



Cooperative Sports Sponsorship: Heartland Community Schools & Hampton Public Schools

Stakeholder Summary

WHAT IS BEING CONSIDERED

- ▶ Cooperative Sponsorship of sports between **Heartland Community Schools** and **Hampton Public Schools**.
- ▶ A cooperative sponsorship is an agreement between two or more schools to compete in one or more sports as a single team, with combined resources.
- ▶ Cooperative sponsorship agreements are put in place for a two-year period. After two years, agreements can be discontinued, changed, or renewed.
- ▶ **A cooperative sponsorship is not a consolidation.** Outside of the shared programs included in the co-op agreement, all schools continue to be operated, administrated, governed, and funded separately and independently.
- ▶ The agreement we are considering **includes all sports** – boys, girls, high school, and junior high school.
- ▶ The agreement is for sports only. **Activities (e.g. band, FBLA, FFA, quiz bowl) would not be included** in the co-op currently being considered and will continue to be done separately by each school.

NAME – MASCOT – COLORS

At the early stages of discussion, it was mutually agreed upon between both schools that any cooperative sponsorship that we might seek to create between our two schools would be based on two fundamental principles.

1. We'd seek to create a long-term relationship.
2. We'd seek to emphasize partnership, equity, teamwork, and unity.

In the interests of these keeping with these principles, it was determined early on that a cooperative sponsorship of sports between our two schools would compete using a new and neutral team name, a new and neutral mascot, and a new and neutral color scheme.

Name: H&H

Currently our two schools compete in athletics using different names – Hampton and Heartland.

The team(s) that compete under the cooperative sponsorship agreement will use the name H&H.

Mascot: Yet To Be Determined

The governing boards of each school, and their working groups, have gone through a process of selecting and determining 4 mascot finalists. Those 4 finalists will be made known at a time to be determined and agreed upon by the two working groups from each school.

After an agreement is officially approved by the boards of both schools, the mascot for the co-op will be chosen by a vote of students from both schools. Votes will be cast by students in grades 7-11. For the purpose of counting votes, 1 student equals 1 vote - regardless of what grade they are in or what school they attend.

**Colors: Black
White
Silver**

SPORTS INCLUDED

HIGH SCHOOL

- ▶ Football
- ▶ Girls Golf
- ▶ Volleyball
- ▶ Boys Basketball
- ▶ Girls Basketball
- ▶ Boys Golf
- ▶ Boys Track & Field
- ▶ Girls Track & Field
- ▶ Cheerleading

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- ▶ Football
- ▶ Volleyball
- ▶ Boys Basketball
- ▶ Girls Basketball
- ▶ Boys Track & Field
- ▶ Girls Track & Field

New / additional teams or programs could be added at a later time in an effort to provide our students with more opportunities. However, no additional teams or programs are being added, or considered, at this time.

EXPECTED BENEFITS

- ▶ Success and Consistency. These goals directly support the Mission of our school (Empowering Excellence).
- ▶ Working together, our two schools seek to consistently increase, maximize, and efficiently deploy three fundamental resources that support all sports programs: 1) student-participants, 2) interested & qualified coaches, and 3) facilities.
- ▶ Increased student-participant numbers.
 - ▶ Stabilize participation numbers in areas where participation numbers can be inconsistent or problematic.
 - ▶ Mitigate against future problems with low or inconsistent student participation numbers - in an era where widespread participation continues to fall.
- ▶ Consistently higher participation numbers allows us to commit long-term scheduling efforts towards providing more developmental opportunities (i.e. JV, Reserve, B-team, etc.).
 - ▶ This provides more and better opportunities for all students to succeed.
 - ▶ This better allows us to consistently provide our students with a graduated sequence of positive, competitive experiences within our sports programs.

WHERE WILL SPORTS BE PLAYED & PRACTICED

- ▶ One of the major considerations made in discussions between the two schools was the location of games and practices.
- ▶ Games and practices will utilize the facility resources of both school districts.
 - ▶ A general layout of where these will occur is included on the next page.
 - ▶ Some sports will predominantly play and practice at one site.
 - ▶ Some sports will play and practice at both sites on a rotational, and relatively equal, basis.
- ▶ Several goals were kept in mind when trying to determine locations for playing and practicing.
 - ▶ Equitable home-site opportunities and travel obligations for the student-athletes and coaches of both schools.
 - ▶ Balancing the logistical demands placed upon both schools while aligning transportation resources with anticipated demands.

WHO WILL WE PLAY AGAINST

► **Conference Affiliation**

- Our two schools currently compete in two different conferences.
 - Hampton – Crossroads Conference (CRC)
 - Heartland – Southern Nebraska Conference (SNC)
- It is necessary to determine which conference the cooperatively sponsored program(s) will compete in.

► **Goals To Meet**

- Aligning conference affiliation and scheduling with the anticipated size & classification of the cooperatively sponsored program(s) (predominantly Class C / Class C2)
- Aligning conference affiliation and scheduling with the goal of consistently providing developmental opportunities (e.g. JV, Reserve, B-team, etc.)

► **Considerations Made**

- The size & classification of schools within the two conferences.
- The size & classification of schools currently scheduled by each school.
- Sports sanctioned by each conference.
- Facilities of the member schools in each conference.
- Location and distance of the member schools of each conference.
- Governance & Initiation structures of both conferences.

Conference Affiliation: SNC

The working groups of each governing board have tentatively agreed that the cooperatively sponsored program(s) will compete in the Southern Nebraska Conference (SNC).

Schedule Adoption: Heartland

The working groups of each governing board have tentatively agreed that the cooperatively sponsored program(s) will utilize the pre-existing schedule of the Heartland teams/programs.

WHEN DOES THIS GO INTO EFFECT

For all sports, except HS Football

- ▶ 25-26 school year
- ▶ 26-27 school year

For HS Football

- ▶ 26-27 school year (Fall 2026)
- ▶ 27-28 school year (Fall 2027)

Why is HS Football different?

- ▶ In Nebraska, HS football is scheduled by the NSAA at the state-level, and teams are locked into their schedule for 2-year cycles.
- ▶ Next Fall's HS Football season (Fall 2025) will be the second year of the current two-year scheduling cycle.
- ▶ We will declare the cooperative sponsorship for the next scheduling cycle, and we will then be scheduled accordingly for that cycle (Fall 2026 & Fall 2027).
- ▶ **NOTE:** while this is yet to be determined, we anticipate the co-op football team being classified in Class C-2 (11-man) for the next scheduling cycle (Fall 2026 & Fall 2027).

COST SHARING

Both schools will equally share all necessary costs.

These include:

- ▶ Cost of Personnel (coaches, etc.)
- ▶ Cost of Away Game Transportation
- ▶ Cost of Uniforms
- ▶ Net Operational Costs (officials, event workers, etc.)
- ▶ Agreed Upon Miscellaneous Costs

TIMELINE & PROCESS

1. **An agreement requires approval by the board of education from each school.**
2. **An agreement would go into effect once approved by both governing boards.**
3. **If an agreement is to be reached, it is the goal of both governing boards to approve an agreement in February.**

Working Committees

Each school has a working committee that is comprised of three members of its board of education.

The details of the cooperative sponsorship agreement are worked on and negotiated in meetings between the two committees.

Each committee is supported by the superintendent, the secondary principal, and the AD of their school. These personnel also attend the meetings between the two committees.

Meetings Between Committees

*Wednesday, February 5, 2025
Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Wednesday, December 11, 2024
Wednesday, November 6, 2024
Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Board Meeting Discussion

*Monday, February 10, 2025
Monday, January 20, 2025
Monday, December 9, 2024
Monday, November 11, 2024
Monday, October 14, 2024

Final Approval Of An Agreement

The Board anticipates voting on the approval of a cooperative sponsorship agreement **at a special meeting that is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12th.**