

**2020-2021 MEMBER SCHOOL TO MEMBER SCHOOL PROGRAM CERTIFICATION
Allowing Member School Students To Participate On Other**

Member School Teams

Rationale – The Member to Member Program is designed to either provide a short term fix for a school with low participation and an opportunity for a student/athlete(s) from another school(s) to participate on a team that a sending school does not offer.

Section 1: Member high school students may participate on another member high school's teams, provided that the following criteria are met:

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. YES NO

The involved schools have submitted a written request for participation in this program to the VPA Executive Director or designee sixty (60) days prior to the start of the appropriate sport season to allow adequate time for reviewing the applications.

- The VPA will process late applications but cannot assure that the review process will be completed in time for the season.
- The VPA will only approve requests that satisfy all of the criteria of this program.

2. YES NO

Priority to request will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Receiving school in the same county that has a demonstrated need for their program.
- Receiving school outside of the county that has a demonstrated need for their program and is within comparable distance from programs within their county.
- Receiving school from within the county that has the desired program, but may not have need based on the complement of players in section (j). If there are multiple receiving schools in the area, highest priority will go to the receiving school with the greatest need.

3. YES NO Are Copies Enclosed: YES NO

There is a written agreement between each participating school(s) that has been approved by the respective principals and athletic directors.

- The written agreement must explicitly authorize participation in the program.

4. YES NO Is there Compensation? YES NO

The agreement must state that the schools have considered compensation from the sending school.

- Compensation can be in the form of an exchange of opportunities in other programs or any other form the schools agree to.
- If compensation is agreed upon, the agreement shall describe that compensation. Financial compensation shall come from the school.
- If there is compensation, please attach a copy to this application.

Section 2: Substantive Requirements

5. SPORT _____

The program only applies to teams sports (i.e.; Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cheerleading, Dance, Field Hockey, Football, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Ultimate and Volleyball).

- Students can continue to participate as individual competitors in all other sports under existing standards.
- Schools may enter into an agreement provided that no student/athletes have been cut at any level in that sport (cut meaning out of the program).

6. CONFIRMED INITIALED

The athlete must meet all eligibility and student conduct requirements otherwise established by VPA rules and both of the schools involved.

7. _____ CONFIRMED _____ INITIALED

There must be no athletic recruitment of student athletes.

- No coach, booster, or person involved in the athletic department should directly or indirectly solicit students from other schools for this program. This means that a coach or school employee who receives a direct inquiry must immediately refer the inquiry to the appropriate school administrator.

8. _____ CONFIRMED _____ INITIALED

The sending school may not offer the team sport in which the student wishes to participate.

- If a sending school has previously offered this team sport, they are ineligible to participate in this program for two years from the date the team was dropped unless permission is granted by the VPA.

9. _____ YES _____ N/A

In sports in which the VPA sanctions separate championships for boys and girls (Basketball, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Tennis and Ultimate), a student athlete may request participation if the student's school does not offer the sport in his or her gender.

- All schools should provide athletic programs with appropriate opportunities for both genders.

10. Schools involved in a Member to Member Program must be members of the VPA.

11. _____ CONFIRMED _____ INITIALED

There must be no displacement of student-athletes from the receiving (host) school from spots in the program by the sending school's student-athlete(s).

- The sponsoring school's team either must maintain a no-cut policy or have less than the normal complement of players required for a team who are enrolled in the sponsoring school. Students accepted under a Member to Member program may participate at any level of team that the receiving school offers.

12. Two schools may reach an agreement for a particular sport, however the agreement will not take effect until tryouts have been completed and it is determined there are slots available.

13. Schools may enter into a Member to Member Program for sub-varsity as long as there is no displacement at the JV or Freshman level.

14. For the purposes of this requirement, the normal complement of players required for an individual team shall be as follows:

° Baseball	18	* Ice Hockey	24	Ultimate	20
* Basketball	12	* Lacrosse - Boy	20	Volleyball	20
* Bowling	10	* Lacrosse – Girl	22	Winter Cheer	24
* Field Hockey	20	* Soccer	20		
* Football (11 man)	30	* Softball	18		
* Dance	20	* Tennis	10		

15. Students from sending schools shall comprise no more than twenty percent (20%) of the normal complement for each team as listed above. The maximum numbers for each team are as follows:

* Baseball	4	*Ice Hockey	5	Ultimate	4
* Basketball	2	* Lacrosse - Boy	4	Volleyball	3
* Bowling	2	*Lacrosse – Girl	4	Winter Cheer	5
* Field Hockey	4	*Soccer	4		
* Football	6	* Softball	4		
* Dance	4	* Tennis	2		

Note – receiving schools may enter into multiple agreements with sending schools in order to reach the 20%, However, sending schools may only enter into an agreement with one receiving school per sport.

16. _____ CONFIRMED _____ INITIALED

In the event that a sponsoring school receives more requests for placement on a particular team than there are slots available, the sponsoring school will arrange a meeting with the sending schools for the purpose of conducting a random lottery.

- A school may not award the slots based on ability or peer pressure.
- Returning players are allocated one of the open slots if a new agreement is implemented.
- Returning players, from a previous year, from a sending school, can remain with a receiving school program through their graduation. If a receiving school decides not to renew a Member to Member Program, players returning from the previous year may stay with the receiving school program and the sending school may enter into a new Member to Member program with another school for new players.
- Any players who are already participating in a member to Member Program will be able to remain with that program until their graduation. If that program no longer qualifies as a receiving school for the sending school, based on the new Member to Member Policy, future players would participate with the new receiving school.

17. Schools with a normal complement of players (as stated in #13) may not enter into a Member to Member Agreement unless there is no receiving school within a reasonable distance (county). A receiving school must then show that there is a need even if they have a normal complement of players or the receiving school is the only available option. If there are multiple receiving schools in the area, highest priority will go to the receiving school with the greatest need.

18. _____ CONFIRMED _____ INITIALED

The sending and sponsoring schools shall define all legal liabilities for student participants in the Program agreements. This includes, but is not limited to:

- insurance
- transportation
- supervision

Section 3: Evaluation & Divisional Alignment

19. All agreements are one season in length and must be renewed annually.

20. In establishing divisional alignments, the appropriate VPA committee shall consider any existing programs and their impact on fair competition.

- In reviewing applications under this program, the VPA shall review the application with the appropriate sport's committee and may revise the divisional alignment as a condition of approval if appropriate to preserve fair competition.

PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE

SENDING SCHOOL/DATE

PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE

SPONSORING SCHOOL/ DATE

List of required documents enclosed for consideration:

- Letter of request to the Assoc. Executive Director (send 60 days prior to the start of the appropriate season if possible)
- Compensation agreement (if applicable)
- Lottery system description (one from each school)