

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE:

## Badger Conference Realignment

September 30, 2019

On behalf of the Badger Conference principals and athletic directors, we are pleased to share with you our conference realignment plan. There has been much discussion over the past four years and even mentioned by the WIAA at an area meeting regarding realigning our conference. Once Watertown and Beaver Dam were moved into the Badger Conference, the principals voted to re-visit the alignment after 2 years.

In the Fall of 2018, the Badger Conference principals directed the athletic directors to review the alignment, taking into account geographic locations (distance each school travels), school size, and competitive balance. In the Spring of 2019, the athletic directors brought forth the East/West Division format for consideration and was approved by the principals at the April meeting.

The new alignment was selected based on the following conclusions, when comparing the new alignment to the current alignment:

- 1) The East/West alignment creates a more equitable distribution of total miles traveled throughout the conference. Reduced travel on school nights was a priority to minimize time lost from class to maximize study time for student athletes.
- 2) The divisional component creates more “close” contests, also decreasing travel and minimizing time missed from class.
- 3) The East/West Divisions better aligns schools according to enrollment with the East containing 7 of the 8 “large” schools and the West containing 7 of the 8 “small” schools. Oregon and Fort Atkinson are the exceptions.

Over the course of the 2019-2020 school year, the athletic directors will create the specific scheduling concepts to utilize the four school divisional format, aligning it to the specific scheduling details for each sport. The realignment will take effect in the Fall of 2021. The divisions are listed below with each schools 2018 enrollment as pulled from the WIAA website the date of this release.

**Badger West**

**North Division**

Baraboo – 939

Portage – 765

Reedsburg – 881

Sauk Prairie – 834

**South Division**

Edgewood – 497

Monroe – 723

Mount Horeb – 776

Oregon – 1149

**Badger East**

**North Division**

Beaver Dam – 1067

DeForest – 1017

Watertown – 1302

Waunakee – 1303

**South Division**

Fort Atkinson – 957

Milton – 1126

Monona Grove – 1076

Stoughton – 968

As a conference, we feel this will improve the high school athletic experience for our student athletes and their families. We are excited to develop creative schedules utilizing the innovative divisional format. If you have any questions regarding our realignment or the process in which we arrived at the solution, please contact us, or any Badger Conference athletic director.

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President for Badger Conference  
Athletic Directors, 2019-20

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Milton High School  
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