

## COOPERATIVE TEAM CLARIFICATIONS

The following were developed by a sub-committee of the District Athletic Committees. This group met in recognition of the fact that the cooperative team philosophy and protocols had not been substantially reviewed in a number of years. The following reflects agreement of the members of the sub-committee who met in the Association office on April 2, 2007.

1. The Association should continue to embrace the relatively new phenomenon of schools within schools, and will approve cooperative team requests that do not represent a decrease in total participation numbers from the last year in which the building housed a single school. A first example of this was the conversion of South Boston High School into four separate schools with four individual principals.
2. A cooperative team cannot result in the displacing of students from the host school; i.e. host school students may not be cut from participation in that sport (at some level).
3. It was agreed that the Application form should be expanded to include more information. This information would include data from the most recent two years, citing the number of participants, the number of students cut, and the win/loss records.

4. Cooperative teams that were driven in any substantial way by financial considerations would not be approved. If a sufficient number of students have an interest in a sport, then both schools would be required to sponsor that activity.
5. Cooperative teams would only be approved if such was required to support a single varsity program. If sub-varsity opportunities presented themselves subsequently, then that would not interfere with the approval status of that varsity cooperative team. On the other hand, approval will not be granted for stand-alone sub-varsity teams.
6. No previously viable program will be approved for cooperative team status unless there was a significant drop in enrollment.
7. The host school configuration will continue to determine eligible grades for the cooperating school that includes more than grades 9 through 12.
8. In the case of a new cooperative team program request, the principal or athletic director of each of the cooperating schools must meet with the District Athletic Committee prior to a vote.
9. It was reaffirmed that the vote of the league in which the cooperating team will be participating is important. If the cooperating team will be competing against other than league member schools, then the vote of each of those competition schools must be recorded.