

POLICY COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Sam Jones (Chair), Allen Plaster (Vice Chair), Eddie Doll, Jamie King, Brad Alford, Wendell Hall **Staff:** Janna Fonseca

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION/CONSIDERATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
<p>1. Three calendar days between football games</p> <p>[SMAC]</p>	<p>In the cases of rescheduled football games, SMAC recommends changing handbook to read: “A minimum of 60 hours from conclusion of game one to kick-off of game two. There should be no contact practice between games rescheduled games.”</p> <p>SMAC also recommends that this same concept be applied to football scrimmages, and that the handbook be changed accordingly.</p>	<p>Rationale: Staff received feedback from coaches regarding the challenges of three calendar days in between reschedule games.</p> <p>Budget Impact: N/A</p> <p>Educational Impact: N/A</p> <p>Equity Impact: N/A</p> <p>Effective Date: 2026-2027 School Year</p>
<p>2. Three separate days of football practice required after five days missed due to injury or illness</p> <p>[SMAC]</p>	<p>Remove “Student-athletes absent for other reasons (e.g., funeral, quarantine, school suspension, etc.) are not subject to this rule.”</p> <p>Currently found on page 89 of the handbook, Football Practice and Conditioning section.</p>	<p>Rationale: This was added during quarantine and verbiage is antiquated. Member schools can create local rules for how to handle student-athletes who have missed five practices for reasons other than injury or illness.</p> <p>Budget Impact: N/A</p> <p>Educational Impact: N/A</p> <p>Equity Impact: N/A</p> <p>Effective Date: 2026-2027 School Year</p>

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION/CONSIDERATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
3. Use of shoulder pads during summer football skill development [SMAC]	Use of shoulder pads during summer football skill development workouts and 7 v 7 events be discontinued.	<p>Rationale: While activity modification guidelines for heat apply for summer skill development, there is no acclimatization period required.</p> <p>Removing use of shoulder pads during summer skill development will discourage/eliminate contact practice and also lessen risk of heat illness.</p> <p>Budget Impact: N/A</p> <p>Educational Impact: N/A</p> <p>Equity Impact: N/A</p> <p>Effective Date: Summer 2026</p>
4. Flag Football Update P Attachment 1	<p>To provide an update on discussions and steps taken towards sanctioning flag football.</p> <p>See PowerPoint presentation with recent survey results and fall 2025 eligibility data.</p>	<p>***Discussion Only***</p>
5. Co-op teams P Attachment 2 [Northwood High /Four Rivers Conference]	Implement a Cooperative Team Agreement Policy that allows two or more schools to combine athletic programs in specific sports when one or more of the schools cannot independently field a full, competitive team due to limited participation, declining enrollment, or other challenges.	<p>Rationale: Schools are experiencing decreasing student populations which is leading to limited athletic participation, affecting a school's ability to sustain individual sports programs.</p> <p>Budget Impact: See attached proposal</p> <p>Educational Impact: See attached proposal</p> <p>Equity Impact: See attached proposal</p> <p>Effective Date: 2027-2028 School Year</p>

AGENDA ITEM

6. Spring Individual
Tennis Schedule

P Attachment 3

[Cap 8 Athletic
Conference]

RECOMMENDATION/CONSIDERATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Move the men’s individual tennis championship to Saturday, May 9 and Sunday, May 10 (currently scheduled for Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9)	<p>Rationale: See attached proposal</p> <p>Budget Impact: See attached proposal</p> <p>Educational Impact: See attached proposal</p> <p>Equity Impact: See attached proposal</p> <p>Effective Date: Spring 2026</p>

NCHSAA Flag Football Survey to Membership (March 2025)

Audience: Membership

Duration: March 4 – 11, 2025

Notifications:

- Tuesday, March 4, in the **NCHSAA Updates** email.
- On Tuesday, March 11, the **NCHSAA Updates** email noted only **160** responses had been received.

Returned Responses: 235 (53% of membership)

1

NCHSAA Flag Football Survey Questions (March 2025)

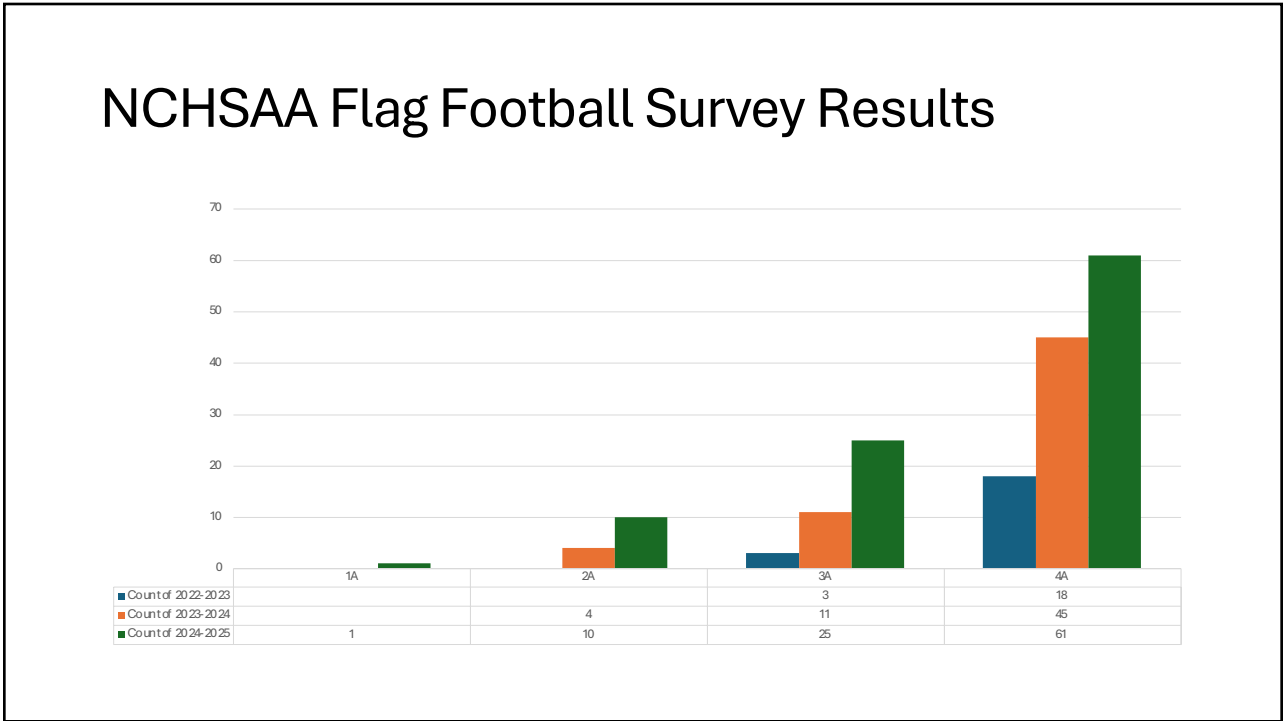
Did your school participate in women's flag football during:

- the **2024-2025** school year?
- the **2023-2024** school year?
- the **2022-2023** school year?

If Yes, which sport season:

- Fall
- Winter
- Spring

2



3

NCHSAA Flag Football Survey Results (March 2025)

	1A (121)	2A (106)	3A (111)	4A (104)	Total 442
	61	53	56	52	111
2022-23	0	0	3	18	21
2023-24	0	4	11	45	60
2024-25	1	10	25	61	97

Breakdown by Season

	Fall	Winter	Spring
2022-23	2	1	18
2023-24	16	11	33
2024-25	51	21	25

5

Bylaw VI as it currently reads

When at least 25% of the total number of member schools participate in a sport, that sport shall be sanctioned by the NCHSAA and shall culminate in a state championship. When less than half of the schools in a classification participate, those schools shall be grouped with schools from the next largest classification(s) not having 50% participation in that sport to create a state playoff bracket culminating in a multi-class state championship. If only one classification has less than 50% of schools participating in a sport, the schools in that classification shall have a reduced playoff bracket by one round. If that is not possible, then the schools of that classification shall be placed in the state playoffs of the next highest classification. (Approved March 2025, 340-14)

6

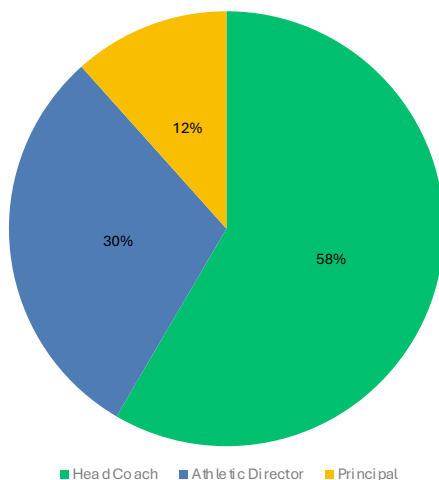
Next Steps

- Board tasked staff with forming ad hoc committee to examine the questions brought forth by the policy committee and full BOD regarding sanctioning of the sport (season of play, daily and weekly game limits, facility challenges, securing officials, etc).
- Ad hoc committee formed and met September 10
 - Members: Shannon McLaughlin, Timothy Foster, Deran Coe, Alexis McCoy, Dylan Johnson, David Ball, Jamie King, Ericia Turner, Elbert Lassiter, Joe Franks
- Survey distributed to member schools and was open from October 22 – October 29, 2025

7

Q1: What is your role?

• Answered: 955 Skipped: 0

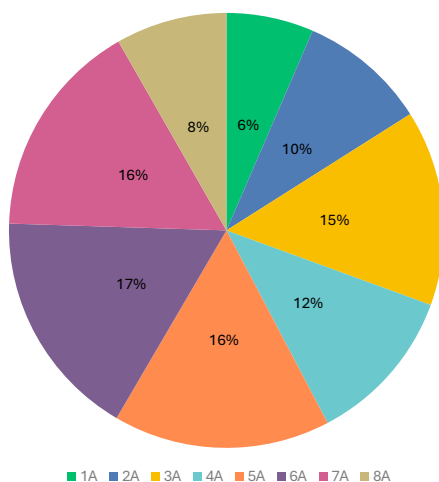


Powered by SurveyMonkey

8

Q2: Select your school's classification

• Answered: 955 Skipped: 0

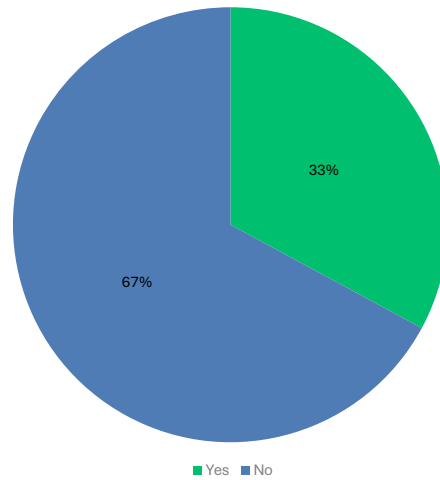


Powered by SurveyMonkey

9

Q3: Does your school currently offer flag football?

• Answered: 955 Skipped: 0

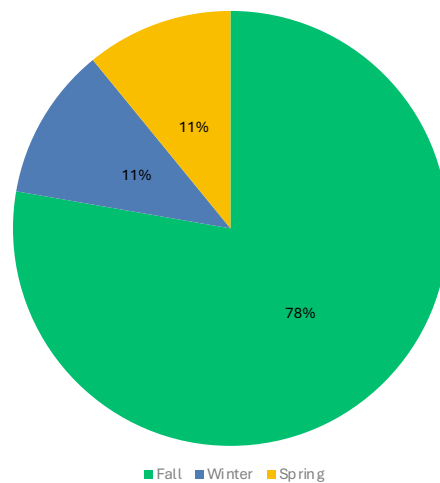


Powered by SurveyMonkey

10

Q4: What season did you have flag football?

• Answered: 211 Skipped: 744

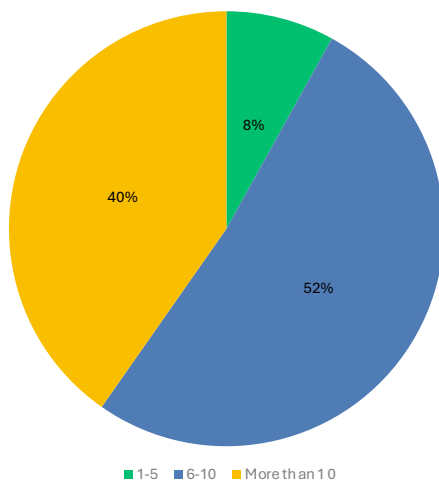


Powered by SurveyMonkey

11

Q5: How many regular-season contests do you play?

• Answered: 211 Skipped: 744

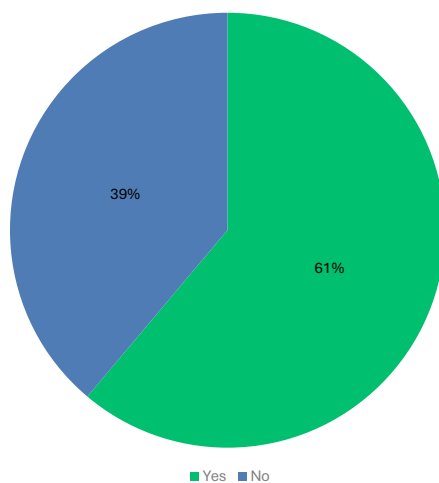


Powered by SurveyMonkey

12

Q6: Do you require an athletic trainer at all of your flag football contests?

• Answered: 211 Skipped: 744

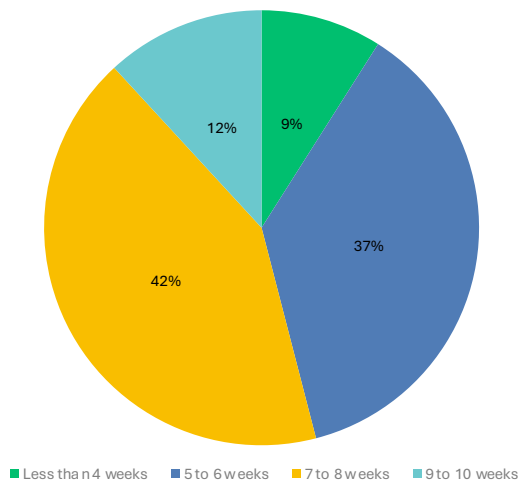


Powered by SurveyMonkey

13

Q7: How many weeks does your regular season span? (time period is between the first regular season game and the last regular season game)

• Answered: 211 Skipped: 744

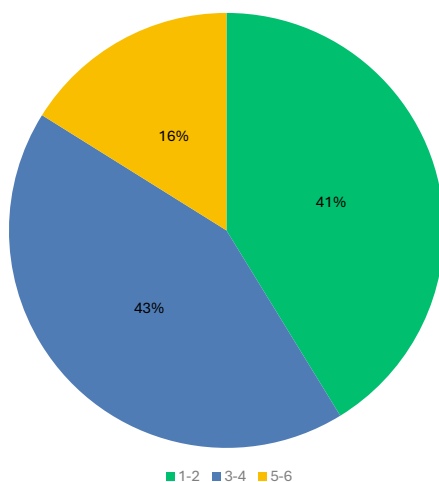


Powered by SurveyMonkey

14

Q8: How many rounds of playoffs do you have?

• Answered: 211 Skipped: 744

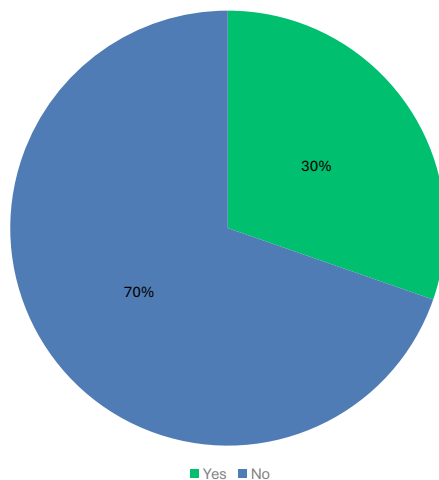


Powered by SurveyMonkey

15

Q9: Does your tackle football team and flag football team share coaches?

• Answered: 211 Skipped: 744

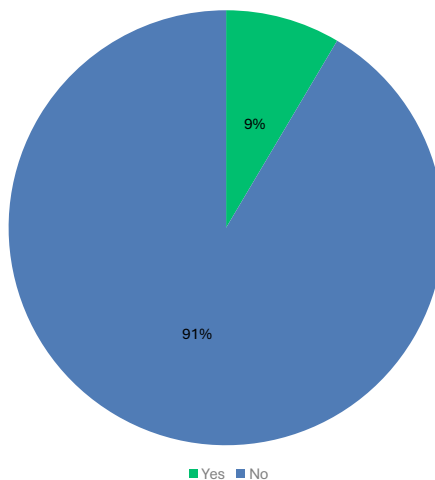


Powered by  SurveyMonkey

16

Q10: Did your school have issues obtaining officials for flag football?

• Answered: 211 Skipped: 744

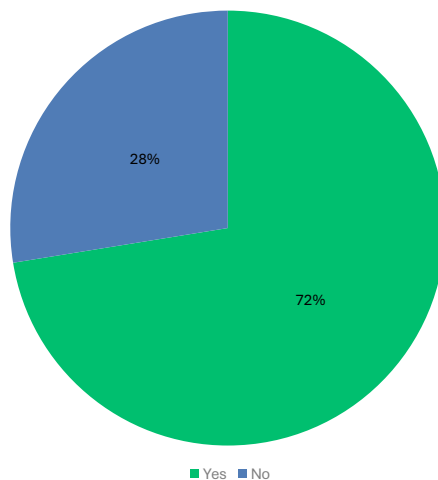


Powered by  SurveyMonkey

17

Q11: If the NCHSAA sanctions flag football, will you offer it as a sport at your school?

• Answered: 646 Skipped: 309

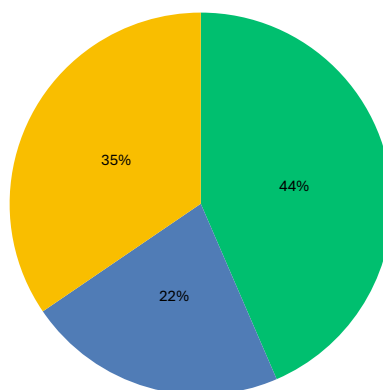


Powered by SurveyMonkey

18

Q12: How would your school feel about participating in girls flag football in the Fall?

• Answered: 646 Skipped: 309



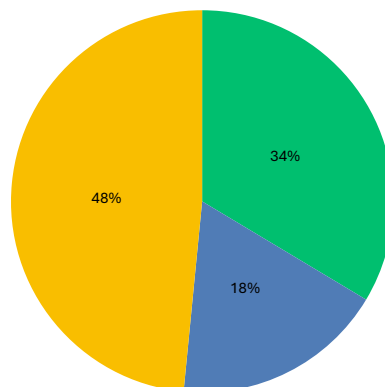
■ This would be our top choice
 ■ We prefer the winter but would make an effort to form a fall team
 ■ Moving to the fall would jeopardize our ability to have a team

Powered by SurveyMonkey

19

Q13: How would your school feel about participating in girls flag football in the Winter?

• Answered: 646 Skipped: 309



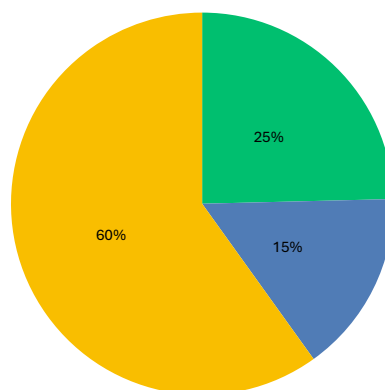
■ This would be our top choice
 ■ We prefer the spring but would make an effort to form a winter team
 ■ Moving to the winter would jeopardize our ability to have a team

Powered by SurveyMonkey

20

Q14: How would your school feel about participating in girls flag football in the Spring?

• Answered: 646 Skipped: 309



■ This would be our top choice
 ■ We prefer the winter but would make an effort to form a spring team
 ■ Moving to the spring would jeopardize our ability to have a team

Powered by SurveyMonkey

21

Fall 2025 Eligibility Summary Info

Classification	Number of Schools with Flag Football Student-Athletes
1A	0
2A	2
3A	2
4A	6
5A	12
6A	16
7A	23
8A	11
Total for Fall 2025	72

October 8, 2025

Commissioner Que Tucker
North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA)
222 Finley Golf Course Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Dear Commissioner Tucker and NCHSAA Board of Directors,,

We hope this letter finds you well. As the Athletic Director of Northwood High School, and in collaboration with 4 Rivers Conference President Jerry Talley, We are writing to propose a solution to an issue that has become increasingly prevalent within our athletic community: the challenge of schools struggling to field teams due to declining student populations or other limitations.

As you are well aware, high school athletics play a crucial role in the development of students, fostering teamwork, discipline, and physical well-being. However, in recent years, we have observed a growing trend of schools facing difficulties in maintaining adequate participation levels for certain sports programs. This not only limits competitive opportunities for students, but also impacts the overall integrity, inclusivity, and sustainability of high school athletics across our state.

To address this issue, we propose the implementation of cooperative agreements between schools within the NCHSAA. These agreements would allow schools facing challenges in fielding a complete team to collaborate with neighboring schools to form joint teams. By pooling resources, student-athletes, and coaching staffs, cooperative teams can ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate in the sports they love, regardless of the size of their home school.

Key components of the proposed cooperative agreements include:

1. **Flexibility:** Schools would have the ability to form cooperative agreements for specific sports where participation numbers are insufficient to sustain a standalone team.
2. **Equal Participation:** Cooperative teams would ensure that all participating students have equal opportunities for playing time and contributions to the team's success. Teams would also operate under a *no-cut* policy.
3. **Administrative Oversight:** The NCHSAA would provide clear guidelines and oversight to ensure cooperative agreements comply with existing rules and maintain the fairness and integrity of competition.
4. **Academic Considerations:** Cooperative agreements would prioritize academic success by ensuring participating students meet eligibility requirements and that travel and

competition schedules minimize academic disruption.

5. **Long-Term Sustainability:** The goal of these agreements is not only to address immediate participation challenges but also to foster long-term growth and stability for high school sports programs, encouraging sustained student engagement and school pride.

We believe implementing cooperative agreements between schools is a proactive and practical solution to current participation challenges. By working collaboratively, we can protect and expand athletic opportunities for all student-athletes across the NCHSAA.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal further and collaborate with you and other stakeholders to explore its feasibility and implementation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Cameron Vernon

Athletic Director
Northwood High School
cdvernon@chatham.k12.nc.us
(724) 699-3071

Jerry Talley

President, 4 Rivers Conference
jerrystalley@aol.com

Proposal Summary:

We propose that the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) implement a Cooperative Team Agreement Policy that allows two or more schools to combine athletic programs in specific sports when one or more of the schools cannot independently field a full, competitive team due to limited participation, declining enrollment, or other challenges.

Rationale:

Many schools across North Carolina—particularly in rural or smaller communities—are facing decreasing student populations and limited athletic participation. This directly affects their ability to sustain individual sports programs, limiting opportunities for student-athletes and reducing competitive balance across conferences.

By creating a structured system that allows schools to form cooperative athletic teams, we can preserve and expand athletic participation while maintaining fair competition and alignment with NCHSAA standards.

Key Components of the Proposal:

1. **Flexibility:** Schools may form cooperative agreements on a sport-by-sport basis, depending on participation numbers.
2. **Equal Participation:** All participating students must be given equitable opportunities for playing time, and teams should operate under a *no-cut policy* to maximize student involvement.
3. **Administrative Oversight:** The NCHSAA would develop clear guidelines for application, approval, and monitoring of cooperative teams to ensure compliance with existing eligibility and competition rules.
4. **Academic Accountability:** Students participating under cooperative agreements must meet all academic eligibility standards, and schools should coordinate schedules to minimize classroom disruption.
5. **Long-Term Sustainability:** These cooperative arrangements will help preserve sports that might otherwise be discontinued, encouraging greater athletic participation and fostering school and community pride.

Possible Budget Impacts of Cooperative Team Agreements**1. Transportation Costs (Increased)**

- **Description:** Cooperative teams would likely require travel between participating schools for practices and games.

- **Impact:** Slight increase in transportation expenses (fuel, driver pay, vehicle use).
- **Mitigation:** Schools could rotate practice sites or coordinate shared transportation (e.g., one bus per team rather than individual schools providing separate travel).

2. Uniforms and Equipment (Shared or Neutral Impact)

- **Description:** Teams may need new or co-branded uniforms and equipment to represent the joint program.
- **Impact:** Initial one-time expense for uniform adjustments or new sets. However, these costs can be shared proportionally between participating schools, minimizing the financial burden on any single school.

3. Coaching Stipends (Neutral or Slight Increase)

- **Description:** Cooperative teams may require adjustments to coaching assignments and stipends.
- **Impact:** In most cases, one head coach and one or two assistants can serve the combined roster, resulting in minimal increase or even cost savings compared to two separate underfunded teams.

4. Facility Use and Maintenance (Neutral or Slight Increase)

- **Description:** Shared use of facilities may lead to slightly higher wear-and-tear costs or scheduling adjustments.
- **Impact:** Minor increase in custodial or maintenance costs, offset by the benefit of keeping facilities in use for active programs.

5. Administrative and Compliance Oversight (Minimal Increase)

- **Description:** The NCHSAA and participating LEAs may incur small administrative costs related to approving, tracking, and monitoring cooperative agreements.
- **Impact:** Could be absorbed within existing staff responsibilities or through a minimal administrative fee per cooperative team (if deemed necessary).

6. Participation Fees and Shared Cost Savings (Decreased Cost Overall)

- **Description:** By combining programs, schools share costs for transportation, officials, and facility usage rather than duplicating them.
- **Impact:** Net savings over time due to shared expenses and more efficient resource use.

7. Long-Term Program Sustainability (Cost Avoidance)

- **Description:** Without cooperative opportunities, schools may lose entire programs due to low participation—resulting in lost funding opportunities, reduced student engagement, and potential negative community impacts.
- **Impact:** Cooperative agreements help preserve programs and the associated funding, avoiding the larger costs of program elimination and later re-establishment.

Overall Budget Effect:

While there may be minor short-term cost increases associated with coordination and travel, the long-term financial impact is positive, as cooperative agreements help schools share costs, preserve programs, and maximize existing athletic resources efficiently.

Educational Impact of Cooperative Athletic Team Agreements

The implementation of Cooperative Athletic Team Agreements within the NCHSAA would have a significant positive impact on the educational experience of student-athletes across North Carolina. High school athletics serve as an extension of the classroom teaching essential life skills such as teamwork, perseverance, leadership, and responsibility. Ensuring equitable access to these opportunities supports the overall mission of public education.

1. Increased Access and Equity:

By allowing schools with limited participation to form cooperative teams, more students, particularly from smaller or rural schools, will gain access to interscholastic sports. This inclusivity ensures that athletic opportunities are not restricted by school size or geographic location, aligning with educational equity goals across the state.

2. Social-Emotional and Character Development:

Participation in athletics has well documented benefits for social emotional learning. Cooperative teams promote collaboration between students from different schools and communities, fostering respect, communication, and adaptability, skills that are directly transferable to academic and personal success.

3. Academic Engagement and Retention:

Students who participate in athletics are often more engaged in school and demonstrate higher attendance and graduation rates. Cooperative agreements help retain students who might

otherwise lose interest or transfer due to the absence of sports opportunities, consequently supporting school stability and overall academic performance.

4. Leadership and Citizenship Education:

Joint teams provide expanded opportunities for student leadership, both on and off the field. Athletes learn to work across school lines, take initiative, and represent multiple communities, deepening their understanding of sportsmanship, civic pride, and collaboration.

5. Balanced Student Development:

Athletics complement the academic mission of schools by promoting physical wellness, discipline, time management, and goal-setting. Cooperative programs ensure these educational benefits are available to all students, even in smaller or underserved schools.

6. Strengthened School and Community Partnerships:

Cooperative agreements encourage collaboration between schools, administrators, and communities. These partnerships extend beyond athletics and can lead to broader academic and extracurricular cooperation, creating a more cohesive and supportive educational environment.

The educational impact of implementing Cooperative Team Agreements would be profoundly positive, enhancing access, engagement, leadership, and collaboration among students. By ensuring every student has the opportunity to participate in athletics, the NCHSAA would be reinforcing its role as a partner in promoting both educational excellence and personal growth for all student-athletes.

Gender Impact of Cooperative Athletic Team Agreements

The implementation of Cooperative Athletic Team Agreements would have a positive and equitable impact on gender representation and participation in high school athletics across North Carolina. These agreements would directly support the NCHSAA's and federal Title IX goals of providing equal athletic opportunities for both male and female student-athletes.

1. Increased Opportunities for Female Athletes:

In many smaller or rural schools, limited enrollment and participation often result in the cancellation of girls' teams due to low numbers. Cooperative agreements would allow schools to combine rosters and resources, enabling female student-athletes to continue participating in sports such as softball, volleyball, soccer, tennis, golf, swimming, cross country, wrestling or track and field, programs that might otherwise be lost.

2. Title IX Compliance and Gender Equity:

By expanding participation opportunities for both genders, cooperative programs reinforce Title IX compliance. They ensure that female athletes have the same access to facilities, coaching, equipment, and competition as their male counterparts. Cooperative agreements also provide schools with an equitable strategy to balance participation rates between boys' and girls' sports.

3. Retention and Engagement of Female Students:

Girls who participate in athletics are more likely to remain engaged academically, exhibit higher confidence, and pursue leadership roles in and beyond school. Maintaining viable programs through cooperative agreements supports these positive educational and developmental outcomes.

4. Coeducational Collaboration and Inclusion:

Joint teams promote inclusivity and cooperation between schools and among students of all genders. This collaboration strengthens the culture of mutual respect, sportsmanship, and equality within athletics—values that mirror the educational mission of the NCHSAA.

5. Long-Term Growth in Girls' Sports:

By sustaining and strengthening programs that may otherwise fold due to low numbers, cooperative agreements create stability for girls' sports at the high school level and encourage younger female athletes in feeder programs to stay involved, knowing they will have a path to compete at the varsity level.

The gender impact of implementing cooperative team agreements would be strongly positive, helping to:

- Preserve and expand athletic opportunities for girls and boys alike.
- Promote compliance with gender equity standards.
- Encourage long-term growth and participation among female athletes statewide.

These agreements ensure that no student-athlete, regardless of gender, loses the chance to learn, grow, and compete through interscholastic sports.

Proposed Implementation Timeline and Process

We propose that the Cooperative Athletic Team Agreement policy be implemented beginning with the 2027–2028 school year.

Schools interested in forming a cooperative team would be able to apply during the 2026–2027 school year, aligning the application period with the existing NCHSAA classification appeals process. This alignment would be ideal, as both processes involve considerations related to school enrollment, competitive balance, and program viability.

Hearing cooperative agreement requests at the same time as classification appeals would allow the NCHSAA to evaluate potential classification impacts efficiently and consistently. For example, in other state associations where cooperative programs are already in place, the largest school in the cooperative adds either the full enrollment or one-half of the smaller school's enrollment when determining the classification for that sport. This approach maintains

fairness and competitive equity while allowing flexibility for schools to sustain their athletic offerings.

By following a similar structure, the NCHSAA can ensure a smooth rollout of the program, giving schools, conferences, and administrators sufficient time to plan, collaborate, and secure board approval for participation prior to the 2027–2028 athletic year.

Cameron Vernon email of support to QT re: co-op agreements

From: Cameron Vernon <cdvernon@chatham.k12.nc.us>

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 10:34 AM

To: Kim Newman <kim@nchsaa.org>, Que Tucker <que@nchsaa.org>, L
<jerrystalley@aol.com>

Subject: Proposal for Cooperative Athletic Team Agreements - Addressing Declining Participation in High School Sports

Dear Commissioner Tucker,

I hope you are doing well. I am reaching out to share some of my observations and reasoning behind the proposal for implementing Cooperative Athletic Team Agreements within the NCHSAA and to formally request that this proposal be considered by the NCHSAA Board of Directors.

In my time as Athletic Director at Northwood High School, I have seen firsthand how changes in enrollment and population distribution can impact athletic opportunities for our student-athletes. Since the opening of Seaforth High School, our student enrollment at Northwood has decreased by approximately 57% (from 1,467 students to 621). This dramatic drop has made it increasingly difficult to field full, competitive teams in certain sports, despite a continued desire from students to participate. Luckily we have not had a situation where we could not field a full team, but it does concern me moving forward.

Beyond our own school, I have also witnessed similar challenges among schools in our conference. In recent years, two former Mid Carolina Conference members were unable to field a baseball team, and another school's tennis team had only three players, forcing them to compete individually rather than as a full team. These examples highlight a growing concern that many schools, particularly smaller or newly rezoned ones, are facing. A lack of sufficient numbers to sustain full teams, even when there is strong student interest.

The proposed Cooperative Team Agreement policy would provide a structured, fair, and equitable solution. It would allow neighboring schools to collaborate and combine student-athletes in sports where participation is limited, ensuring that students are not denied the opportunity to compete simply because of circumstances beyond their control. Aligning the application process with the 2026–2027 classification appeal period would also make the transition seamless, as cooperative classifications could be determined alongside existing enrollment based considerations.

I truly believe this proposal supports the NCHSAA's mission to promote education based athletics and equitable participation for all students across the state. I appreciate your time and consideration and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further at your convenience or during the next Board of Directors meeting.

Cameron Vernon email of support to QT re: co-op agreements

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to North Carolina student-athletes.

Cameron Vernon, M.Ed, NBCT, CMAA
Health and Physical Education Teacher
Director Of Athletics
Northwood High School
310 Northwood High School Rd.

Tennessee

1. <https://portal.tssaa.org/common/directory/coop.cfm>
2. Co op form:
<https://cms-files.tssaa.org/documents/tssaa/forms/cooperative-program-form.pdf>
3. Section 6. Only two member schools in the same Division may petition TSSAA annually for permission to have a cooperative program in any sport if one of the schools does not have that program and has not had that program for the last two years. The Executive Director of TSSAA may approve such cooperative programs subject to approval by the principals of the schools involved, the governing board of the schools involved, and the Board of Control

Pennsylvania

1. Rules/Policy: Section 10. Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport.
 - A. Philosophy. The philosophy that guides the PIAA Board of Directors in reviewing and approving applications for Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport between two or more PIAA member schools is as follows:
 1. The Board supports opportunities for greater student participation.
 2. The Board encourages projects that combine smaller PIAA member schools for sponsorship of an activity rather than a small PIAA member school combining with a larger PIAA member school when the smaller PIAA member school cannot support the activity alone.
 3. The Board will not approve agreements where an intent of the agreement is to improve the quality of a Team (i.e., obtain a better win/loss record).
 4. The Board will not approve agreements whereby: (a) any students enrolled at any of the PIAA member schools entering into the agreement would be prohibited from participation in the sports governed by the agreement because of the location of their residence; (b) one of the PIAA member schools is a public school and the agreement would bar any HomeSchooled Students who are otherwise eligible at that school from participating on the Team(s) covered by the agreement; and/or (c) more than one school to the agreement is to host the same sport.
 5. The Board will neither consider nor approve agreements with non-PIAA member schools.
 6. The public school districts of the participating PIAA member schools must be contiguous and/or overlap.
 - B. Provisions Applicable to all Agreements.
 1. School Enrollments: (a) For cooperative sponsorship of a boys' sport, the male enrollment, as of the date as of which schools report their enrollments to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) of each odd-numbered year, in each of the schools but one in grades nine through eleven must be 300 students or less. For cooperative sponsorship of a girls' sport, the female enrollment, as of the date as of which schools report their enrollments to PDE of each odd-numbered year, in each of the schools but one in grades nine through eleven must be 300 students or less. NOTE: The

District Committee and Board of Directors may consider approval of agreements in which more than one school is over the 300 limit with consideration given, but not limited to, the following parameters:

- a) For team sports, the schools agree to forego participation in any post-season competition;
- b) The schools have demonstrated lack of success in the respective programs;
- c) The schools have demonstrated lack of participation numbers in the respective programs;
- d) The schools have exhausted possibilities of agreements with smaller sized schools.

(b) The combined male enrollment, as of the date as of which schools report their enrollments to PDE of each odd-numbered year, of

(1) all male students enrolled in the school with the highest male enrollment of those schools involved in the cooperative sponsorship of a boys' sport and

(2) 50% of all male students enrolled in other schools participating in the cooperative sponsorship of the boys' sport, will determine the classification of the Team in that sport. The combined female enrollment, as of the date as of which schools report their enrollments to PDE of each odd-numbered year, of

(1) all female students enrolled in the school with the highest female enrollment of those schools involved in the cooperative sponsorship of a girls' sport and

(2) 50% of all female students enrolled in other schools participating in the cooperative sponsorship of the girls' sport, will determine the classification of the Team in that sport.

2. Requests to Approve Agreements:

(a) Requests to approve Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport agreements must be submitted by the requesting PIAA member schools to the applicable PIAA District Committee. Following consideration, the PIAA District Committee shall forward the request, together with its recommendation, to the PIAA Board of Directors for its consideration.

(b) For agreements between public schools within a single public school district, said requests for approval must include the approving resolution of the School Board having jurisdiction over the PIAA member schools. For all other PIAA member schools, said requests for approval must include the proposed agreement between the participating PIAA member schools. The resolution or agreement, as applicable, must fully delineate the terms and conditions that pertain to the Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport by the participating PIAA member schools, including at least the following:

- (1) Introduction and purpose of agreement.
- (2) Timeline for implementation.
- (3) Duration of agreement (must be for at least a two-year enrollment classification cycle).
- (4) Administrative responsibility, liability, and insurance.
- (5) Team name and uniforms.
- (6) Financial arrangements.
- (7) Staffing.

- (8) Operating pro(
- 10) Transportation.

(c) Requests for approval of Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport agreements, which would not affect the classification size of a Team, may be submitted at any time to the applicable PIAA District Committee for its approval and then forwarded to the Board of Directors for its approval.

(d) Requests for approval of Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport agreements, which would affect the classification size of a Team, must be approved by BYLAWS 2023-2024

16 the applicable PIAA District Committee, and submitted to the PIAA Board of Directors by October 1st of any odd-numbered year to be considered for approval for the immediately following two-year reclassification cycle.

(e) The District Committee and Board of Directors may consider approval of agreements which would affect the classification size of a Team during the current classification cycle with consideration given to the following parameters:

(1) For team sports, the schools agree to forego participation in any post-season competition;

(2) Whether the schools have demonstrated lack of success in the respective programs;

(3) Whether the schools have demonstrated lack of participation numbers in the respective programs; and

(4) Requests to modify a cooperative sponsorship of a sport agreement that changes the classification of a Team, shall not be approved if submitted after the start of the sport(s) Regular Season. 3. Modification or Termination of Agreements: (a) Procedure and Timing of Requests.

(1) Requests to modify or terminate a previously approved Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport agreement must be submitted by the requesting PIAA member school to the applicable PIAA District Committee. Following consideration, the PIAA District Committee shall forward the request, together with its recommendation, to the PIAA Board of Directors for its consideration. The request must include a resolution of the School Board(s) and/or Board(s) having jurisdiction over the PIAA member schools approving such modification or termination. (2) Such requests for modification or termination, which would not affect the classification size of a Team, may be submitted at any time to the applicable PIAA District. (3) Such requests for modification or termination, which would affect the classification size of a Team, must be approved by the applicable PIAA District Committee and submitted to the PIAA Board of Directors on or before October 1st of any odd-numbered year. (4) The District Committee and Board of Directors may consider modification of agreements which would affect the classification size of a Team during the current classification cycle with consideration given to the following parameters: (i) For team sports, the schools agree to forego participation in any post-season competition; (ii) Whether the schools have demonstrated lack of success in the respective programs; and (iii) Whether the schools have demonstrated lack of participation numbers in the respective programs; (iv)

Requests to modify a cooperative sponsorship of a sport agreement that changes the classification of a Team, shall not be approved if submitted after the start of the sport(s) Regular Season.

(5) Requests to modify or terminate the agreement must be initiated by all of the schools if the agreement has been in place for four years or less. Thereafter, any school to the agreement may submit a request to modify or terminate the agreement, subject to the applicable provisions set forth in subsection B3 and any modification requests will incur a \$100 modification fee from each school involved in the agreement.

(b) Grounds for Termination.

(1) Agreements are for at least a two-year enrollment classification cycle.

(2) Agreements may be terminated by the PIAA Board of Directors prior to the expiration of a two-year enrollment classification cycle under the following conditions: (

a) Closing of one of the schools;

(b) If more than one of the schools' enrollment is greater than 300 (effective beginning the 2018-19 school year); (

c) Substantiated complaints from surrounding schools concerning recruiting by one of the participating PIAA member schools; (

d) Substantiated complaints from parents, School Boards, and/or students in one of the participating PIAA member schools; and/or (e) Other valid reasons as determined by the PIAA Board of Directors.

(3) Agreements may be terminated by the PIAA Board of Directors, after a two-year enrollment classification cycle, upon request by all parties to the Agreement and the request is absent good cause for not doing so.

(4) Agreements may be terminated by the PIAA Board of Directors, after two, two-year enrollment classification cycles, upon request by any participant in the Agreement and the request is absent good cause for not doing so.

INTERPRETATION Section 10.B.3. December 6, 2017. Requests to terminate or modify a previously approved Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport Agreement submitted by a school after October 1st of any odd-numbered year, which would affect the classification size of a school may be approved by the Board of Directors.

However, the school shall remain in the same classification as established by the existing cooperative sponsorship for the next two-year cycle.

C. Effect of Termination of Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport Agreement. Any student whose own school does not sponsor a particular sport and who was a member of a Team during the season that a Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport Agreement was in place may, upon termination of such agreement, and with the consent of the Principals of the schools to the agreement, continue to participate on such Team as if said agreement remains in effect. Such student, however, is not eligible to participate on the other school's Team if the student's own school then sponsors a Team in that sport. As it is intended that this provision only permit a phase-out of a Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport Agreement without negative impact on those students who actually participated under the agreement when it was in place, and not to allow

additional participation, should this provision be deemed by any court to be violative of the rights of any other student by denying that student the opportunity to participate on a Team sponsored by another school, this provision shall be stricken in its entirety and, upon termination of any Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport Agreement, the students shall thereafter be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics as if no Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport Agreement had ever existed.

Wisconsin: ALL SPORTS

[Co-op Team Application](#) (New & Renewal) | [Help Guide](#)

In 1982, the WIAA membership approved an amendment to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Eligibility permitting cooperative teams. The following language from the WIAA Official Handbook outlines rules governing the formation and approval process of cooperative teams. Contact [Sheila Schulfer](#) with any cooperative team matters.

The Board of Control has authority to approve cooperative team sponsorship (one team in a given sport involving two or more member schools) under the following conditions:

1. The schools involved must be in the same geographical area.
2. The agreement for a cooperative team must specify two schools years, but that agreement may be terminated by the Board of Control for documented extenuating circumstances.
3. Applications for initial approval, or renewal of approval of a cooperative team, must include a completed and signed Cooperative Team Request Form, reflecting:
 - a. Approval of involved schools.
 - b. Approval of involved Board(s) of Education or Governing Bodies.
 - c. Approval of conference in which the cooperative team will participate.
4. Total enrollment of schools involved in cooperative team will determine classification of competition in WIAA tournament series.
5. Requests, for approval or dissolution, must meet the following deadline dates to be considered for the subsequent school year:

Fall Sports - October 1 | Winter Sports - February 1 | Spring Sports - May 1

Michigan

1. <https://my.mhsaa.com/portals/0/documents/AD%20Forms/srcoop.pdf>

Massachusetts:

https://miaa.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Page-17_CooperativeTeamGuide-1.pdf

South Dakota:

<https://www.sdhsaa.com/Handbook/ATH-Cooperatives.pdf>

<https://www.sdhsaa.com/athletics-cooperatives/>

Illinois

<https://www.ihsa.org/Schools/School-Directory/Cooperative-Teams>

<https://www.ihsa.org/documents/bylaws/2011-12bylawproposals.pdf>

Minnesota

<https://www.mshsl.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/bylaw-403.pdf>

Connecticut

CIAC CO-OPERATIVE TEAMS IN A NUTSHELL

This a summarization of the CIAC Co-operative Team by-law to help schools better understand the regulation and should not be considered an official document. More details about co-operative teams can be found on page 61 of the CIAC Handbook.

When a CIAC Member school does not have a sufficient number of participants to offer a sport program they may merge with any number of other CIAC Member Schools who also do not have a sufficient number of participants **PROVIDED** no one school is above the maximum determined limit required to field a team **OR** if the total number of participants from all the schools involved is more than double the maximum determined limit to field a team (i.e. football, grades 9-12 cannot be higher than 64). The numbers established as benchmarks in each sport depend significantly on the issue of competitor displacement and not on a schools inability to be competitive or the inability to maintain teams at multiple levels. The Co-operative Team Committee does not have the authority to approve a co-op when the number exceed the maximum determined limit or to extend an existing co-op whose numbers exceed the maximum determined limit.

The following should be used as a guide when considering making a co-op team application:

1. This chart shows the maximum determined limit for each sport. A school should **NOT APPLY** for a co-op team if their current projected numbers are over the limit.

<u>Fall Sports (9-12)</u>	<u>Winter Sports (9-12)</u>	<u>Spring Sports (9-12)</u>
Cross Country ... 5	Basketball 8	Baseball 14
Field Hockey ... 16	Gymnastics 3	Golf 4
Football 32	Ice Hockey 15	Lacrosse 16
Soccer16	Swimming ... 14	Outdoor Track ... 14
Volleyball.....10	Indoor Track 10	Softball 14
Wrestling13	Tennis 7	

2. An existing Co-op “team” can add another school to the co-op if the current “team” total number of athletes is not above the maximum determined limit or it does not raise the total number of athletes to double the maximum determined limit (i.e. hockey schools A = 14 B=12,C=3 totaling 29 which is permissible because it does not exceed 30 which is double the maximum determined limit of 15).
3. Co-operative teams must agree to a NO-CUT policy.
4. Cooperative teams may not be formed for financial reasons.
5. Approval of a Co-op can be for one or two years and is renewable if the numbers do not exceed the maximum determined limit.
6. A school whose numbers exceed maximum determined limit will be placed in a phase out for either one or two years. Should the numbers drop during the phase out period the schools are eligible to re-apply to restore their co-op status.
7. Schools who have completed the phase out period and are still over the maximum determined limit but wish to remain together for another year can apply for “opt-out” status and

will remove themselves from the CIAC state tournament. This must be supported by every opponent on the schedule.

The co-operative team concept is simple – If you are over the maximum determined limit you should not be combined with another school.

FB/2018

Idaho:

<https://idhsaa.org/asset/Rules%20&%20Regs/RULE%207%2023-24.pdf>

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission

Spring Meeting Deadline: April 1
Winter Meeting Deadline: November 1

Name(s) : Cap 8 Athletic Directors

School/LEA/Conference/Group: Cap 8 Athletic Conference

We/I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors:

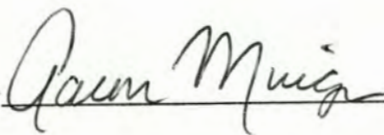
Recommendation/Proposal:

State in detail the recommendation/proposal. Include attachments if necessary.

See attachment for request to move the Men's Tennis Individual State Championship date

- Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)
- Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)
- Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)
- Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)
- Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)

Signature



Date

9/10/25

Name(s): School/LEA/Conference/Group:

Aaron Minger (Broughton High School), Travis Seese (Athens Drive High School), Sheri' Jones-House (Enloe High School), Russ Frazier (Leesville Road High School), Chancey Wolfe (Wakefield High School), Jacob Gross (Rolesville High School), Chris East (Millbrook High School), Adam Weaver (Corinth Holders High School)

School/LEA/Conference/Group: Cap 8 Athletic Conference

Recommendation/Proposal: State in detail the recommendation/proposal. Include attachments if necessary.

*MEN'S Individual
TENNIS*

We, the Cap 8 Athletic Conference, respectfully ask that the championship, currently scheduled for **Friday at 9:00 a.m.** (as outlined in the NCHSAA Handbook 2025–2026, Section 4.11.5, page 109), be moved to **Saturday and Sunday** instead. We bring this request forward well in advance so that facility availability and planning timelines are not a barrier. A weekend schedule would offer meaningful benefits and better align with NCHSAA's core values of equity, academic integrity, and community inclusion.

Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)

Key Reasons for the Request:

- **1. Conflict with International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams**

The current weekday schedule directly conflicts with the non-reschedulable IB senior exams, held from **April 29 to May 21**, forcing student-athletes to choose between critical academic assessments and the pinnacle of their athletic season.

- **2. Greater Parental and Community Attendance**

A weekend event allows more families to attend without needing to miss work, encouraging stronger family support and broader community engagement during this important milestone in students' athletic careers.

- **3. Travel and Equity Considerations**

Families traveling from all regions of North Carolina face fewer logistical and financial burdens when events are held over the weekend. This promotes more equitable access for all participants, regardless of geography or socioeconomic status.

- **4. Support for Academic Rigor**

Rescheduling reflects NCHSAA's commitment to student-athletes who pursue academically demanding programs, such as the IB Diploma or AP capstone. No student should have to choose between academic excellence and athletic opportunity.

- **5. Enhanced School Spirit and Visibility**

Weekend championships offer increased opportunity for classmates, teachers, and school communities to attend and support their athletes, fostering school pride and a vibrant, competitive atmosphere.

Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)

We feel this could only have positive budgetary impacts as coaches/athletic departments would not have to pay for substitute teachers for school based coaches.

Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)

This move would positively impact education as there should be no loss of instructional time and students will be able to increase their focus on the exam with the tournament on the weekend. Additionally, the students taking exams will not be forced to choose between athletics and academics.

Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)

This would only impact males as men's tennis is the team that is in season during end of year exams.

Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)

This would be effective for the Spring 2026 Men's Championships

Signature *Travis Seese* Date 2025-09-09

Signature *Thomas Christopher East* Date 2025-09-09

Signature *Jonathan R. Frazier* Date 2025-09-09

Signature *Jacob Gross* Date 2025-09-09

Signature *Sheri' Jones-House* Date 2025-09-09

Signature *Chancey Wolfe* Date 2025-09-09

Signature *Adam Weaver* Date 2025-09-09

Signature *Aaron Minger* Date 2025-09-09

fax completed form to 919-240-7399 or email to kim@nchsaa.org