

# OSAA's collective sponsorship

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Small schools throughout Oregon may soon be sharing resources while athletes continue to compete as representatives of the schools they attend.

The Oregon School Activities Association's Executive Board had a first reading of a proposed collective sponsorship during its Dec. 4 meeting.

"The Executive Board will attempt to increase the number of students who are participating in activities by making resources available for students that would not be available in their school because of a lack of numbers or resources if collective sponsorship did not occur," according to the board summary. "The Executive Board would prefer to see projects that combine smaller schools for collective sponsorship of an activity rather than a small school program combining with a larger school when the smaller school lacks resources to support the activity alone because of a lack of numbers."

Sports that would be considered under the collective sponsorship are cross country, swimming, wrestling, speech, golf, tennis, and track and field.

The collective sponsorship would provide schools with the opportunity to practice together and share costs associated with those sports, such as coaching salaries. However, the participating student-athlete

would be considered a representative of the school they attend during competitions.

To qualify for the program both schools must have difficulty supporting the sport and they must apply together prior to the first contest date of the applicable season. The Executive Board will then make a decision regarding the application during its next board meeting, although executive director Peter Weber can make a decision subject to the board's approval.

If a school does not have trouble competing on its own, it is possible for schools to have a co-operative agreement.

The OSAA's board will meet again on Feb. 11.