



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.

Appendix J: Preliminary & Approximate Site-Usage Distribution

	<i>Sport / Program</i>	<i>Predominant Site: Practice</i>	<i>Predominant Site: Home Game</i>
HIGH SCHOOL	HS Football	Heartland	Heartland
	HS Volleyball	Split	Split
	HS Girls Golf	Heartland	Heartland
	HS Boys BB	Split	Split
	HS Girls BB	Split	Split
	HS Track	Heartland	Heartland
	HS Boys Golf	Heartland	Heartland
	Cheerleading	Split	Split
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JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	JH Football	Hampton	Hampton
	JH Volleyball	Heartland	Heartland
	JH Girls BB	Hampton	Hampton
	JH Boys BB	Heartland	Heartland
	JH Track	Heartland	Heartland

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.**

Final Mascot Selection by Students

Section A: Student Mascot Selection Process

1. A student selection / voting process will be used to determine the mascot for the cooperatively sponsored programs.
2. Students will make their selection from a list of 4 finalists. The four finalists will be decided by representative committees of each board of education.
3. Selection / election will take place via electronic voting.
4. The student voting / selection process may require up to 3 rounds of voting.
5. The selection process may not end until a single mascot has been awarded a majority of votes cast in any round except for the case of an exact tie in the voting results of Round 3.

Section B: Eligible Voters

Persons eligible to vote in this final selection process will be limited to students enrolled in Hampton Public Schools and Heartland Community Schools who also meet the following criteria.

1. Students must be currently enrolled in Grades 7 - 11 at the time the vote is taken.
2. Students must currently attend the building of common instruction within their district on a full-time and all-day basis.

Section C: Voting Method

1. Students will be sent (e.g. email) or otherwise provided a URL to submit their vote via digital voting instrument.

Section D: Finalists

1. Students will be informed of the 4 finalists on Monday, February 17th.
2. Mascots will be presented as a name (e.g. "Cornhuskers) accompanied by a small assortment of visual concepts depicting the intended mascots on a rough-draft basis.
3. The visual concepts presented to students on February 17th do not constitute the final form of any mascot's visual depiction.
 - a. Following the final selection of the mascot, the two schools will engage in a collaborative process of creating the final visual depiction(s) of the mascot chosen by students.

Final Mascot Selection by Students

Section D: Voting Dates & Times

1. **Round 1** of voting will be conducted on Thursday, February 20, 2025 via electronic voting survey. Voting will be open for a period of 10 minutes opening at 9:15 AM and closing at 9:25 AM on said date for voting.
 - a. After the vote closes, any required tie breaking procedures will be conducted.
 - b. The results of the Round 1 vote will be shared with the students. If a second round of voting is required following the first round, the details of Round 2 voting will be communicated at that time.

2. If necessary, **Round 2** of voting will be conducted on Thursday, February 20, 2025 via electronic voting survey. Voting will be open for a period of 10 minutes opening at approximately 10 minutes after the close of Round 1.
 - a. After the vote closes, any required tie breaking procedures will be conducted.
 - b. The results of the Round 2 vote will be shared with the students. If a third round of voting is required following the second round, the details of Round 3 voting will be communicated at that time.

3. If necessary, **Round 3** of voting will be conducted on Thursday, February 20, 2025 via electronic voting survey. Voting will be open for a period of 10 minutes opening at approximately 10 minutes after the close of Round 2.
 - a. After the vote closes, any required tie breaking procedures will be conducted.
 - b. The results of the Round 3 vote will be shared with the students.

Section E: Election Process & Results For Round 1

Round 1 Voting: Students will vote for one mascot from a list of 4 finalists. Each student will cast a single vote *in favor of* one mascot to be selected as the winner of the election.

1. After the first round of voting, if one of the finalists has a majority (greater than 50%) of the total votes cast for the Round then that finalist will be declared the winner of the election.

2. If after the first round of voting, no finalist has received a majority of votes cast, a Round 2 vote will be conducted between the three finalists receiving the most votes in the first round.
 - a. If there is an exact, two-way tie between the two finalists receiving the fewest votes, a randomized coin toss will be used to eliminate one of the finalists from the subsequent Round 2 vote.
 - b. If there is an exact, three-way tie between finalists receiving the fewest votes, a randomized double coin toss will be used to eliminate one finalist from the subsequent Round 2 vote.
 - c. If there is an exact, four-way tie between finalists receiving the fewest votes, a randomized double coin toss will be used to eliminate one finalist from the subsequent Round 2 vote.

Final Mascot Selection by Students

Section F: Election Process & Results For Round 2

Round 2 Voting: Students will vote for one mascot from the list of 3 remaining finalists after the Round 1 vote. Each student will cast a single vote *in favor of* one mascot to be selected as the winner of the election.

1. After the second round of voting, if one of the finalists has a majority (greater than 50%) of the total votes cast for the Round then that finalist will be declared the winner of the election.
2. If after the second round of voting, no finalist has received a majority of votes cast, a Round 3 vote will be conducted between the two finalists receiving the most votes in the second round.
 - a. If there is an exact, two-way tie between finalists receiving the fewest votes, a randomized coin toss will be used to eliminate one of the finalists from the subsequent Round 3 vote.
 - b. If there is an exact, three-way tie between all three finalists, a randomized double coin toss will be used to eliminate one finalist from the Round 3 vote.

Section G: Election Process & Results For Round 3

Round 3 Voting: Students will vote for one mascot from the list of 2 finalists that remain after the Round 2 vote. Votes will be cast *in favor of* one mascot to be selected as the winner of the election.

1. After the third round of voting, the finalist with the most votes received from the total votes cast will be declared the winner of the election.
 - a. If at the conclusion of the Round 3 vote there is an exact tie in the number of votes for each finalist, a randomized coin toss will be used to eliminate one of the finalists – the remaining finalist will be declared the winner of the election.

Final Mascot Selection by Students

4-Way Tie Random Draw Options

- Eliminate Finalist 1
- Eliminate Finalist 2
- Eliminate Finalist 3
- Eliminate Finalist 4

3-Way & 4-Way Tie Breaking Table		
Toss 1	Toss 2	Resulting Action
H	H	Random Draw 1
H	T	Random Draw 2
T	H	Random Draw 3
T	T	Remaining Option

3-Way Tie Random Draw Options

- Eliminate Finalist 1
- Eliminate Finalist 2
- Eliminate Finalist 3
- Repeat Double-Flip

2-Way Tie Random Draw Options

- Eliminate Finalist 1
- Eliminate Finalist 2

2-Way Tie Breaking Table	
Toss	Resulting Action
H	Random Draw 1
T	Remaining Option

2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025	
Golf - Girls		Golf - Girls		Golf - Girls		Golf - Girls	
12	2	12	3	12	0	12	1
11	2	11	0	11	0	11	1
10	0	10	0	10	1	10	3
9	0	9	1	9	1	9	0
9-12	4	9-12	4	9-12	2	9-12	5
Volleyball		Volleyball		Volleyball		Volleyball	
12	5	12	7	12	8	12	7
11	9	11	6	11	8	11	8
10	6	10	8	10	9	10	4
9	8	9	9	9	5	9	8
9-12	28	9-12	30	9-12	30	9-12	27
8	X	8	6	8	8	8	10
7	X	7	8	7	10	7	7
7-8	0	7-8	14	7-8	18	7-8	17
Football		Football		Football		Football	
12	5	12	10	12	8	12	3
11	10	11	6	11	3	11	4
10	5	10	5	10	7	10	4
9	6	9	7	9	6	9	6
9-12	26	9-12	28	9-12	24	9-12	17
8	X	8	8	8	7	8	6
7	X	7	7	7	11	7	3
7-8	0	7-8	15	7-8	18	7-8	9
Girls Basketball		Girls Basketball		Girls Basketball		Girls Basketball	
12	2	12	5	12	4	12	4
11	7	11	4	11	4	11	5
10	5	10	5	10	7	10	2
9	5	9	5	9	2	9	4
9-12	19	9-12	19	9-12	17	9-12	15
8	X	8	5	8	6	8	2
7	X	7	7	7	4	7	7
7-8	0	7-8	12	7-8	10	7-8	9
Boys Basketball		Boys Basketball		Boys Basketball		Boys Basketball	
12	4	12	6	12	4	12	7
11	6	11	7	11	4	11	4
10	7	10	5	10	4	10	5
9	7	9	4	9	8	9	8
9-12	24	9-12	22	9-12	20	9-12	24
8	6	8	9	8	9	8	11
7	11	7	9	7	9	7	5
7-8	17	7-8	18	7-8	18	7-8	16
Track - Girls		Track - Girls		Track - Girls		Track - Girls	
12	5	12	2	12	5	12	
11	4	11	5	11	5	11	
10	4	10	4	10	5	10	
9	4	9	6	9	5	9	
9-12	17	9-12	17	9-12	20	9-12	0
8	X	8	6	8	7	8	
7	X	7	8	7	7	7	
7-8	0	7-8	14	7-8	14	7-8	0
Track - Boys		Track - Boys		Track - Boys		Track - Boys	
12	4	12	7	12	5	12	
11	8	11	4	11	5	11	
10	4	10	5	10	8	10	
9	6	9	9	9	4	9	
9-12	22	9-12	25	9-12	22	9-12	0
8	X	8	7	8	6	8	
7	X	7	8	7	8	7	
7-8	0	7-8	15	7-8	14	7-8	0
Golf - Boys		Golf - Boys		Golf - Boys		Golf - Boys	
12	7	12	3	12	6	12	
11	3	11	5	11	4	11	
10	6	10	6	10	4	10	
9	6	9	3	9	2	9	
9-12	22	9-12	17	9-12	16	9-12	0

3-YEAR STUDENT PARTICIPATION ESTIMATES

FOOTBALL

25-26 (YEAR 1)			26-27 (YEAR 2)			27-28 (YEAR 3)	
25-26 Co-op @ 100% retention	25-26 Heartland @ 100% retention		26-27 Co-op @ 100% retention	26-27 Heartland @ 100% retention		27-28 Co-op @ 100% retention	27-28 Heartland @ 100% retention
37	20	9-12	39	19	9-12	42	22
20	10	7-8	15	13	7-8	19	12

Grade (25-26)	24-25 #'s Co-op @ 100% retention	24-25 #'s Heartland @ 100% retention	24-25 #'s Hampton @ 100% retention
12	10	4	6
11	5	4	1
10	11	6	5
9	11	6	5
8	12	3	9
7	8	7	1
6	7	6	1
5	12	6	6

GIRLS BASKETBALL

25-26 (YEAR 1)			26-27 (YEAR 2)			27-28 (YEAR 3)	
25-26 Co-op @ 100% retention	25-26 Heartland @ 100% retention		26-27 Co-op @ 100% retention	26-27 Heartland @ 100% retention		27-28 Co-op @ 100% retention	27-28 Heartland @ 100% retention
20	13	9-12	26	15	9-12	25	14
17	8	7-8	20	10	7-8	20	12

Grade (25-26)	24-25 #'s Co-op @ 100% retention	24-25 #'s Heartland @ 100% retention	24-25 #'s Hampton @ 100% retention
12	7	5	2
11	5	2	3
10	4	4	0
9	4	2	2
8	13	7	6
7	4	1	3
6	16	9	7
5	4	3	1
4	11	6	5

VOLLEYBALL

25-26 (YEAR 1)			26-27 (YEAR 2)			27-28 (YEAR 3)	
25-26 Co-op @ 100% retention	25-26 Heartland @ 100% retention		26-27 Co-op @ 100% retention	26-27 Heartland @ 100% retention		27-28 Co-op @ 100% retention	27-28 Heartland @ 100% retention
39	30	9-12	42	29	9-12	Not Available	Not Available
Not Available	Not Available	7-8	Not Available	Not Available	7-8	Not Available	Not Available

Grade (25-26)	24-25 #'s Co-op @ 100% retention	24-25 #'s Heartland @ 100% retention	24-25 #'s Hampton @ 100% retention
12	11	8	3
11	7	4	3
10	8	8	0
9	13	10	3
8	14	7	7
7	-	-	-

BOYS BASKETBALL

25-26 (YEAR 1)			26-27 (YEAR 2)			27-28 (YEAR 3)	
25-26 Combined @ 100% retention	25-26 Heartland @ 100% retention		26-27 Combined @ 100% retention	26-27 Heartland @ 100% retention		27-28 Combined @ 100% retention	27-28 Heartland @ 100% retention
43	28	9-12	48	29	9-12	50	32
21	13	7-8	15	13	7-8	19	14

Grade (25-26)	24-25 #'s Co-op @ 100% retention	24-25 #'s Heartland @ 100% retention	24-25 #'s Hampton @ 100% retention
12	7	4	3
11	7	5	2
10	13	8	5
9	16	11	5
8	12	5	7
7	9	8	1
6	6	5	1
5	13	9	4
4	14	5	9

SPORTS THAT REQUIRE A SPECIFIC SQUAD SIZE

Our Immediately Observable Areas Of Highest Need
 HS Football
 JH Football
 JH Girls Basketball
 HS Girls Basketball

Our Current Lowest Areas Of Need
 Boys Basketball
 Volleyball

Actual retention rates that are higher than 100% will yield numbers higher than estimates. Actual retention rates that are less than 100% will yield numbers lower than estimates.

Preliminary & Tentatively Estimated Coaching Staff Sizes

SPORT		25-26 Participant Estimates Based On Combined #'s	Total Coaches	Head Coaches	Assistant Coaches	Equal-Share Assistants	At-Large Assistants
HS	Football	37	4	1	<u>3</u>	2	1
HS	Volleyball	39	4	1	<u>3</u>	2	1
HS	Girls Golf	5	1	1	<u>0</u>	0	0
HS	Boys Basketball	43	4	1	<u>3</u>	2	1
HS	Girls Basketball	20	2	1	<u>1</u>	0	1
HS	Boys & Girls Track	59	5	1	<u>4</u>	4	0
HS	Boys Golf	15	2	1	<u>1</u>	0	1
HS	Cheerleading	12	2	1	<u>1</u>	0	1
JH	Football	20	3	1	<u>2</u>	2	0
JH	Volleyball	24	3	1	<u>2</u>	2	0
JH	Boys Basketball	21	2	1	<u>1</u>	0	1
JH	Girls Basketball	17	2	1	<u>1</u>	0	1
JH	Boys & Girls Track	36	3	1	<u>2</u>	2	0

Sport	Year	Co-op Estimated Classification	Heartland Estimated Classification
Girls Golf	25-26	C	C
	24-25	C	C
Football	26-27	C2	D1
	25-26	C2	D1
	24-25	C2	D1
Volleyball	25-26	C2	D1
	24-25	C2	D1
Boys Basketball	25-26	C1	C2
	24-25	C1	C2
Girls Basketball	25-26	C2	D1
	24-25	C2	D1
Boys Golf	25-26	C	C or D
	24-25	C	C
Boys & Girls Track	25-26	C	C or D
	24-25	C	C