

Lutheran Sports Association of Illinois Cooperative Team Rule and Illustrations

- 3.04** The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Sports Association (LSA) shall have the authority to approve the formation of cooperative athletic teams. The governing boards of all schools participating in the cooperative team agreement jointly need to make the application to the LSA for approval of the cooperative team agreement. In addition to the governing boards approving the formation of the cooperative team, written approval from the conference(s) of which the cooperating schools are members, and/or in which the cooperative team will participate, or, in the event that the cooperative team will not be affiliated in a conference, written approval from a minimum of three schools included in the cooperative team's schedule of competition must be secured. The cooperative sponsorship agreement is established for a period of one school year. One trophy or award will be given per team. Duplicate team awards may be ordered through the LSA at the request of a non-sponsoring cooperative team. The cost of the extra awards shall be the responsibility of the requesting school. An additional school may be added to an existing co-op agreement after the one year provided they complete a new application and receive the approval of the LSA. *When a school renews the co-op application, conference or opponent approval is not required if no changes have been made to the original agreement.*

Illustrations for Section 3.04

The following are provided for illustrative purposes only and are neither binding nor to be construed as having the effect of the By-laws or Constitution of the Lutheran Sports Association of Illinois

Q. What are the deadlines for making a cooperative team application?

A. The application deadline for cooperative teams during a given school year is as follows: Volleyball -September 1 (2010 is an exception – late applications will be considered.); Basketball – December 1; Cheerleading – December 1.

Q. If a school adds a boys sport team by formation of a cooperative team, must it also add a girls sport team to its program?

A. Simply adding a team for one gender of students by forming a cooperative does not require corresponding action to add a team for the other gender of students.

Q. May a cooperative team be formed with out-of-state schools?

A. No.

Q. May cooperative teams be formed with non-LSA member schools from Illinois?

A. No. All schools involved in the cooperative agreement must be members.

Q. May a school form more than one cooperative team in the same sport?

A. No.

Q. May a school form a cooperative team with one other school in basketball and a different cooperative team with another school in volleyball?

A. Yes. The provisions of this rule permit formation of different cooperative teams with different schools on a sport-by-sport basis. However, each cooperative team formed must undergo the complete process of approval by the Boards of Education and the LSA.

Q. Must a "no-cut" policy be established for each cooperative team that is formed?

A. Yes. The purpose and intent of the establishment of the cooperative team is provide an opportunity for schools interested in participating in STATE competition and not deny involvement in cases of players with lesser ability. The LSA does not want schools to combine for the purposes of being more competitive at the expense of denying participation of players with lesser abilities from a cooperative team school.

Q. May a cooperative team agreement be formed during a sport season, in order to accommodate participating in the state tournament series that school year?

A. No. All cooperative teams for each school year must have applied to the LSA for approval no later than the initial entry deadline for that activity. Applications received after that particular date will be denied for that school year.

Q. If two schools form a cooperative team for any school year, may they redraft their cooperative agreement and add a third school to the cooperative at the end of one year?

A. Yes, provided they file a new one year agreement, and with approval of the conference (if applicable) and the LSA.

Q. May two schools form a cooperative team for any school year, then subsequently consolidate with each other?

A. Yes. The cooperative team agreement is valid for one school year. The consolidated (or "association" school) does not need to re-apply.

Q. Will the LSA automatically approve a cooperative team application?

A. Each application will be considered on a case by case basis.

Q. If two schools have established a cooperative team, and the cooperative dissolves prior to the end of its one year agreement, may either of the schools participate as an individual school in that activity before the termination of the cooperative agreement?

A. Yes, provided the reasons for dissolution of the cooperative team are extenuating circumstances accepted by the LSA Board of Directors. However, a school in this situation may not enter another cooperative agreement with another member school in this activity until the end of the time period of the original cooperative agreement.

Q. Which school will receive mail for the cooperative activity from the LSA ?

A. Both schools will receive mail from the LSA.

Q. Does the initial cooperative application need approval of my conference?

A. Yes, provided you are a member of a conference. If you are not a member of a conference, then you need approval from three (3) of your opponents. Co-op renewals do not require conference approval if no changes have been made to the original agreement.

Q. Do "association" schools (schools that are owned and operated by more than one sponsoring congregation) need to complete a cooperative team application?

A. No.

Q. We have an approved cooperative team agreement from either the IESA or the SIJHSAA. Do we need to complete a cooperative team agreement for the LSA?

A. No. You will need to send copies of the approved IESA or SIJHSAA agreements to the LSA for approval.