

RULE 7 - COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

- 7-1** Cooperative programs allow teams or individuals an opportunity to compete in IHSAA sanctioned activities in which they would not otherwise be able to compete. All member schools of the IHSAA are eligible to participate in a cooperative program.
- 7-2** Cooperative sponsorship of any activity by two or more member schools are permitted in one of the following categories:
- a. Combined Cooperative Program: Students from more than one school combine to compete as one team. The combined teams' classification is determined by combined enrollments of the member schools involved. Combined enrollment supersedes all classification petitions. This program applies to football, volleyball, soccer, basketball, softball, baseball, competitive cheer, and dance. Note: Failure of a school district to provide a coach or facility will not justify approval of a combined cooperative. For 6A schools, combined enrollment cannot exceed 150% of host school's student enrollment.
 - b. Collective Cooperative Program: Students from more than one school share resources, but must compete as representatives of their home school at district and state competition. School classification remains the same. This program applies to cross country, wrestling, swimming, golf, tennis, track, the individual track event of pole vault, drama, debate and speech.
- 7-3** Cooperative program applications are required at the beginning of each classification cycle and will be in effect for a minimum of two years. Mid-cycle applications will be accepted on a one-year basis.
- 7-4** If the combined enrollments of the schools involved in a combined cooperative program exceeds the minimum number of the next higher classification the combined cooperative team will compete at that higher classification in that activity.
- 7-5** Application process for cooperative programs:
- a. The sponsoring school shall submit an application for each cooperative program through the IHSAA online cooperative application. The sponsoring school shall identify all participating schools and the activity, program type, and applicable school year(s). Participating schools must approve the application before it advances in the approval process.
 - b. Following approval by the participating schools, the application shall advance through the approval process, including each participating school's superintendent and the appropriate District Board(s) of Control. If schools are members of different districts, approval is required from each applicable Board of Control. Deadline for fall activities is August 1; for winter activities is October 15; and for spring activities is January 15.
 - c. After approval by the District Board(s) of Control, the application shall be forwarded to the IHSAA for review and final approval. IHSAA executive staff may approve cooperative programs. Participating schools will be notified of the final decision.