

NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES FOR COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIP

Purpose:

The philosophy of the Nebraska School Activities Association is to provide an opportunity for high school students to participate in a variety of athletic and non-athletic activities. Through cooperative sponsorship, the opportunity for student participation will be maintained, or increased, by permitting students who do not have a program available in their school to go to another school for athletic and non-athletic activity participation. The problem of declining enrollment, the inherent financial ramifications of supporting the cost of the program, the lack of facilities and equipment, and the problem of providing quality coaching staff when the number of teaching positions is reduced, make cooperative sponsorship desirable.

Schools will not be permitted to use cooperative sponsorship to gain an advantage over other member schools.

Guidelines:

1. A maximum of four schools may combine and form a cooperative program.
2. The combining schools must be in the same geographical area, and the school districts must be contiguous or all schools located in the same school district. If a school has attempted to cooperatively sponsor a program with a contiguous district and was denied, the contiguous requirement may be waived.
3. **The cooperative sponsorship agreement shall be for a minimum of two years.**
The cooperative agreement may be voided at any time by mutual agreement of both/all schools **and approval by the NSAA Board of Directors.** No other cooperative agreement in the same activity may be made with another school until the original two-year period elapses.
4. The cooperative agreement will be for each activity. A school may have a cooperative agreement with one school in a particular activity and with another school in another activity.
5. Where there is an absence of an effective program in one school, a cooperative program may be established, provided a need is shown to the NSAA Board of Directors. Examples which may constitute need are: 1) insufficient numbers; 2) lack of staff; and 3) lack of facilities.
6. In multi-school districts, the central administration must designate the schools which may request permission to cooperatively sponsor activities.
7. If a school in one district wishes to join with a school in a multi-school district in a cooperatively sponsored activity, the school must join with the nearest high school in the multi-school district which offers the activity.
8. If a school previously has offered a program in an activity and there has been no significant decrease in high school enrollment, the school would not be permitted to participate in a cooperative program.
9. If a school has previously played eleven-man football and has sufficient interest and enrollment for eight-man football, the school would not be permitted to cooperatively sponsor football with another school. If two/three schools which have previously played six-man football agree to cooperatively sponsor football, the cooperative team may continue to play six-man football if the enrollment requirement is met. If two/three schools which have previously played eight-man football agree to cooperatively sponsor football, the cooperative team may play eight-man football if the combined enrollment of the schools is less than 83.
10. If, through a cooperative sponsorship, the number participating in a program in either school would be reduced, the request would not be approved.
11. The enrollment (grades 9, 10, and 11, as taken from the forms sent to the NSAA office for classification purposes) of all of the schools entering into a cooperative sponsorship will be combined to determine the class in which the combined program will participate. Each school will continue to participate in its class in all activities except where the cooperative sponsorship applies.
12. All schools of a cooperative program are required to pay the yearly registration fee.

Problems Schools Need to Resolve Before Entering Into a Cooperative Program:

1. If you already have a program, are students from another school going to replace students from your community?
2. Who will pay the cost of equipment and travel?
3. How will gate receipts be dispersed?
4. Who is responsible for the cost of travel to and from practice?
5. Where will practice be held?
6. Where will contests be played?
7. Which school's identity will be used? Mascot, colors, etc.
8. Are local eligibility rules, lettering guidelines, etc., the same at both/all schools?
9. Selection of cheerleaders. Who's eligible?
10. Will activity tickets and/or season tickets be honored?
11. How will coaches be employed and paid?
12. Insurance.
13. If students are combined for girls basketball, for example, the boys' teams may be assigned to different districts--possibly even different classes.
14. Expenses for facilities, lights, heating, showers, towels, laundry, etc., including maintenance of practice and playing facilities.
15. Expenses for scouting, coaches' meetings, etc. Who is responsible?
16. Contracts with other schools, officials, etc.
17. Responsibilities for hosting and supervising events.
18. Resolution of disputes.
19. Which school will handle eligibility?

Application:

1. The application form, available on the AD login page of the NSAA website, must be completed by both/all schools and submitted to the NSAA. A copy of the action item from your Board of Education minutes, stating the application was approved, must be uploaded.
2. **The coop deadlines are July 1 for fall activities, October 1 for winter activities and January 1 for spring activities.**
3. Member schools may apply for cooperative sponsorship in any activity recognized by the NSAA.

Renewals:

If the high schools plan to continue cooperatively sponsor the same program(s) as they sponsored during the preceding school year, the head school should mark "RENEWAL" at the top of the Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement form and mark the activities and years for which the combined program will be in effect. The superintendent of each high school must then electronically sign their portion of the form before it is submitted to the NSAA.

It will not be necessary for the schools to complete the entire Cooperative Program Application form unless additional programs are added.

The agreement to continue the cooperative program should be approved by the schools' Boards of Education/Governing Bodies, but it is not necessary for members of the Board of Education/Governing Body to sign the agreement. Hopefully, this will save time and simplify the renewal process.

Renewal requests must be received by the NSAA by the applicable renewal dates:

1. July 1 for cooperative programs that will be implemented during the following fall sports season;
2. October 1 for cooperative programs that will be implemented during the following winter sports season;
3. January 1 for cooperative programs that will be implemented during the following spring sports season.

KEY FOR ACTIVITY ABBREVIATIONS—

FB6-Football 6-man
FB8-Football 8-man
FB11-Football 11-man
VB-Volleyball
BCC-Boys Cross Country
GCC-Girls Cross Country
GGO-Girls Golf
BTE-Boys Tennis
GSB-Girls Softball
UBO-Unified Sports, Bowling

BSW-Boys Swimming
GSW-Girls Swimming
WR-Wrestling
WR_G-Girls Wrestling
BBB-Boys Basketball
GBB-Girls Basketball
BBO-Boys Bowling
GBO-Girls Bowling
PP-Play Production
SP-Speech

DE-Debate
BA-Baseball
BTR-Boys Track
GTR-Girls Track
GTE-Girls Tennis
BGO-Boys Golf
BSO-Boys Soccer
GSO-Girls Soccer
UTR-Unified Sports, Track
VM-Vocal Music
IM-Instrumental Music
JO-Journalism