

New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association

P.O. Box 487, Robbinsville, NJ 08691

TO: Principals and Athletic Directors of Cooperative Sports Programs
FROM: Larry White, Executive Director
DATE: March 2018 (For the 2018-2019 school year)
TO: Cooperative Sports Program Application

Attached is the application relative to the Cooperative Sports Program (CSP).

You should be aware of the following facts pertaining to the CSP:

- 1. NEW for 2018 – Group III, IV & V football programs will be permitted to Co-Op, however they will not be permitted to enter the NJSIAA football State Tournament**
2. Cooperating schools must be classified as Group I, II, III or Non-Public B according to the general classification but only one school in the agreement can be classified as Group III. In addition, a Group IV may co-op with a Group I school when the Group IV school is attempting to start a new program. Such a co-op between a Group IV and Group I may exist for two years and cannot be renewed.
3. Classification for the merged sports program will be determined based upon joint pupil enrollment of grades 9, 10, and 11. One hundred percent (100%) of the sending school's enrollment shall be added to the host school's enrollment for the purpose of post season playoff classification. Such classification of the LEA will not affect either school's classification in any other sport.
4. A member school may not enter into an agreement for a Cooperative Sports Program with more than one other school; however, such an agreement may be for one or more sports involving the cooperating schools.
5. A Cooperative Sports Program for a particular sport will cover all levels of competition (e.g., Freshman, Sophomore, J.V. and Varsity).
6. No program shall include basketball, baseball, softball or outdoor track. If one of the cooperative members is a Group III or IV school, this list is extended to include no programs in soccer or lacrosse.
7. Ice Hockey co-ops have no restriction as to groups. Any two public schools may form an ice hockey co-op. Any two non-publics may co-op. Publics cannot co-op with non-publics. Ice Hockey three (3) member school tri-op programs not exceeding a thirty (30) student-athlete roster will be permitted. Please refer to the sport specific ice hockey section of this application.
8. The combined enrollments for all schools in a co-op or tri-op may place the CSP in a higher group classification.
9. The NJSIAA will not mediate any disagreements between the cooperating schools nor may the Association be named as party to any issues resulting from this program. Such disputes will be resolved at the local level.

10. The participating schools shall agree on the legal, financial, staff and personnel responsibilities of each school, including but not limited to, such considerations as transportation, release time, equipment, training, rules, and medical, police, supervisory and custodial services.
11. The LEA/Host School for the particular sport shall be the host school and the program shall function as any other sport in that school.
12. A participating school shall not withdraw from a Cooperative Program until the completion of the involved sport season.
13. The LEA/Host will be considered the home site, and as such will be entitled to all League/Conference and NJSIAA awards; however, whenever a disqualification of a co-op student-athlete occurs, the penalty will be assigned to that student-athlete's school.
14. Co-op or Tri-op members may include all school names on their uniforms; however, the co-op/tri-op program name must be designated on this application. Please note - if a team name is chosen for uniforms, the designated LEA name will still be used for all NJSIAA classifications, njschoolsports.com records, and nj.com brackets.
15. The student-athletes shall be subject to NJSIAA eligibility rules as well as the eligibility rules of both schools; where rules are at variance, the more stringent rules will be in effect.
16. The decision of the Executive Committee will be final, with NO appeals.

Cooperative Sports Timelines

- May 1: Application deadline for fall sports.
October 1: Application deadline for winter sports.
February 1: Application deadline for spring sports.

Applications received after the seasonal due date will not be accepted and deferred to the next school year.

Cooperative sports program information is located in the NJSIAA Bylaws, Article III, Section 10.

Application for Cooperative Sports Programs

School #1 (LEA/Host) _____ Section _____ Group _____

Address _____

School #2 _____ Section _____ Group _____

Address _____

School #3 _____ Section _____ Group _____

(Ice Hockey Only)

Address _____

Combined enrollment: _____ Co-op Name _____
(no. of pupils) (if not using the LEA school name)

Sport(s) involved: _____
Please specify gender for each sport (Boys, Girls, Co-Ed).

Approved (public schools): Both Boards of Education Yes _____ No _____ Date _____

Approved (parochial schools): Superintendent (s) Yes _____ No _____ Date _____

League/Conference approval:

President (please print) _____ Approved: Yes _____ No _____
(Sport Specific League/Conference)

Signature _____ Date _____

President (please print) _____ Approved: Yes _____ No _____
(Sport Specific League/Conference)

Signature _____ Date _____

Public Schools Agreement: _____ agrees to act as the Local
Education Agency (LEA/Host). (name of school)

Non-Public Schools Agreement: _____ agrees to act as the sponsoring
school. (name of school)

Please Note: Ice Hockey Tri-Op Roster

If requesting a 3-school ice hockey co-op program, please provide the # of skaters that will be returning to your program next year, along with an estimate of the incoming ninth graders and transfers known at this time. Maximum roster permitted is 30 athletes, per NJSIAA guidelines.

_____ (High School #1 LEA)

_____ (High School #2)

_____ (High School #3)

This agreement shall terminate two years from effective date of the program. Prior termination may occur by written agreement of all schools, or written notification of one participant to the other, setting forth reasons within.

I hereby attest to the accuracy of all facts contained herein. I have also read and agree to abide by all qualifications set forth in this application.

Please Sign

Principal (School #1 LEA) _____

Principal (School #2) _____

Principal (School #3 Ice Hockey Only) _____

NJSIAA Executive Committee Approval: Yes _____ No _____ Date _____

Please Sign

President, NJSIAA _____

Executive Director, NJSIAA _____