

Cooperative sponsorships between two or more member schools are required in these MSHSL programs:

Badminton, Girls	Hockey, Adapted	Softball, Adapted
Baseball	Hockey, Boys/Girls	Softball, Girls Fastpitch
Basketball, Boys/Girls	Lacrosse, Boys/Girls	Speech
Bowling, Adapted	Music	Swimming and Diving, Boys/Girls
Cross Country Running, Boys/Girls	One Act Play	Synchronized Swimming, Girls
Dance Team	Skiing, Alpine, Boys/Girls	Tennis, Boys/Girls
Debate	Skiing, Nordic Ski Racing, Boys/Girls	Visual Arts
Football	Soccer, Adapted	Volleyball, Boys/Girls
Golf, Boys/Girls	Soccer, Boys/Girls	Wrestling
Gymnastics, Girls		

2. Newly formed Cooperative Sponsorships

A. Each member school that wishes to cooperatively sponsor an MSHSL program must provide:

- 1) the documented need for the Co-op including participation numbers for each school at all grade levels 7-12, facilities available, financial impacts or benefits and appropriate student data that indicates interest in the program.
- 2) a summary of the steps each school has taken to promote participation in the program for which a cooperative sponsorship is proposed and what is the future intent of the program.
- 3) a written review and comment regarding the proposed cooperative sponsorship from:
 - a) the Activities Director of each member school of the conference/conferences in which the proposed cooperative sponsorship school(s) participates.
 - b) the Activities Director of each school in the most current competitive section or sub-section in which the proposed cooperative sponsorship will participate.
 - c) the Secretary of the Region Committee in which the largest school in the proposed cooperative sponsorship competes as reviewed at a Region Committee meeting OR by contacting the Region Committee members, individually, for their response.

In each instance in letters a-c above, a simple majority of the schools in the conference, section(s) and the Region Committee must approve the proposed cooperatively sponsored program before any of the required information can be submitted to the MSHSL office.

- 4) any other information as may be deemed informative for the MSHSL Board of Directors in making a final determination regarding the proposed cooperative sponsorship.

B. Appeal to Add a Cooperative Sponsorship:

The League Board of Directors will provide a hearing process for any member school requesting an exception to any cooperative sponsorship not approved per MSHSL Bylaw 403.2.A or 403.4.B. The request for a hearing shall be submitted in writing and sent to the Executive Director of the Minnesota State High School League prior to the first day of that sport season.

C. Appeal to Review an Existing Cooperative Sponsorship:

By October 15 of the school year in which the League completes the two-year competitive placement cycle, any conference or school(s) within the section in which members of the cooperative sponsorship competes can request a review in writing of any existing cooperative sponsorship to the Executive Director of the MSHSL provided the reason for the request fully details why the Board of Directors should consider such review of the cooperative sponsorship. The process for a review of an existing cooperative sponsorship is available through the League Office.

3. Cooperative Sponsorship with Charter Schools (Non-Exclusive Cooperative Sponsorship)

Charter Schools who are members of the Minnesota State High School League and who are organized as prescribed by M.S. 124E.03 may have multiple non-exclusive cooperative sponsorships in the same MSHSL program with public schools provided that:

- A. The Charter School does not have its own team in that program;
- B. The Charter School student(s) return(s) to the public school in the attendance area of the public school where the student(s) officially resides with their parent(s) or guardian(s);
- C. The Charter Schools, on behalf of the student(s) officially enrolled in the Charter School, comply with all of the eligibility and financial requirements prescribed by the public school in the attendance area where the student(s) officially resides with their parent(s) or guardian(s); and
- D. The boards of education of the public school(s) and the Charter School agree to cooperatively sponsor the program and complete the required League cooperative sponsorship form(s).

4. Application Procedure

A. Each member school participating in a cooperative sponsorship must register and pay as an individual school to participate in each cooperatively sponsored MSHSL program.

B. The governing boards of participating member schools must jointly make the application to the League Board of Directors.

- 1) The request must include a resolution adopted by each board of education stating the purpose for sponsoring a joint team or program.
- 2) Each application for a cooperative sponsorship must include the requirements as identified in 403.2.A.
- 3) Deadline for Application: Requests for a cooperative sponsorship must be submitted to the League not later than 30 days prior to the first day of practice for that program season to be considered for that program season. Decisions for applications for cooperative sponsorship programs will be determined by the League at the next Board of Directors meeting.

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- C. Cooperative sponsorship agreements must be for a minimum of two years. Cooperative sponsorship agreements will be continuous following the first two-year agreement unless an application for dissolution is submitted as outlined in MSHSL Bylaw 403.8.
- D. Any member school(s) who add a co-op later than 30 days prior to the first day of practice in that program may request the Board of Directors to review the request as identified in 403.2.B.
5. **Transfers Between Schools with Cooperative Programs**
When a student transfers from one school to another school that cooperatively sponsor an MSHSL program or programs the student shall remain fully eligible in all programs that are cooperatively sponsored. MSHSL Bylaw 111—Transfer and Residence, shall be used to determine the student's eligibility for the programs that are not cooperatively sponsored.
6. **Home Schools and Charter Schools**
Home Schools and Charter Schools joining the League and entering into cooperative sponsorship agreements after September 1 will be allowed a late registration provided they can show evidence from their local school administration that they had no knowledge of the League deadline dates, process, etc.
7. **Identification of Cooperatively Sponsored Teams**
The official school identification in tournament programs and League communications for cooperatively sponsored teams will be listed as indicated on the cooperative sponsorship resolutions submitted by the schools.
8. **Reviewing, Amending, Dissolving a Cooperative Sponsorship**
- Cooperative sponsorship agreements must be reviewed by representatives from all MSHSL member schools involved every two years. Amendments to the cooperative sponsorship may not be unreasonably denied by the participating schools.
 - If either or any of the schools in the cooperative sponsorship wish to dissolve the agreement, they may do so provided a minimum of one year's notice is given in writing to the other school(s) unless the schools mutually agree to discontinue the cooperative sponsorship agreement.
 - Requests to dissolve the cooperative sponsorship must be submitted to the League not later than the first day of practice for that program season. Decisions on all applications will be determined by the League at the next Board of Directors meeting.
 - The dissolution request must include a resolution stating the purpose for dissolving the cooperative sponsorship.
 - Any conference or competitive section school(s) in which the members of the cooperative sponsorship program competes may ask the MSHSL Board of Directors to review the co-op approval as identified in 403.2C.
 - The Board of Directors may establish a committee to review all requests.

BYLAW 403.00 INTERPRETATION

Q. What procedure should be followed when an additional school is to be added to an existing cooperative sponsorship agreement?

A. Cooperative sponsorship is an agreement between two or more member schools. When an additional school is to be added to an existing cooperative sponsorship agreement, the schools in the existing cooperative sponsorship agreement must submit an application for dissolution. Following the dissolution, a new application must be submitted on behalf of all of the schools in the new agreement. The new agreement creates a cooperative sponsorship that must be in place for two years.

BYLAW 404.00**LOCAL CONTROL**

Member schools may, if they so desire, prescribe eligibility bylaws that are more restrictive than those of the League. They may not adopt bylaws which lessen the effect of or change League bylaws except as noted in 302.00.

BYLAW 405.00**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION
IN THE MSHSL POSTSEASON**

Team: A member school must schedule a minimum of three MSHSL varsity contests to qualify for MSHSL postseason participation in that sport.

Individual: Nordic and Alpine skiers must compete in at least three separate MSHSL meets to be eligible to enter section competition.

BYLAW 406.00**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

Group and individual physical development programs open to all students between the close of one season and the opening of the next season are encouraged. The use of high school gymnasiums and other athletic facilities during the same period is also encouraged. Coaching of sport techniques and skills to students who have participated on MSHSL teams is a violation of the bylaw and should not be included in a program which emphasizes physical development rather than skills and techniques of specific sports. Chalk talks/"skull sessions" emphasizing sport skills and techniques are a violation of the bylaw. There shall be no requirement for athletes to participate in the program as a criteria for being on an MSHSL team. Activities conducted by secondary students and sanctioned camps or clinics are exceptions to this bylaw.