

The Activities Standards Committee may adopt a program requiring coaches who have completed the initial Coaching Education Program to periodically update their training in other courses that are approved by the Activity Standards Committee.

Article VIII. ALLOW MEMBER SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE ON OTHER MEMBER SCHOOL TEAMS (revised 2/11)

Rationale – The Member to Member Program is designed to either provide a short term fix for a school with low participation and/or provide an opportunity for a student/athlete from another school(s) to participate on a team.

Member high school students may participate on another member high school's team provided that the following criteria is met:

Application Process:

- 1) Member high schools that are interested in developing a program must submit a written request for participation on another member school's team to the VPA Associate Executive Director sixty days prior to the start of each sports season to allow adequate time for reviewing the application. The VPA will only approve requests that satisfy all of the criteria of this experimental program. Requests submitted with less than a sixty day notice will be considered and acted on as soon as possible.
- 2) As part of the application, there must be a written agreement between each participating school that has been approved by the respective principals and athletic directors. Receiving (or host) schools may enter into multiple agreements in a sport season as long the total number of students does not exceed the 20% allocation of students from other member schools. The agreement must specifically authorize the participation.
- 3) The agreement must state that the schools have considered compensation from the sending school(s). Compensation could be in the form of an exchange of opportunities in other programs, or any other form that the schools agree to. If compensation is agreed to, the agreement shall describe the compensation. Financial compensation, if any, shall come from the school.

Substantive Requirements:

- 4) This program only applies to team sports (i.e., Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball and Tennis). Students can continue to participate as individual competitors in all other sports under existing standards. Schools may enter into an agreement provided that no student/athletes have been cut at any level in that sport (cut meaning out of the program).
- 5) The athlete(s) must meet all eligibility and student conduct requirements otherwise established by VPA rules and the involved schools.
- 6) There must be no athletic recruitment of the student athlete. No coach, booster, or persons involved with the athletic department should directly or indirectly solicit students from other

schools for this program. This means that a coach or school employee who receives a direct inquiry must immediately refer the inquiry to the appropriate school administrator.

- 7) The sending school(s) may not offer the team sport in which the student wishes to participate. If a sending school has previously offered this team sport, they are ineligible to participate in this program for **two** year from the date the team was dropped.
- 8) In sports which the VPA sanctions separate championships for boys and girls (Basketball, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse and Soccer), a student may request participation if the student's school does not offer the sport to his or her gender. (All schools should provide athletic programs that provide appropriate opportunities to both genders)
- 9) In order to assure that the sending school(s) is generally meeting its responsibilities to provide activities for student athletes, the sending school(s) must be a member of the VPA and offer at least one-half of the team sports activities sanctioned by the VPA. The sole exception to this rule is if a school has less than 50 boys or 50 girls in grades 9 through 12. These schools would be eligible for entering into a Member to Member Program. Boys and girls teams in the following sports shall be counted separately as single sports in both the calculation of the sports offered and the potential sports to be offered: Basketball, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse and Soccer.
- 10) There must be no displacement of student athletes from the receiving (host) school sponsoring the activity from spots on the team. Thus, the receiving school sponsoring the team must maintain a no-cut policy for the team in question, or have less than the normal complement of players required for a team who are enrolled in the sponsoring school. Two schools may reach an agreement for a particular sport, however the agreement will not take effect until tryouts have been completed and it is determined there are available slots. Schools may enter into a Member to Member Program for sub-varsity teams as long as there is no displacement at the JV or Freshman level. Schools that have a varsity program and a JV program may only enter into a JV program agreement.. For purposes of this rule, the normal complement of players required for a team shall be the following for each of the listed sports:

- Baseball - 18
- Basketball – 12
- Cheerleading (Winter) - 24
- Dance - 20
- Field Hockey - 20
- Football - 38
- Ice Hockey - 24
- Lacrosse - 20
- Soccer - 20
- Softball – 18
- Tennis - 10

Students from sending schools shall comprise no more than 20% of the normal complement or team roster (if the school does not have the normal complement) for each team listed above. The maximum numbers are listed below. (Note - a team must go with the normal complement or team roster, whichever number is lower)

- Baseball - 4
- Basketball – 2

- Cheerleading (Winter) – 4
- Dance - 4
- Field Hockey - 4
- Football - 7
- Ice Hockey - 5
- Lacrosse - 4
- Soccer - 4
- Softball – 4
- Tennis - 2

- 11) In the event that a sponsoring school receives more requests for placement on a particular team than are slots available, the sponsoring school will arrange a meeting with the sending schools for the purpose of conducting a random lottery. A school may not award the slots based on ability or peer pressure. Returning players are allocated one of the open slots if a new agreement is implemented. There is no guaranteed level of playing time in a sponsoring school program.
- 12) The sending school(s) and receiving school shall define all legal liabilities for student participants in the program agreement. This is including but not limited to: insurance, transportation and supervision.

Evaluation & Divisional Alignment

- 13) All agreements are one year in length and must be renewed annually.
- 14) In establishing divisional alignments, the appropriate VPA committee shall consider any existing programs and their impact on fair competition. The VPA shall review the application with the appropriate sports committee and may revise the divisional alignment as a condition of approval if appropriate to preserve fair competition.

Article IV. VPA COOPERATIVE TEAM POLICY (Revised 2009)

Rationale

Over the past several years the VPA has been asked on a number of occasions to revise its current Cooperative Team Policy. Schools felt that this policy was too restrictive and in fact, a true “cooperative team” has never existed in Vermont. With a significant decline in student enrolment being predicted in Vermont, the membership of the VPA felt that current policies governing student participation needed to be examined and perhaps modified to meet the needs of today’s schools and its students. As a result, a sub-committee was established to examine current VPA policies and recommendations were made to the VPA Activities Standards Committee. The following is a modified Cooperative Team Policy that has been developed by the Activities Standards Committee.

Any proposal to form a new cooperative team must be in complete form and submitted to the VPA Activities Standards Committee at least six (6) months in advance of the beginning practice date for that sport. The Activities Standards Committee must then approve this application before action can be taken on the formation of this team.

The Activities Standards Committee will examine all applications with the following foci: