

Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 208.5 – Non-School Competition and Training (Team and Individual Sports)

(proposed language; ~~deleted language~~)

Submitted by: Minnesota State High School League Board of Directors

5. Auditions for College Teams

Students/Athletes who have been members of a varsity, junior varsity, B-Squad or sophomore team are ~~not~~ eligible to participate in tryout or auditions for college or university scholarships etc. until their high school eligibility in that sports has been completed and remain fully eligible to participate in that sport.

Rationale:

1. College and university rules and policies allow high school students to tryout or audition for college and university athletic programs.
2. College and university coaches use the high school student tryout or audition as an opportunity to evaluate and assess the high school student and possibly offer a college or university athletic scholarship.
3. Effective August 1, 2014 MSHSL Bylaw 201—Amateur Status, provides a high school student the opportunity to tryout or audition with a professional team (Bylaw 201.5 revision).
4. This bylaw change would provide high school students the opportunity to tryout or audition for a college athletic program just as they currently tryout or audition for a professional team.
5. The MSHSL Board of Directors Eligibility Committee and MSHSL Board of Directors provided initial approval for tryouts or auditions until this bylaw proposal was presented to the Representative Assembly.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 403.00 – Cooperative Sponsorship

(~~proposed language; deleted language~~)

Submitted by: Minnesota State High School League Board of Directors

1. Cooperative sponsorship of an activity by two or more member schools will be considered under the following conditions. Class A and Class AA refers to the school size for placement into Administrative Regions and does not refer to the tournament classification to which a school may be assigned for a particular sport. For purposes of administering this bylaw, the largest 128 schools by enrollment shall be Class AA, and the rest of the schools shall be Class A.
 - A. ~~When Class A schools cooperatively sponsor an MSHSL Sponsored Activity, 100% of the total enrollment of the largest school and 50% of the enrollment of the other school(s) in the co-op shall be combined to determine the appropriate competitive section classification.~~
 - B. ~~When a Class AA school cooperatively sponsors an activity with any Class A school(s), 100% of the total enrollment of the Class AA school and 50% of the enrollment of the Class A school(s) in the co-op shall be combined to determine the appropriate competitive classification.~~
 - A. When any member school cooperatively sponsors an activity with any other member school(s), 100% of the total enrollment of the largest member school in the co-op and 50% of the enrollment of the other member school(s) in the co-op school be combined to determine the appropriate competitive classification.

Cooperative sponsorship between two or more Class A member schools; or between a Class AA school and Class A school(s):

MSHSL Sponsored Activities:

Badminton, Girls'	Football	Softball, Adapted
Baseball	Hockey, B/G	Softball, Girls' Fast-Pitch
Basketball, B/G	Lacrosse, B/G	Track and Field, B/G
Bowling, Adapted	Music	Swimming and Diving, B/G
Cross Country Running, B/G	One Act Play	Synchronized Swimming, Girls'
Debate	Skiing, Alpine, B/G	Tennis, B/G
Dance Team, Girls'	Skiing, Nordic Ski Racing, B/G	Visual Arts
Golf, B/G	Speech	Volleyball, Girls'
Gymnastics, Girls'	Soccer, B/G	Wrestling
Floor Hockey, Adapted	Soccer, Adapted	

2. ~~Cooperative sponsorship between two or more Class AA schools:~~

~~a. Team/Non-lifelong Activities:~~

~~Approval will NOT be granted for ANY cooperative sponsorship of Class AA member schools in any League team activity. (NOTE: See exceptions in "B" below.)~~

Badminton, Girls'	Soccer
Baseball	Soccer, Adapted
Basketball	Softball, Adapted
Floor Hockey, Adapted	Softball, Girls' Fast-Pitch
Football	Track and Field Volleyball,
Hockey	Girls' Wrestling
Lacrosse	

~~b. Team/Individual/Lifelong Activities:~~

~~Application may be made for a cooperative sponsorship between Class AA schools in team/individual/lifelong activities for regular season competition ONLY.~~

Bowling, Adapted	Skiing, Alpine
Cross Country Running	Skiing, Nordic Ski Racing
Debate	Speech
Dance Team, Girls'	Swimming and Diving
Golf	Synchronized Swimming, Girls'
Gymnastics, Girls'	Tennis
Music	Visual Arts
One Act Play	

C. Class AA Exception Procedure:

~~Class AA schools who wish to cooperatively sponsor a team activity may appeal to the Board for an exception to the Cooperative Sponsorship Bylaw on an annual basis. The appeal must include, but shall not be limited to, the following documentation from each of the applying schools:~~

- 1) ~~Identify and document the reasons for the appeal;~~
- 2) ~~Provide a summary of what each of the applying schools has done to promote participation in the activity in their school;~~
- 3) ~~Provide a written review and comment regarding the proposed coop from~~
 - a) ~~The Competitive Section schools,~~
 - b) ~~The Competitive Subsection schools, and~~
 - c) ~~The Conference member schools;~~
- 4) ~~Document student interest in the activity (grades 7-12) from the most recent Student Interest Survey required by the Department of Education; and~~
- 5) ~~Provide other information as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.~~

~~D. Cooperatively Sponsored Team Participation in League Sponsored Tournament Series~~

- 1) ~~Each member school in a team/individual cooperative may have a TEAM entry at the first level tournaments providing it can fulfill the rule book definition of a team.~~
- 2) ~~Students from EACH member school in a team/individual cooperative will have the opportunity to participate as an individual at the FIRST LEVEL tournament in ANY of the listed activities.~~

~~**Appeal:** The League Board of Directors will conduct a hearing for any member school requesting an exception to MSHSL Bylaw 403.2. The request for a hearing shall be in writing and directed to the Executive Director of the Minnesota State High School League prior to the first day of that sport season.~~

2. Newly formed Cooperative Sponsorships:

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

1. the documented need for the co-op.
2. a summary of the steps each school has taken to promote participation in the activity for which a cooperative sponsorship is proposed.
3. a written review and comment regarding the proposed cooperative sponsorship from:
 - a. the AD of each member school of the conference/conferences in which the proposed cooperative sponsorship school(s) participates.
 - b. the AD 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 activity before any of the required information can be submitted to the MSHSL office.

4. a completed copy of the most current Student Interest Survey of the Interscholastic Athletic Activities as found on the MSHSL website from each school in the proposed cooperative sponsorship.
5. 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:

Prior to every 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 of any existing cooperative sponsorship to the Executive Director of the MSHSL provided that the reason for the request fully details why the Board of Directors should consider such review of the cooperative sponsorship.

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 League-sponsored activity with public schools provided that:

- A. The Charter School does not have its own team in that activity;
- 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 his/her 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 his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).
- D. The boards of education of the public school(s) and the Charter School agree to cooperatively sponsor the activity 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 activity.
- 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 activity.
 - 2) Each application for a cooperative sponsorship shall must include a review and comments ~~from the conference(s) of which the schools are members 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 sport season to be considered for that sport season. Decisions for applications for cooperative sponsorship activities will be determined by the League at the next Board of Directors meeting.
- 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 sport 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 a 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 press releases 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

- A. Cooperative Sponsorship agreements must be reviewed by representatives from all schools involved every two years. Amendments to the cooperative sponsorship may not be unreasonably denied by the participating schools.
- B. If either or any of the schools involved in the cooperative sponsorship wish to dissolve the agreement, they may do so provided a minimum of one year's notice is given to the other school(s) unless the schools involved mutually agree to discontinue the cooperative sponsorship agreement.
- C. Requests to dissolve the cooperative sponsorship must be submitted to the League not later than the first day of practice for that sport season. Decisions on all applications will be determined by the League at the next Board of Directors meeting.
- D. The dissolution request must include a resolution stating the purpose for dissolving the cooperative sponsorship.
- E. Any conference or competitive section school(s) in which the members of the cooperative sponsorship activity competes may ask the MSHSL Board of Directors to review the co-op approval as identified in 403.2C.
- EF. 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 a third or fourth school is to be added to an existing cooperative sponsorship agreement, a new application must be submitted on behalf of all of the schools that are going to be involved in the new agreement. At the same time application for dissolution should be submitted for the existing agreement.

Rationale:

1. Clarity in the Bylaw 403 change approved at the January 26, 2017 Representative Assembly meeting has been updated to reflect the proposed changes in the now proposed Bylaw 403.
2. The proposed changes eliminate the need for a differential between Class A and Class AA schools for competitive classification. The language for a co-op is now inclusive for all member schools rather than exclusive for Class AA schools.
3. The proposed language now reflects the steps that must be taken for “any member school” or schools who choose to enter into a cooperative sponsorship.
4. The specifics identified in the former section 403-2 of the Cooperative Sponsorship bylaw are now reflected in the “Newly Formed Cooperative Sponsorships” language as identified in the underlined 403-2 section of the proposed bylaw change.
5. All “Newly Formed Cooperative Sponsorships” require the conference, competitive section or sub-section schools, and the Region Committee to review and comment on the proposed co-op.
6. There will be a specific appeal process for any school who has been denied participation in a cooperative sponsorship.
7. Any conference or school(s) in a section where a co-op competes can request the MSHSL Board of Directors to review any existing co-op prior to every two-year competitive section placement cycle.
8. Each co-op application requires a review and comment before the appeal will be reviewed by League staff or the MSHSL Ex. Committee.
9. Schools who wish to add a co-op later than 30 days before the first day of practice of a season may request an appeal to review the proposed co-op for that sport season.
10. Any conference or competitive section school(s) can ask for a review of a co-op if the co-op is in the conference or section in which the cooperative sponsorship schools compete.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 504.1-2 - Baseball

(~~deleted language~~ proposed language)

Submitted by: Scott Buntje, Albany; Mark Solberg, Cambridge-Isanti; Ted Schultz, Minnetonka; Clay Anderson, Pipestone; Bruce Woitas, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's

1. SEASON BEGINS

~~Thirteen~~ Fourteenth Monday preceding the finals of the State Tournament.

2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST

Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Schedule of Contests)

A five-day organized conditioning program and two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first contest. The first five days of practice are for conditioning arms and for overall physical conditioning, and will be conducted using only baseballs, gloves, and catcher's equipment. Strength training and aerobic conditioning equipment may also be used.

Rationale:

- Safety of the athletes is at the forefront of this request.
- Pre-season Preparation – a chance to have programs get their athletes on a throwing program including a physical therapy component.
- Throwing programs outlined by medical professionals are at least three weeks in length. Two weeks of practice is not enough time to get pitchers ready to throw in game situations.
- Players have potentially been going to camps and indoor facilities to try to get into throwing shape in the past, this will allow players to get in shape under the watchful supervision of our coaches.
- Pitchers now will be on pitch counts and face mandatory days of rest, so programs will need to develop more pitchers. The extra week will allow time to prepare more players to be pitchers.
- Proper conditioning will help prevent overuse injuries. Years of research has shown that overuse is the number one cause of arm injuries among youth participants.
- Proper arm care in youth and adolescent players is very important in maintaining long term health of the players.
- Baseball programs can work on throwing and conditioning only, no bats/hitting.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 518.3 Tennis – Boys' & Girls'

(~~deleted language~~ proposed language)

Submitted by: Member Schools of the Big South Conference: Rob Norman, Blue Earth Area; Mat Mahoney, Fairmont; Eric Tvinnereim, Jackson County Central; Todd Oye, Luverne; Bruce Remme, Marshall; Clay Anderson, Pipestone; Andy Ourada, Redwood Valley; Lez Zellmann, Saint James Area; Steve Alger, Saint Peter; Troy Guentzel, New Ulm; Joe Hedevaré, Waseca; Dane Nielsen, Windom; Josh Dale, Worthington.

3. CONTESTS

Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)

A. Maximum number allowed- 16

Sixteen contest dates with the total number of team matches within the 16 contest dates or events not to exceed 28, exclusive of League-sponsored tournament play.

B. Non-League Tournaments

1. A team tournament, in which winners advance to determine a champion, counts as 1 toward maximum 28 matches. Each dual competition within a multiple-team tournament (round robin), in which opponents are predetermined, counts as 1 toward maximum 28 matches. An individual tournament, in which individuals advance to determine champions, counts as 1 toward the maximum 28 matches.
2. Conference or division champions may schedule a 17th event to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The event must be listed on the school schedule. The 17th event does not count as one of the sixteen (16) allowable contest dates.

Rationale:

The proposed bylaw change allows the sport of tennis (boys - spring and girls - fall) the same opportunity as other MSHSL team sports when a conference has two divisions. Other team sports do allow division champions to play for an overall conference championship without needing to count the event as a regular season event.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 521.3A – Wrestling: sixteen events/45 competitions
(deleted language, proposed language)

Submitted by:

Will Short, Activities Director-Simley High School
Sandy Setter, Activities Director-Eagan
Brian Ihrke, Activities Director-Henry Sibley
Bryan Munter, Activities Director-Tartan
Chad Sexauer-Activities Director-South St. Paul
See Attached for another 80 Activities Directors that support this proposal.

Contests

~~Eighteen~~ Sixteen events with the total number of team competitions within the ~~48~~ 16 events not to exceed ~~36~~ 45. An individual tournament shall count as one team competition toward the ~~48~~ 16 allowable events, and one of the ~~36~~ 45 allowable competitions. This would be effective with the 2017-18 school year.

Rationale:

Even though we are currently allowed to schedule 18 events, most schools do not carry a full schedule due to the individual match count limitation. In fact, many schedule fewer than sixteen events (the average is 16.1 statewide), and still are running into match count issues.

Our sport has evolved with respect to the structure of events over the past ten years. Economics have dictated that teams travel less, participate in fewer events, and yet we are still running into the match count ceiling. There are more individual 'Super Tournaments' being conducted, which has resulted in many more wrestlers meeting the 36-match season limit in as few as 14-15 events. The side effect is that those wrestlers have to sit out, and prospective opponents are receiving forfeits rather than the opportunity to wrestle. If a team carries a full schedule, that means those kids are not allowed to participate in as many as four events. So the net effect is that fewer opportunities exist for their prospective opponents.

Also at issue is that the nature of individual tournaments leads to wide discrepancies when compared to dual meet competition. In any given tournament, some kids will get as few as two matches, while others may get as many as nine in a two-day event. The average Minnesota team schedules 4.1 tournaments per season, which leads to wide variations in match counts. This issue makes scheduling nearly impossible when combined with the 36-match limit currently in place.

In this era of substantial participation fees, we are seeing a growing number of complaints from parents that even though they've paid the full fee, their kids are not allowed to fully participate. All we want is for each kid to be able to compete in his team's complete schedule.

Under current Minnesota rules, we are actually going against the National Federation policies regarding the number of matches that kids can wrestle. Upon recommendation from its medical advisory panel, the NFHS is allowing wrestlers to compete in up to five matches per day. Under those guidelines, high school kids can safely wrestle fifty matches or more in the regular season. The NFHS does not impose any kind of match count limitation, other than the 5-match per day limit.

This proposal is not being suggested to help the higher-achieving kids. It is for the middle-level kids who consistently finish third through sixth in individual tournaments. In every tournament,

those middle-level kids are getting anywhere from two to four extra matches in wrestling back through the consolation bracket. That means they are bumping into the season match count ceiling quite quickly, and have to sit out of several events, even though they are quite able to compete. Again, this results in forfeits rather than matches for their prospective opponents.

This would bring us more in line with neighboring states: North Dakota (16 events, 45 matches), South Dakota (15 events, no season match limit, only the five-match per day maximum), Iowa (15 events, no limit, only the five-match per day maximum), Wisconsin (14 events, no limit, only the five-match per day maximum) and Michigan (15 events, no limit, only the five-match per day maximum).

In Minnesota, dual meets provide a lot of excitement and exposure for our sport. We have been seeing a dramatic increase in the number of dual meets where each team is forced to sit three or more wrestlers. Our fans are upset, because they are not only traveling, but also paying admission fees to see incomplete duals where several kids are not allowed to compete solely due to match count limits. This situation accounts for a large percentage (well over 50%) of the forfeits in our sport. This proposal will reduce those occurrences dramatically.