

- Section 4. Status for being designated a football playing or non-football playing school as it relates to basketball and fall baseball rules and regulations:
- If a non-football playing school co-ops with a football playing school both schools would maintain the same status they had before entering into the co-op agreement.
  - If two non-football playing schools enter into a co-op agreement, the school that was designated as the host school would then be considered a football playing school.
  - A football playing school who co-ops with a non-football playing school in football may elect to co-op with the same non-football playing school for fall baseball provided the non-football playing school is the host school and one of the schools does not have a baseball program.
  - No school will be allowed to enter into a co-op agreement in any sport that is offered by that particular school at anytime during the school year (ex: baseball is baseball (fall & spring); softball is softball (fast-pitch & slow-pitch). The board may make exceptions in circumstances caused by annexation or consolidation.
- Section 5. Swimming  
Approval for co-ops in swimming between schools must include the following provision: Schools approved for swimming co-ops may train under one coach and use the same facilities, but they must compete as separate entities.
- Section 6. Junior High Schools
- Two OSSAA member junior high schools may be included in the agreement between their respective high schools.
  - A junior high school cannot enter into a co-op agreement with a junior high school whose high school is in a cooperative with a different district's high school.
  - Two junior high schools may be in a cooperative program when their respective high schools are operating separately in the same program.
  - An independent district may have a co-op junior high team with a dependent district(s) providing the dependent district(s) applies for and becomes an associate member of the OSSAA. When more than one dependent district becomes involved in a cooperative agreement with a member junior high school, the dependent district(s) (or comparable schools) and individual students must be in the transportation area of the independent district. A student from dependent school district who participates in a co-op program with an independent school district would be eligible at any member high school after completing the eighth grade.

### **RULE 23 – ADMISSION OF NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1. Provisional admission  
As approved by vote of the member schools, any non-public school offering instruction through grade 12 is deemed to be admitted upon a determination that certain criteria established by the Board of Directors have been met. Continued membership is contingent on the school complying with these criteria and the Constitution, Rules, and Policies of the Association. If any information provided in connection with the school's provisional admission is later determined to have been false, or if material information was omitted, then the school may be expelled from membership or may be subjected to other penalties.
- Section 2. Criteria for admission  
Any non-public school seeking to participate as a member school must demonstrate compliance with all criteria established by this Rule and any additional criteria established by the Board of Directors of the Association. The criteria shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- Full accreditation by the State Board of Education, or other accrediting organization recognized by the State Board of Education;
  - Written scholastic eligibility requirements for athletic participation must be in place which are at least as rigorous as current OSSAA Rules;
  - Written admission policies and procedures must be in place which prohibit preferential treatment on the basis of athletic skill and experience;
  - If tuition and fees are required to be paid, written payment policies and procedures must be in place which prohibit preferential treatment on the basis of athletic skill and experience;
  - If financial aid and/or tuition and fee remission is available, written policies and procedures must be in place which prohibit preferential treatment on the basis of athletic skill and experience;

- f. Written policies must be in place or adopted, requiring all coaches, paid or volunteer, and booster organizations to be educated annually on OSSAA Rules on eligibility, including prohibitions against recruiting or influencing athletes to attend the school;
- g. The identity of any other athletic association(s) to which the school belongs or has belonged must be disclosed, and certification obtained from any such association that the school is a member in good standing and has not been found to have violated any of the rules and policies of that association;
- h. Certification that the school has enforced age and periods of participation rules at least comparable to OSSAA Rules concerning age and periods of participation must be provided;
- i. Written policies must in place to assure that students participating in the school's athletic programs have maintained their amateur standing;
- j. Certification that the school has not recruited or influenced students to attend the school for athletic purposes must be provided;
- k. A resolution from the school's governing board or authority pledging to abide by the Constitution, Rules, and Policies of OSSAA must be submitted.

Section 3. Required submission of information and OSSAA staff visits

A school seeking recognition as a member school must submit information and materials sufficient to enable OSSAA staff to determine whether or not the established criteria have been met. As a part of the evaluation process, the school also must allow OSSAA staff to visit the school to review records, interview personnel, and inspect facilities, to assess the accuracy of information and material provided, and to assist in determining the appropriate classification and appropriate geographic area for residence eligibility purposes. Failure to submit information and materials as required, or failure to cooperate in the evaluation process by OSSAA staff, may be cause to exclude a school from membership.

Section 4. Approval for provisional membership

- a. Based on the review and evaluation of the information and materials submitted, and the information gathered in the school site visit, the Executive Director shall make a report and recommendation to the Board of Directors on provisional admission to membership, including recommendations on the appropriate classification and appropriate geographic area for residence eligibility purposes.
- b. The school shall be advised of the Executive Director's report and recommendation, and be provided with notice and the opportunity to attend any Board of Directors' meeting at which approval of provisional membership is to be considered. Provisional membership shall be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Upon approval, provisional membership is subject to the following conditions:
  - (1) Before beginning competition, the coaches, administrators, and officers of any booster organizations must attend an orientation program concerning OSSAA Rules and Policies presented by OSSAA staff;
  - (2) A member school shall be assigned as a mentor school for the provisional member, to provide advice and guidance on compliance with OSSAA Rules and Policies during the initial two-year period following approval of provisional membership;
  - (3) Violation of any Rule during the initial two-year period following approval of provisional membership will be grounds for expulsion from membership. Upon expulsion from membership, the school shall be barred from re-applying for membership for a two-year period following expulsion.

Section 5. Transition from provisional membership status

- a. At the conclusion of the initial two-year period following approval of provisional membership, OSSAA staff shall evaluate the school for compliance with the established criteria for membership and with the Constitution, Rules, and Policies of the Association.
- b. The school's failure to provide accurate and complete information and materials as requested, or its failure to cooperate with OSSAA staff in this evaluation, may be cause to continue provisional membership for a period of time or to expel the school from membership.
- c. Based on the evaluation, the Executive Director shall provide a report and recommendation to the Board of Directors on whether provisional membership status should end or be continued.
- d. The school shall be advised of the Executive Director's report and recommendation, and be provided with notice and the opportunity to attend any Board of Directors' meeting at which the termination or continuation of provisional membership status is to be considered. Termination or continuation of provisional membership status shall be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- e. If any information provided in connection with the school's transition from provisional membership status is later determined to have been false, or if material information was omitted, then the school may be expelled from membership, returned to provisional membership status, or subjected to other penalties.