



WAUNAKEE

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

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Athletics Office

Waunakee Community School District Board of Education

Re: Renewal of Waunakee/DeForest Girls Gymnastics Cooperative Team Sponsorship

We are requesting Board approval to renew the cooperative team sponsorship between **Waunakee Community High School and DeForest Area High School for Girls Gymnastics.**

Waunakee serves as the lead school for the cooperative program. Continuing the co-op will allow both districts to provide a meaningful high school gymnastics opportunity for their student-athletes. DeForest would not currently be able to field a stand-alone gymnastics program without the cooperative arrangement.

Program History

Girls gymnastics has a long history at Waunakee, with the program making its debut during the 2000-01 school year.

The program celebrated its first individual State qualifiers in 2002, when Jessi Gehrmann qualified on floor and Kelly Poster qualified on vault. Poster went on to qualify individually for the State Gymnastics Meet in all four years of her high school career, an accomplishment later matched by Claire Howick.

The Warriors reached another milestone in 2004, qualifying as a team for the State Gymnastics Meet for the first time.

From 2001 through 2008, Waunakee competed in Division 2 before the program moved to Division 1 in 2009. The following year, Waunakee and DeForest formed their gymnastics co-op for the 2010 season. In the first season of the partnership, the team qualified for State for the second time in program history.

The program reached the State Meet as a team for the third time in 2026, continuing a tradition that now spans more than 25 years at Waunakee and more than 15 years as a cooperative program with DeForest.

Participation

The cooperative program continues to provide an opportunity for student-athletes from both districts to participate in high school gymnastics. Current and projected participation included in the WIAA renewal application is:

www.waunakee.k12.wi.us

School	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 Projected	2027-28 Projected
Waunakee	10	7	5	5
DeForest	3	3	2	2
Total	13	10	7	7

With participation numbers currently projected at five Waunakee gymnasts and two DeForest gymnasts for each of the next two seasons, the cooperative structure remains an important piece of sustaining the program.

Financial Impact

Waunakee and DeForest share the operating costs of the gymnastics program based on student participation. The districts have considered costs associated with coaching salaries, transportation, officials, supplies, uniforms, contests and other program expenses as part of the cooperative agreement.

For context, expenses from the past two seasons were:

	2024-25	2025-26
Coaching Salaries	\$14,106.68	\$14,106.68
Transportation	\$2,299.51	\$4,330.26
Officials	\$1,999.00	\$2,059.13
Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00
Total Program Cost	\$19,605.19	\$21,996.07
DeForest Contribution	\$3,267.54	\$5,865.56

In 2024-25, the program's total expenses were \$19,605.19, with DeForest invoiced \$3,267.54 based on participation. In 2025-26, total expenses were \$21,996.07, with DeForest invoiced \$5,865.56.

This cost-sharing model allows Waunakee to offset a portion of the expenses associated with operating the program while providing student-athletes from DeForest an opportunity that their school would otherwise be unable to sustain independently.

Rationale for Renewal

The Waunakee/DeForest gymnastics co-op has provided student-athletes from both communities the opportunity to participate in high school gymnastics since 2010. The partnership has allowed the districts to combine participation numbers, share program expenses and sustain an athletic opportunity that would be difficult for DeForest to provide independently.

The program also has a strong history of success. From Waunakee's first individual State qualifiers in 2002, to team State appearances in 2004, 2010 and most recently 2026, gymnastics has been part of the Warrior athletic tradition for more than two decades.

With participation numbers remaining relatively small, continuing the cooperative structure provides the most sustainable path for maintaining the program while preserving opportunities for our student-athletes.

