



DCIAA Announces New Stars and Stripes Division Rules

The District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletic Association (DCIAA) releases new rules to determine how DC Public Schools (DCPS) Varsity Football programs are placed into the district’s “Stars” and “Stripes” divisions.

In 2013, DCIAA established a multi-tier football system (“Stars” and “Stripes”) to align with new District of Columbia State Athletic Association (DCSAA) divisions. Over the past 10 years, the Stars and Stripes system helped strengthen smaller football programs by ensuring that teams competed for state championships against similarly performing opponents.

This year, DCIAA engaged coaches, athletic directors, and players across school football communities to update its regulations for how teams move between divisions*. This new set of rules will go into effect immediately and will impact movement between the divisions at the end of the 2023 Football Season.

Where

**With 13 teams across DCPS, each division is permitted a maximum of seven teams.*

Stars Teams



Ballou



Dunbar



Eastern



H.D. Woodson



Jackson-Reed



Roosevelt

Stripes Teams



Anacostia



Cardozo



CHEC



Coolidge



McKinley Tech



Phelps



Ron Brown

New Division Rules Taking Effect This Year

If a Stripes team wins two Gravy Bowl Championships in a three-year span, then that team will move to the Stars Division. Previous rules required teams to win two consecutive **Gravy Bowl Championships**. This new rule simplifies movement into the Stars division by recognizing Stripes teams' wins against division opponents over a longer period of time.

If a Stripes team wins two Gravy Bowl Championships in a three-year span and there are already seven Stars teams in the division, the Stars team with the lowest Stars Division winning percentage* over the most recent three-year period will move to the Stripes Division.

If a Stars team places last in its division for three consecutive years, that team will be moved into the Stripes Division to rebuild its program. If there are already seven Stripes teams at that time, the Stripes team with the highest Stripes Division winning percentage* over the most recent three-year period will move into the Stars Division.

**In situations where teams are tied for the lowest or highest winning percentage in their division, the DCIAA Tie Break Procedures will determine division movement. A division game is a competition between common DCIAA opponents within their division (i.e., not including playoffs or games between Stars and Stripes teams).*

