

## **RULE 7 - COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS**

- 7-1** Cooperative programs allow teams or individuals an opportunity to compete in IHSAA sanctioned activities in which they would not otherwise be able to compete. All member schools of the IHSAA are eligible to participate in a cooperative program.
- 7-2** Cooperative sponsorship of any activity by two or more member schools are permitted in one of the following categories:
- a. **Combined Cooperative Program:** Students from more than one school combine to compete as one team. The combined teams' classification is determined by combined enrollments of the member schools involved. This program applies to football, volleyball, soccer, basketball, softball, baseball, competitive cheer, and dance. Note: Failure of a school district to provide a coach or facility will not justify approval of a combined cooperative. For 5A schools, combined enrollment cannot exceed 150% of host school's student enrollment.
  - b. **Collective Cooperative Program:** Students from more than one school share resources, but must compete as representatives of their home school at district and state competition. School classification remains the same. This program applies to cross country, wrestling, swimming, golf, tennis, track, the individual track event of pole vault, drama, debate and speech.
- 7-3** Cooperative programs will be in effect for a minimum of two years.
- 7-4** If the combined enrollments of the schools involved in a combined cooperative program exceeds the minimum number of the next higher classification the combined cooperative team will compete at that higher classification in that activity.
- 7-5** Application process for cooperative programs:
- a. Requests for cooperative programs shall be submitted to the IHSAA Board of Directors for fall activities by August 1; for winter activities by October 15; and for spring activities by January 15. The Board may, at its discretion, act on applications after these dates.
  - b. The local school boards of the participating member schools must submit an official application for the cooperative program to the IHSAA Board of Directors.