

**Minneapolis Public Schools
Athletics: Cooperative Sponsorships**

A Cooperative Sponsorship is a formal agreement between two or more schools to allow their students to compete on the same team. These must be approved by local school boards and the Minnesota State High School League. Cooperative Sponsorships are in effect for a minimum of two years or until dissolved by all active participating schools.

Minnesota Statutes allow students who are Home Schooled to be eligible to participate in MSHSL sponsored activities for the public school in their resident school district attendance area.

"Partner" School(s) - are the schools requesting Joint Sponsorship. Host School is the school administering the program.

	What it is....	Occurs when.....	Team colors	Marketing/Recruiting
Level 1 Partner Agreements and School to School Cooperative Agreements (Lifelong/Individual Sports)	An agreement between one or more Minneapolis Public "Partner" school(s) and a Minneapolis Public Host School to host a combined athletic program. (Per MN State High School League regulations, a host school must be identified for each cooperative agreement, including district wide teams.)	MPS "Partner" school(s) do not have enough student/athletes to support individual school teams. For team sports the "Partner" school(s) then request a Cooperative Sponsorship with an existing MPS school team. For Lifelong/Individual sports programs are combined under one head coach. Per MSHSL rules, a coach can coach at multiple schools during the same season.	Student/Athletes will wear their home school colors/uniform (Lifelong/Individual Sports) or the uniform of the host school (Team Sports).	High School Athletic Directors will notify all students of athletic participation opportunities by listing all available athletic programs across the District. Depending on registration at the high school, athletic director will determine the programs offered at their school. School ADs will make connections with other MPS school sites to serve the student/athletes interested in athletic programs not offered at their school.
Level 2 Cooperative Agreement Team Sports (District Wide)	An agreement between all participating MPS "Partner" school(s) that leads to the creation of a district-wide collaborative team. *District Athletic Director will decide "Host" school.	Student/Athletes from multiple MPS "Partner" school(s) do not have enough student/athletes to support separate school teams. Because of this, a District Cooperative Sponsorship is formed for all participating "Partner" Schools.	Student/Athletes will wear district-wide MPS uniforms created for the collaborative team.	

* The Host school will be identified by the District Athletic Director after studying key factors including: geographic proximity, strength of program, MSHSL classification of program, number of participants, and ease of transition for student/athletes to cooperatively sponsored Host high school. Host school and "Partner" School(s) are listed on the MSHSL Cooperative Sponsorship form.

**** Lifelong sports/activities, include but are not limited to:**

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|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bowling, adapted | Dance team, girls | Gymnastics, girls | Skiing, Nordic Ski Racing | Synchronized Swimming, girls |
| Cross Country Running | Golf | Skiing, Alpine | Swimming and Diving | Tennis |

Additional information regarding Minnesota State High School League Cooperative Sponsorships is available in Bylaw 403.00 of the MSHSL Official Handbook