

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to recommend to the Board to approve entering into a Cooperative Sponsorship with Colton High School for the purpose of allowing Colton High School Athletes to participate together with Molalla in Track and Field.

**Background:**

The following are OSAA requirements to enter into a cooperative sponsorship:

1. **Who May Apply?** Only full member schools may apply for cooperative sponsorship, not families or individuals. Cooperating schools should be located in the same geographic area. Schools requesting cooperative sponsorship approval should make every effort to co-sponsor an activity with the nearest school that also has difficulty sponsoring the activity by itself. Cooperative sponsorship shall be considered only for 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A schools. ***Colton is in Clackamas County and we are the closest to them for consideration of a cooperative sponsorship.***
2. **Classification.** Classification placement for the requested activity will be determined by the total combined ADM of the schools involved per **Article 6.3**. ***We would still compete at the 4A level.***
3. **School Board Approval Requirement.** The Governing Boards of the schools involved in the cooperative sponsorship shall jointly apply for such sponsorship listing reasons for the request. ***Colton School Board approved this sponsorship at their January 13, 2025 meeting.***
4. **Regular or Special District Approval Requirement.** Cooperative sponsorship applicants shall obtain approval from the regular or special district in which the proposed cooperative team will participate and submit the approval form with the Cooperative Sponsorship Application. Regular and special districts are encouraged to consider the philosophy discussed at the end of this Executive Board Policy when reviewing requests for support of a cooperative sponsorship application. ***Tri-Valley Conference has approved.***
5. **Deadline for Application/Dissolution.** The deadline for application or for dissolution for a cooperative sponsorship shall be the first contest date of the season in which the cooperatively sponsored team is to compete. ***First Track meet is March 22, 2025.***
6. **Timeline for Approval.** The Executive Board will attempt to act on an application at its next regular meeting following receipt of the application. However, the Executive Director can make a decision, subject to approval by the Executive Board.
7. **Duration of Approval.** Any approved cooperative sponsorship shall be limited in duration to the remainder of the time block per application. If an application for cooperative sponsorship is granted for multiple years and the cooperating schools choose not to cooperatively sponsor a team during any year of the agreement, it will be necessary for the schools to reapply for permission to cooperatively sponsor a team during the remaining term of the agreement using the most recent ADM figures available.

**Cooperative Sponsorship Philosophy**

The philosophy that will guide the OSAA Executive Board in reviewing and approving applications for cooperative sponsorship of activities is as follows:

1. The Executive Board will attempt to increase the number of students who are participating in activities by making activities available for students that would not be available in their school because of a lack of numbers if joint sponsorship did not occur.

2. The Executive Board would prefer to see projects that combine smaller schools for sponsorship of an activity rather than a small school program combining with a larger school when the smaller school cannot support the activity alone because of a lack of number.

Colton does not have the facilities, staff, or number of athletes to have a track and field program alone. Combining with Molalla to compete will allow Colton athletes to continue their high school athletic experience. Support of a neighboring school district in high school athletics is a benefit to not just Colton Students, but Molalla students as well. This sponsorship fits our partner pillar statement – to collaborate with community partners to expand student experiences.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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