

Wrestling Cooperative Sharing Agreement

Background:

Expecting only eight to ten wrestlers on our varsity squad next winter, we have some patrons who would like us to send our wrestlers to another program. At the same time, there is a faction in the community who does not want us to share wrestling, or perhaps any sports.

Head wrestling coach David Butler believes participation may be stronger than immediately apparent. He writes,

“The numbers for wrestlers coming back next year is 10 plus 2 managers with 2-3 junior high wrestlers coming out and the possibility of 5-6 high school students coming out or back out.

“I have also been in contact with the 15-20 female students at BK about wrestling with a verbal commitment of 8-10.

“Mr. Jass had 9-10 JH wrestlers out last season.”

Mr. Butler will attend the meeting and would appreciate the opportunity to address the school board when his program comes up for discussion.

Additional Factors:

For the upcoming season, there is an additional factor. Girls wrestling will be a sanctioned sport. That means girls will no longer be able to compete as part of a boys wrestling team. They may only compete on a girls team.

Meanwhile a new issue has presented itself to us. A neighboring school is expecting small numbers in their boys wrestling program, and unbelievable participation in girls wrestling. Informally and confidentially, they have approached us with the proposition of them sending their boys wrestlers to us, and us sending our girls wrestlers to them.

Cooperative Sharing Agreements:

Created by the Iowa legislature, the first sharing agreement in Iowa occurred in 1966 and was amended in 1972. The state's sharing agreements are revisited on a yearly basis.

The final decision to approve a co-op comes through the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) office, but the particulars of the agreement are largely left to the schools. Schools must establish travel details, venues specifics, and select a nickname.

Wrestling is the sport with the most co-op programs in Iowa, as the state boasts 57 schools (as of 2016) involved in agreements out of nearly 300 total wrestling programs.