity and participation across all classifications," the proposal from the Bylaw Committee says, noting that the committee believes 32-team brackets is not enough, but allowing all teams to make the playoffs would be too much.

In 48-team brackets, the top 16 seeds will receive a first-round bye. After first-round action, brackets will have 32 teams for round two, the same as they are in the current format.

"We can ensure that initial matchups are more competitive, addressing past concerns about 'blowouts' that detracted from the experience for athletes and schools; thereby reducing the likelihood of unbalanced games," the proposal says.

The Bylaw Committee has not yet submitted a proposal to the board regarding how teams will qualify for the playoffs, but NCHSAA Commissioner Que Tucker told member schools in an email that the proposal is expected at the board meeting in April.



- * Asheboro, Northeast Guilford, Southern Guilford, Eastern Guilford, Southeast Guilford and Northern Guilford will be in the 5-A/6-A Triad Area Athletic Conference (TAAC 6);
- * Randleman, Central Davidson, Lexington, Ledford, High Point Andrews, High Point Central and Montgomery Central are in the 4-A/5-A Piedmont Athletic Conference (PAC 7);
- * Eastern Randolph, Southwestern Randolph, Uwharrie Charter Academy, North Moore, Northwood and Jordan-Matthews are in the 3-A/4-A Four Rivers Conference;
- * Providence Grove, Trinity, Wheatmore, Thomasville, West Davidson and East Davidson are in the Central Carolina 3-A Conference.

Playoff structure for individual sports are still being discussed.

This will be the first year member schools are divided into eight classifications.