**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 multiplelevels.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.

Fall Sports (9-12)(10-12) Winter Sports (9-12)(10-12) Spring Sports (9-12)(10-12)

Cross Country … 5 / 4 Basketball …….. 8 / 6 Baseball ……….. 14/ 10 Field Hockey … 16/ 11 Gymnastics …… 3 / 2 Golf …………… 4 / 3 Football ……… 32 / 25 Ice Hockey …… 15/ 10 Lacrosse ………. 16/ 11 Soccer …………16/ 11 B. Swimming … 14/ 10 Outdoor Track … 14/ 10 G. Swimming ….14/ 10 Indoor Track …. 10/ 7 Softball ………... 14/ 10 G. Volleyball … 10 / 7 Wrestling ………13/ 9 Tennis ………… 7 / 5

 B. Volleyball ….. 10/ 7

1. 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).
2. Co-operative teams must agree to a NO-CUT policy.
3. Cooperative teams may not be formed for financial reasons.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.***

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