

## **Guidelines for NDHSAA Cooperative Applications**

The NDHSAA Board of Directors must approve all cooperative sponsorship applications.

### **Philosophy**

One of the NDHSAA Board purposes is to provide a means of participation to students whose schools are unable to support a program on its own.

It is the preference of the Board to approve coops between smaller schools rather than smaller schools with the larger schools.

Improving the win/loss record will not be valid criteria for coop approval.

### **Action: Effective July 1, 2009**

For the application to be considered, the following conditions must be met:

1. A current single application form must be jointly completed by all applying schools.
2. Schools should be located in the same geographical region.
3. Combined enrollment figures will be used to determine division of competition in all activities except for wrestling and cross country as provided for in the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws.
4. Cooperative agreement applications will not be considered via conference call.
5. Any dissolution of cooperative agreements must be approved by the NDHSAA Board of Directors. Before dissolution will be considered during the first three years of a cooperative agreement, schools in the coop must provide proof of support. After three years, an individual school may petition the NDHSAA Board for dissolution.
6. Requests for a cooperative agreement between schools with existing programs must be submitted to NDHSAA prior to the end of the preceding season in that activity with the exception of football. Completed football cooperative agreements must be received by September 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding year to be considered by the Board of Directors. If a coop application is submitted following the end of the preceding season, a \$500 late fee must be paid. Coop applications will only be considered by the NDHSAA Board of Directors when completed coop applications have been submitted to the NDHSAA office by the following dates:
  - i. Fall Sports-----June 1<sup>st</sup>, prior to start of season
  - ii. Winter Sports----September 1<sup>st</sup>, prior to start of season
  - iii. Spring Sports----January 1<sup>st</sup>, prior to start of seasonIn the case of emergency coop requests, the Executive Board Committee, upon hearing the reasons, may recommend the application be considered by the Board of Directors.
7. Requests for cooperative agreements involving one or more schools that do not have an existing program must be submitted in accordance to the deadlines as stated in 7i-iii.