

Tri-Valley & Delaware League Athletic Collaboration

Questions & Answers for School Communities

~20%

REGIONAL ENROLLMENT DECLINE SINCE 2015-16

4

SPORTS IN THE FRAMEWORK

Oct 17, 2026

FIRST CROSSOVER CHAMPIONSHIP

SPORTS INCLUDED — BOYS & GIRLS PROGRAMS

⚽ Soccer | 🏀 Basketball | ⚾ Softball | ⚾ Baseball

NOT a Merger or Consolidation

Both leagues keep their own constitutions, bylaws, governance structures, financial systems, and traditions. Each league retains its full identity.

UNDERSTANDING THE COLLABORATION

Q What is the Tri-Valley and Delaware League Collaboration?

The Tri-Valley League and Delaware League have jointly approved a **Collaborative Athletic Framework** that expands competitive opportunities for student-athletes. It introduces cross-league scheduling, a postseason Crossover Championship, and a unified division option — all while preserving each league's independent identity, governance, and traditions.

Q Why are the two leagues doing this?

Enrollment across the ONC BOCES region has declined by nearly **20% since 2015-16**, dropping from 8,343 to 6,682 students. Rosters are thinner, scheduling flexibility has shrunk, and teams face repeated matchups. Both leagues are taking a **proactive step** to sustain and strengthen athletic opportunities for all students.

Q Has this kind of structural change happened before?

Yes. Both leagues previously operated with two-division alignments and independently consolidated into one division as participation dropped. This collaboration is the **next step in that same evolution** — adapting to a changing landscape while keeping student-athletes at the center of every decision.

Q Is this a merger? Will the two leagues become one?

No. This is a collaboration, not a consolidation. Both leagues maintain their own constitutions, bylaws, governance, and financial systems. Each league keeps its own identity. Nothing changes unless participation numbers require the unified division format.

Q What is the Crossover Championship?

At season's end, the **league champions from each league meet in a postseason Crossover Championship**. Costs and revenues are shared 50/50. Awards include:

- A **banner** for the Tri-Valley champion
- A **trophy** for the Delaware champion
- A **perpetual trophy** for the overall Crossover Champion

Q What happens if team numbers drop further?

If combined participation falls to **12 or fewer teams** in any sport, all teams move into a single unified division for a unified championship. This can apply by sport and by gender independently — e.g., girls could be in one division while boys are not.

Q Will league traditions — All-Stars, Hall of Fame, awards — continue?

Absolutely. Each league retains all existing traditions and recognition programs:

- All-Star selections and criteria
- Hall of Fame programs
- JV Championship (*Delaware*)
- Project Perfect Award (*Delaware*)
- Joe Beck Award (*Delaware*)
- Pat Grasso Sportsmanship Award

Q What if there is one unified division?

If the unified division format is triggered, both leagues will work together to **align all-star criteria and championship awards appropriately** for the new structure.

Q Which sports are included in the collaboration?

The framework applies to four sports — boys *and* girls programs in each:

- Soccer
- Basketball
- Softball
- Baseball

Q How will schedules work?

Each team plays a **full league schedule** plus crossover games against the opposite league. Crossover games **do not affect league standings**. Total game counts stay the same:

- **Soccer:** 16 games
- **Basketball, Softball, Baseball:** 20 games

Q How are championship events managed and paid for?

Events are jointly managed through a Collaboration Committee, with all costs and revenues **shared equally**. General admission: **\$5**. Children under 10: **free**. Ticket sales close at halftime.

Q When does this start?

The first **Crossover Championship for soccer** is scheduled for **October 17, 2026** at Oneonta Hall of Fame Fields. Cross-league scheduling and data collection begin in the **fall 2026 season**.



First Crossover Championship: October 17, 2026 — Oneonta Hall of Fame Fields

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Questions About Your Child's Sport or Schedule?

Please reach out to your school's **Athletic Director** for more information about how the collaboration will affect your child's specific sport and schedule.