

ADDING/ELIMINATING A SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITY

I. PURPOSE

To establish criteria by which the Big Lake School District may decide to add or eliminate Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) athletic or fine art activities to its offerings

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Board recognizes that student interest and participation changes over time, and that offerings available to students must change in response to interest. In addition, the board supports the goal of gender equity in athletic competition.

Therefore proposals to add or eliminate an activity will be presented by administration for Board approval. The proposals will be based on student interest and if appropriate, gender equity considerations. The proposals will include a programmatic and financial analysis.

Big Lake School District may add MSHSL sponsored activities in one of three ways. All decisions must be approved at the board level

III. PROCESS FOR ADDING A SPORT OR ACTIVITY

- A. Offer the activity at Big Lake School District. In order to be considered by the District, all new activity proposals must meet the following minimal criteria:
 - 1) The activity must currently exist at the youth level.
 - 2) The activity has participants to sustain a program now and into the future.
 - 3) The District has necessary facilities needed to offer the activity.
 - 4) The activity will not create an imbalance of participation rates by males and females that would put the district out of Title IX compliance.
 - 5) The District has the financial resources available to implement and sustain the cost as determined by the District.
 - 6) Assess the availability of qualified Coaches/Advisors as determined by the District.
 - 7) Approval of the School Board.
- B. Sponsor the activity as a host school of a cooperative sponsorship. The above minimum criteria, in addition to the following, must be met before pursuing a cooperative sponsorship.
 - 1) The District will be responsible for the financial administration of the activity
 - 2) As the host school, the District will calculate the costs of the program and bill each member school on a per participant ratio.
 - a. Costs that will be included in the expenses of the program will include but are not limited to MSHSL fees, coaching salaries, transportation, officials, contest workers, uniforms, equipment, custodial services and administrative services.
 - 3) Approval of the school board
- C. Participate in the activity as a member of a cooperative sponsorship with another school serving as the host school.
 - 1) This option does not need to meet the minimum criteria mentioned above.
 - 2) The District may or may not participate in the financial administration of the activity.
 - 3) The activity will not create an imbalance of participation rates by males and females that would put the district out of Title IX compliance.
 - 4) The addition of the activity is consistent with the District's goals and objectives.
 - 5) The district determines the host school of the cooperative sponsorship agreement holds similar expectations as the District.

- 6) The host school must be located geographically close to Big Lake High School where the student(s) could get to practice and games and not miss valuable class time.
- 7) Approval of the school board

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

The following process will be utilized for review and potential approval of a new activity:

- A. A person or group will submit a request to the Activities Director. The Activities Director and Principal will determine if the above minimum criteria are met. If the Activities Director and the Principal support the proposal, it will be brought to the Superintendent for discussion.
- B. Upon Superintendent approval, the proposal will be brought to the appropriate board committees for discussion.
- C. Upon board committee approval, the proposal will be brought to the school board for discussion and/or action.

V. PROCESS FOR ELIMINATING A SPORT OR ACTIVITY

A. Conditions

Any of the following conditions may call for a Building or District to consider eliminating or temporarily suspending an interscholastic sport or activity:

- 1) Lack of student interest, diminishing participation, or overall viability of a program.
- 2) Downward trend in the sport or activity in the Conference and/or in the MSHSL.
- 3) Sport or activity is not sponsored by the MSHSL or the Conference (high school).
- 4) Sport or activity is not linked to a high school program (MS level).
- 5) Facility overuse or capacity is challenged.
- 6) Lack of qualified coaching/advising candidates or applicants.
- 7) Cost of the sport or activity exceeds the available resources to support the program.
- 8) The sport or activity is available to students in the community in a non-school sponsored program.

B. Process

- 1) Activities Director conducts an inventory of current programs
- 2) Activity Director conducts a financial audit of the program with the Director of Business Services
- 3) Activity Director determines whether deleting the sport or activity will create an imbalance in offerings for boys/girls as required by Title IX laws.
- 4) Activity Director prepares a recommendation, which may include combining activities with another school or district.

C. Recommendation

- 1) The Activity Director will forward a recommendation to the Superintendent.
- 2) If the recommendation is to eliminate or temporarily suspend a sport/activity the Superintendent will review the request and forward it with a recommendation and supporting data to the school board for action.