

# **Minnesota State High School League**

## **Presenting Partner Agreements**

### **Purpose, Definition, and Policies**

The Minnesota State High School League's mission is to provide outstanding educational opportunities for students through fine arts activities and athletics. To further this mission, the League may engage in an agreement to become a Presenting Partner of a state championship of an interscholastic and education-based fine arts activity or sport operated by a non-MSHSL governing body. This partnership must be deemed mutually beneficial, promote and support the identified program and increase the participation of high school students, including those who have not typically engaged in MSHSL activities. The appropriate definitions and requirements of the activities and the governing organization are further explained in this document.

#### **Purpose and Definition**

The purpose of a Presenting Partnership is to advance the mission of the MSHSL by choosing to support and promote student participation in a non-MSHSL fine arts activity or sport by becoming a Presenting Partner for a state championship. The selected fine arts activity or sport organized and controlled by a non-MSHSL governing organization must exhibit the following characteristics:

- The program must be education-based, which means that the student participation and affiliation with a team are based on each student's attendance at a high school and participants must be fully enrolled students at the school in which they participate.
- The education-based activity or sport must be available to and endorsed by numerous schools.
- The activity or athletic program must demonstrate a mission, beliefs and practices that are compatible with and supportive of the mission and beliefs of the MSHSL.
- The governing organization must be an accredited nonprofit organization (pursuant to M.S. 317.A), considered a 501(c)(3) or similar IRS designation.

#### **Policies and Requirements**

- The League will not engage as the Presenting Partner of a state championship for activities or athletics if the League is already in a Presenting Partner Agreement with another similar organization or if the League has an interscholastic program in the respective fine arts activity or sport.
- The League's Board of Directors is the governing body responsible for review and approval of any applications for a proposed Presenting Partner Agreement.

- The League will have full control over the timeline of adoption as a Presenting Partner and implementation of the state championship partnership.
- The governing organization for the requested activity or sport must have a competitive league developed, be in full operation of regular and postseason and have MSHSL member schools participating in the activity or sport operation prior to requesting a Presenting Partner agreement.
- The activity or athletic program must function as its own entity and not be reliant on MSHSL funding for support.
- The governing organization is responsible for the registration of cooperative agreements, if allowed, according to the MSHSL Cooperative Agreement Bylaw. To participate in the state championship, member schools must be registered with the MSHSL and may only be a part of one cooperative agreement with other registered MSHSL member schools.
- The governing organization is responsible for the establishment of competitive rules and certifying eligible officials for the event.
- The governing organization is financially responsible for regular season and postseason competition prior to the state championship level.
- The League will only present a state championship event. Qualifiers for the state championship will be determined through competition in the regular season or postseason through the governing organization.
- As the Presenting Partner of a state championship, the League is financially responsible for hosting the MSHSL State Championship.
- Only students who are enrolled and attend high school at an MSHSL member school, duly registered for the fine arts activity or sport, are eligible for participation in the state championship presented by the MSHSL.
- Students must meet the requirements of Bylaws 101.00 through 106.00, 108.00, 110.00, 201.00, 202.00, 205.00, 206.00, and 209.00 to be eligible for participation in the League sponsored state championship. MSHSL Member Schools are permitted to require compliance with additional bylaws or extend bylaws if they so choose.

### **Presenting Partner Agreement Application and Approval Process**

A fine arts activity or sport that is currently operating within MSHSL Member Schools and is currently governed by an outside governing organization may be considered for a Presenting Partner Agreement by following the defined steps as provided in this document.

This process begins with MSHSL member schools submitting a valid request to the Board of Directors to have a competitive fine arts or athletic program engage in a state championship presented by the MSHSL. This process is as follows:

### Presenting Partner Agreement Application

To apply for a Presenting Partner Agreement, an activity or sport program must:

- Have the written support of the current governing organization to engage with the MSHSL in a Presenting Partner Agreement.
- Have a track record of effective management, respectful competition and good sportsmanship, supportive of the educational mission of the League and be solely in control of the program and competition.
- Have a minimum of 64 or more school-based teams (no more than one per member high school or co-op) competing for a minimum of two consecutive years prior to the application. The application must be accompanied by completed commitment forms for a minimum of 50 teams indicating their commitment to participate in the MSHSL presented state championship should the agreement be approved.
- Complete a request for approval on behalf of the 64 or more teams with a minimum of five member schools authoring the request.
- Upon receipt of the Presenting Partner Agreement application, the Board of Directors will review all information provided, including data demonstrating that all benchmarks and policies have been met and that the current governing organization is committed to a Presenting Partner Agreement.
- The Board of Directors will send the request to the Region Committees to gather feedback from all 16 Region Committees.
- The MSHSL Board of Directors will review all aspects of the governing organization and the current activity or athletic program. The Board will then make a determination as to whether the activity/sport is approved and will establish a timeline for the implementation of a state championship.