

PHILOSOPHY

Athletics are an integral part of the total educational program and contribute substantially to the learning experience of all students. Through interscholastic athletics, an opportunity is provided for students to achieve beyond the normal physical education curriculum. Our program is tailored to provide meaningful learning experiences that fit harmoniously into the over-all educational program. We recognize that vigorous physical activity is vital to healthful living and participation in athletics should be founded on a clean and disciplined lifestyle. We endeavor to develop young athletes to the full extent of their capabilities.

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ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Nordonia Hills City Schools offers a comprehensive variety of athletic activities for prospective student athletes. The following is a list of interscholastic sports presently available:

BOYS' ATHLETICS

FALL:

Cross Country*
Football*
Golf
Soccer

WINTER:

Basketball*
Bowling
Ice Hockey (Coed)
Swimming
Wrestling*

SPRING:

Baseball
Tennis
Track*
Volleyball

GIRLS' ATHLETICS

FALL:

Cross Country*
Cheerleading*
Golf
Soccer
Tennis
Volleyball*

WINTER:

Basketball*
Bowling
Cheerleading*
Gymnastics
Swimming

SPRING:

Flag Football
Softball
Track*

*Denotes Middle School Program

NORDONIA ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent
Casey Wright

Athletic Director
Rob Eckenrode

High School Principal
Jessica Archer

Assistant Athletic Director
Jason Lara

Middle School Athletic Director
Dan Wallace

Middle School Athletic Office:
330-908-6613

H.S. Athletic Offices: 330-908-6000 or 330-908-6001

Email: Rob.Eckenrode@nordoniaschools.org

AFFILIATIONS

Nordonia Hills City Schools is a member in good standing of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Suburban League. All athletic department administrative procedures comply with the provisions and constitutions of these two organizations.

The Suburban League consists of the following schools:

American Conference

Aurora, Barberton, Copley, Kenston, Mayfield, Nordonia, Revere, Twinsburg

National Conference

Brecksville, Highland, Hudson, Medina, North Royalton, Solon, Stow, Wadsworth

CANCELLATION OF ATHLETIC CONTESTS DUE TO WEATHER

If the Nordonia Schools are closed due to inclement weather conditions, all athletic contests will be cancelled unless the two superintendents agree to hold the event. Practices may be held only with the permission of the athletic office. Information during inclement weather can be obtained by contacting the head coach.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

All athletes must be present for 1/2 of the school day on all days of practice or contests (Friday for weekend events) to be eligible to participate in any team activity. Medical appointments, funerals, or other emergencies may be excused if approved by the coach and athletic director. If an athlete is absent all day Friday or the day before a school vacation, he/she may participate in a weekend or vacation day contest with permission from the athletic office.

DISTRICT AND OHSAA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Nordonia Board of Education permits students in grades 7 through 12 to participate in interscholastic activities if the following guidelines are met:

MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 7 and 8)

1. Must achieve a 1.5 grade point average at the end of each grading period. Students who achieve less than a 1.5 GPA at the end of a grading period but are above a 1.0 may be permitted to participate provided they engage in a structured academic intervention program approved by the Superintendent and monitored by the building principal.
2. Must be passing a minimum of five courses of those subjects in which the student received grades in the preceding grading period.
3. Incoming 7th grade students' grade point average will be first established at the end of the first grading period.
4. Must not have more than one failing grade for any course in the District's graded course of study in the previous grading period.

HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9 through 12)

1. Must achieve a 1.5 grade point average at the end of each grading period.
2. Students who achieve less than a 1.5 GPA at the end of a grading period but are above 1.0 may be permitted to participate provided they engage in a structured academic intervention program approved by the Superintendent and monitored by the building principal. Study tables will be made available to all students in grades 9-12. Study tables will be held before school for 50 minutes a minimum of 2 days per week at Nordonía High School. A student who does not participate in the required number of study tables or is dismissed for disciplinary reasons or lack of effort will immediately become ineligible for a minimum of one week. A student may have no more than one failing grade for any course of study in the previous grading period.
3. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of FIVE one-credit courses or the equivalent which count toward graduation. The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective.
4. Incoming 9th grade students' grade point average will be established at the end of the first grading period.
5. A student with an IEP may be exempt from the grading provisions set forth in this policy. However, the student is still subject to all OHSAA requirements.
6. Failure to comply with the academic eligibility requirements results in interscholastic ineligibility for the succeeding grading period.
7. Student athletes must meet all other requirements as set forth by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Nordonía Hills Board of Education.

IN SEASON/OUT OF SEASON

The athletic season shall be defined as beginning with the dates established by the OHSAA and ending with the final formal contest or activity scheduled for each sport. This includes tournament and awards programs. Any athlete who leaves or is suspended from an athletic team before the completion of its season, may not begin any workouts or practices for the next season until the original season is completed.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORM/ PHYSICAL EXAM FORM

All Nordonía students wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics must have completed emergency medical authorization and physical examination forms and filed them with the athletic office or their coach prior to the first day of participation. All students and parents/guardians must also sign the OHSAA Authorization Form and Student Code of Responsibility.

PARTICIPATION FEES

Participation fees will be charged by the Nordonía Hills Board of Education for anyone participating in athletics. These fees are non-refundable if an athlete quits, is injured, or becomes academically ineligible during the season. This fee does not guarantee playing time on any team.

GUIDELINES FOR CUTTING

The protocol for “cutting” must be communicated both verbally and in writing to all prospective student-athletes on or before the first day of tryouts. The coach will be available to address any concerns relative to the criteria for team selection. The coach also has the responsibility to see that each student understands the process.

At the high school, any student cut from a team may request a conference with the coach. During the conference, the coach will explain the reasons why the student did not make the team and suggest possible alternatives for improving skills, therefore, enhancing the student’s opportunity for making the team in the future. If the coach anticipates a problem, it is recommended that the parent be contacted and encouraged to become involved. It is the responsibility of the head coach and Athletic Director to ensure that all policies set forth by the Nordon Hills Board of Education are followed.

The coaching staff will participate in the evaluation of each student athlete in a given sport in a fair and equitable manner. The head coach will be responsible for making the final decision with respect to the varsity squad of his/her sport. At the middle school, the grade level coach will select his/her squad with the input of the varsity head coach. Any student cut from a high school or middle school team will be notified verbally rather than through a posted list.

Try-outs will be a minimum of three days in length before cuts are made to ensure adequate time to evaluate candidates. Every attempt will be made to give each student the same amount of time to demonstrate skills.

Understanding that twelfth grade student-athletes have demonstrated three years of loyalty to an athletic program, varsity head coaches will consider longevity prior to releasing a senior from the team/program. This consideration in no way guarantees the senior-athlete a roster spot. Seniors must demonstrate the same level of dedication, work ethic and ability as all other athletes being evaluated for a position on an athletic program roster.

LETTER/AWARD POLICY

Each sport has specific criteria for earning a varsity letter in their respective activity. All athletes must remain academically eligible and complete their entire season to be eligible for an award unless having received permission from the Athletic Office. The following are the general criteria for the athletic department:

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Certificate of Participation - All athletes.

Muncie Award - Awarded to the 8th grade athlete in each sport who demonstrates team spirit, is academically eligible throughout the entire season, is a team player, is cooperative, has a positive impact on the school climate, is respectful of other students and staff, has a positive attitude, always gives a good effort, and is dependable. A committee made up of head coaches from the season, the athletic director and a school administrator will nominate the athletes. Candidates will be selected based on a consensus of the committee.

Knight Award – Awarded to one 8th grade football player who has been selected by his teammates.

Coaches Award - Awarded to one player in each sport.

HIGH SCHOOL

Freshman & Junior Varsity	Certificate of Participation
First Year Varsity	Letter with insert
Second Year Varsity	Choice of Key-chain or Pin
Third Year Varsity	Plaque
Fourth Year Varsity	Plaque

*The varsity athlete from each team with the highest GPA for the most recent 9 week grading period will be awarded a plaque from the Athletic Department.

Fall Sports	First nine week grading period
Winter Sports	Second nine week grading period
Spring Sports	Third nine week grading period

All athletes who letter while participating in a sport and earn a 3.5 GPA or better during that nine-week grading period will receive a Suburban League Scholar Athlete Award recognizing their accomplishment.

INDIVIDUAL CRITERIA FOR A VARSITY AWARD

Football	Athlete must play in 1/2 of the varsity quarters and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
Tennis	Athlete must play in 1/3 of the varsity matches and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
Basketball	Athlete must play in 20 varsity quarters and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
Track	Athlete must score in 1/2 of the varsity meets or have a total of 15 team points or meet the time/height/length standards established by the coaching staff and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
Soccer	Athlete must play in 1/2 of the varsity halves and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
Baseball/ Softball	Position players must play in 1/3 of the varsity innings. Pitchers awards are based on use as a starter and/or reliever. Any others who make a viable contribution to the team.
Wrestling	Athletes must win at least one varsity match and must have wrestled in a minimum of 3 varsity matches. Any others who make a viable contribution to the team.
Golf	Athletes must have competed in 1/2 of the varsity matches and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
Volleyball	Athlete must play in 1/4 of the varsity games and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
Cross Country	Athlete must complete in 1/2 of the regular season varsity meets and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
Swimming	Athlete must earn a minimum of 85 points and/or meet the time standards established by the coaching staff and/or make a viable contribution to the team.
Bowling	Athlete must play in 1/4 of the varsity games and/or make a viable contribution to the team.

Hockey **Athlete must play in 1/2 of the varsity periods and/or make a viable contribution to the team.**

MEDICAL RELEASE

Any student who is seen by a physician or any medical personnel for an injury or illness must have a note from the medical professional to be released to participate.

NORDONIA ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

The Nordia Athletic Booster Club is an independent 501(c) (3) charitable volunteer organization which raises money to support the athletic programs by subsidizing the purchases of uniforms and equipment, etc. Parents are urged to show their support by joining the organization and encouraged to volunteer their time when and where help is needed.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Nordia places the highest priority on good sportsmanship and integrity. As a parent or student athlete, you play a fundamental role. We ask you to take your responsibility seriously and lead by example. Please attend our athletic contests with spirit and enthusiasm, but also with courtesy to our opponents and their fans. Any spectator who is in violation of these and/or any Suburban League sportsmanship guidelines may be asked to leave the premises without refund. Together, we can portray and establish a positive image of the Nordia Hills School District. Athletes are encouraged to take on the responsibility of talking with their coach should an issue arise. Open communication between parents and coaches is highly recommended for the benefit of the program.

TRAVEL

Nordia High School athletes are required to travel to and from contests on vehicles provided by the Board of Education. Requests for special exceptions to this rule may be made by parents/guardians in writing, but must be turned into the athletic office no less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled travel.

HAZING POLICY

Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. It is the policy of the Nordia Hills Board of Education, School District and Athletic Department that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational policy and athletic philosophy and shall be prohibited at all times. No administrator, faculty member or other employee of the school district shall encourage, permit, condone or tolerate any hazing activities. No student shall plan, encourage or engage in hazing. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. Students participating in this activity may be subject to suspension or dismissal from an athletic team, in addition to being disciplined in accordance with District Board Policy.

VACATION POLICY

Athletes missing mandatory contests during a scheduled vacation will be required to sit out the following number of contests.

Miss 1 - 2 contests	Sit out one contest upon return
Miss 3 or more contests	Sit out two contests upon return

Athletes missing mandatory practices during a scheduled vacation may be required to make up missed practices at the coaches' convenience before returning to the normal line-up.

TICKET INFORMATION

Students	\$5.00
Adults	\$10.00
Nordonia Senior Citizens	Free to all Nordonia home athletic events w/ league pass obtained from the athletic office.
Visiting Senior Citizens	\$4.00

SEASON TICKET PASSES

Student 10 game pass	\$40.00
Adult 10 game pass	\$80.00

Student and adult 10 game passes are good at any home athletic event during the school year. These passes will not be honored at any Suburban League away games or OHSAA tournament games. Sports include: football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, swimming, wrestling, and track.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

PHILOSOPHY

The Nordonía Board of Education, school administration, and coaches believe that interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the total educational program. High standards of behavior, scholarship, and citizenship are important to a sound athletic program. Students volunteering to participate must assume the responsibilities of this privilege and are required to meet expectations beyond those set for non-athletes.

SCOPE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Student athletes are subject to the following code of conduct throughout their season, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the duration of the season. The season will be defined as the official first day of practice as set forth by the OHSAA through the last contest and any subsequent awards programs or all-star games. If a student athlete violates this code toward the end of their season, penalties could carry over into their next season of participation.

The Nordonía Athletic Department will proactively attempt to enhance the physical and emotional growth of each Nordonía student athlete.

The Athletic Department will:

1. Host a meeting at the beginning of each season for all parents of athletes to discuss the current Athletic Code of Conduct. Parents and athletes must sign the Athletic Code of Conduct contract before the athlete can participate in any athletic activity.
2. Provide opportunities for high school and middle school athletes to be positive role models for all Nordonía students.

The coaches will:

1. Distribute written expectations specific to their sport, during or prior to the first week of the season.
2. Discuss the current Athletic Code of Conduct with their team during or prior to the first week of the season.
3. Enforce the Athletic Code of Conduct and the expectations specific to their sport.
4. Consistently emphasize the importance of the high standards set for all athletes.

AREAS OF PARTICIPATION DENIAL

CHEMICAL ABUSE (alcohol and drugs):

An athlete shall not use, possess, sell, conceal, buy, transport, be under the influence of, or smell of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, nor shall he/she possess drug paraphernalia. This includes marijuana, hemp and hemp products, hallucinogens, and other controlled substances. An athlete shall not use, possess, sell, conceal, buy, transport, or be under the influence of, look-alike drugs or substances, which are thought to be drugs, sold as drugs, or thought by the seller or buyer to be mind altering substances or controlled substances. An athlete shall not use, sell, conceal, buy, transport, or be under the influence of performance enhancing drugs, including but not limited to anabolic steroids.

First Violation: The athlete will be denied participation for the remainder of the season. However, if the athlete chooses to schedule, attend and successfully complete an assessment by a Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor level III(CCDCIII) at his/her sole expense, and follow the recommendations of an approved agency and/or individual, then the athlete may return to practice and the team after three (3) athletic days. In addition to this suspension, the athlete will be denied participation in a total of 20% of the regular season contests. If there are fewer than 20% remaining in the season, the penalty will carry over into any post season games and then into the next season of participation.

Example: The infraction occurs during the basketball season. The penalty would be 20% of 22 contests or 4 contests. If only 2 contests (10% of the season) remain, the remaining 10% would be based on the number of contests in the next season of participation.

Second Violation: The athlete will be denied participation for the remainder of the season and must miss a minimum of 30% of the regular season contests. If there are fewer than 30% of the contests remaining in the season, the penalty will carry over into any post season contests and then into the next season of participation. (See the example above) The athlete will be required to attend a follow up appointment with the previous agency of assessment.

Third Violation: The athlete will be denied participation for one calendar year and be required to attend a follow up appointment with the previous agency of assessment.

Note: An athletic day refers to any day that has a scheduled practice or contest.

TOBACCO/NICOTINE PRODUCTS

An athlete shall not possess, use, transmit, buy, conceal, or be under the influence of any tobacco product, any alternative nicotine product or device including electronic, vapor or other substitute forms of cigarettes, regardless of the substance contained therein, or any other tobacco or nicotine products.

First Violation: The athlete will be denied participation for the remainder of the season. If the athlete chooses to schedule and complete the tobacco/nicotine cessation program with the school's community intervention counselor, the suspension will be reduced to three (3) athletic days. In addition to this suspension, the athlete will be denied participation in a total of 20% of the regular season contests. If there are fewer than 20% of the contests remaining in the season, the penalty will carry over into any post season contests and then into the next season of participation.

Example: The infraction occurs during basketball season. The penalty would be 20% of 22 contests or 4 contests. If only 2 contests (10% of the season) remain in the season, the remaining 10% would be based on the number of contests in the next season of participation.

Second Violation: The athlete will be denied participation for the remainder of the season and must miss a minimum of 30% of the regular season contests. If there are fewer than 30% of the regular season contests remaining in the season, the penalty will carry over into any post season contests and then into the next season of participation. (See the example above.) The athlete may not return to any participation until they present to the athletic office proof of counseling.

Note: An athletic day refers to any day that has a scheduled practice or contest.

ATTENDANCE

An athlete is required to attend all mandatory activities designated by the coach.

Second Unexcused Absence:

Minimum – Administrative discretion.

Maximum – 5 days of practice and one contest

Third Unexcused Absence:

Minimum – Administrative discretion.

Maximum – Remainder of the season or 90 days, whichever is greater.

Athletes must be in school on the day of a contest for a minimum of one half of the school day. Being absent on the day of a contest will render an athlete ineligible for that contest. Such absence or tardiness can be excused only by a principal.

INSUBORDINATION

An athlete shall not refuse to comply with a reasonable request, order, or direction of any coach, administrator, or other authorized personnel.

Penalty:

Minimum – Administrative Discretion

Maximum – Remainder of the season or 90 days, whichever is greater.

PROFANITY OR VULGAR DISPLAYS

An athlete shall not use profane, obscene, or vulgar language. This includes gestures, either nonverbal or written.

Penalty:

Minimum – Administrative Discretion

Maximum – Remainder of the season or 90 days, whichever is greater.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

An athlete shall not willfully cause damage to either public or private property, including but not limited to:

1. Vandalism: An athlete shall not attempt to deface public or private property.
2. Theft: An athlete shall not take and/or acquire the property of others without their consent.

Penalty:

Minimum – Administrative Discretion

Maximum – Remainder of the season or 90 days, whichever is greater.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

An athlete shall not act in a manner unbecoming to the Nordon Hills City School District.

Penalty:

Minimum – Administrative Discretion

Maximum – Remainder of the season or 90 days, whichever is greater.

VIOLATION OF STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

In addition to the penalties set forth in the preceding rules and regulations, violation of existing school codes, or criminal acts, may lead to suspension from athletics for a period of time up to the maximum of the remainder of the season or 90 days, whichever is greater, as well as disciplinary consequences in accordance with Board Policy.

DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION

1. The Superintendent, principal, assistant principal, or other authorized personnel employed by the District to supervise or coach the student activity program issues an ATHLETIC INTENT TO DENY PARTICIPATION statement to the athlete, which includes the reason(s) for the intended denial. An informal hearing follows. The coach may or may not be present.
2. After the Intent has been issued, the parents of the athlete will be informed that they have twenty four hours from the time of notification, to appeal the denial. The appeal request must be directed to the student's building principal.
3. If an appeal is made, the principal shall hold a meeting with the student/parent to allow him/her to challenge the reasons for the intended denial.
4. Following the meeting, the principal shall issue a written decision regarding the denial. The decision of the principal shall be final and is not appealable.

OTHER ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

REASONABLE CONDUCT

The Nordon Athletic Department recognizes that the safety and welfare of individual athletes and teams are a priority. Athletes are expected to behave appropriately during school and extracurricular activities. Detrimental actions include, but are not limited to, insubordination, repeated absenteeism, fighting, sexual misconduct, negative/apathetic attitude, unsportsmanlike conduct, lying and inappropriate language or gestures.

Recognizing the varying degrees of severity, the type of misconduct, and an athlete's previous record of conduct, each situation will be considered individually. The coach and/or athletic director will determine appropriate consequences, which may include denial of participation or dismissal from the team. In all cases, a written record of the incident will be filed with the Athletic Director.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

An athlete must complete and return the Athletic Code of Conduct contract, physical examination, parental code of conduct and emergency medical forms before participating in any team activity.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Academic eligibility is a prerequisite to participation in any team or individual activity. Students who are determined to be ineligible at the onset of the season will not be able to participate in any games or contests. If a student becomes academically eligible after a grading period and the sports season is already in progress, the student may become a member of a team based on the coach's recommendation.

EQUIPMENT

An athlete must return school equipment in the condition it was received, with reasonable wear and tear, within 5 school days of the last contest. Athletes must reimburse the Nordonía Board of Education for lost or damaged equipment prior to receiving any athletic awards. An athlete must fulfill obligations from a previous season before he/she will be permitted to begin participation in any other athletic activities.

Any student athlete who quits a team during the course of the season is responsible for all uniforms and/or equipment issued to him/her. The uniforms and/or equipment must be returned to the head coach of that specific team prior to the conclusion of that sport season. Failure to do so will result in the student athlete in question being charged the replacement cost of all uniforms and/or equipment that he/she was issued. Should a student athlete reconsider his/her decision to quit a team, they may not rejoin that team without the expressed permission of the head coach and Athletic Director.

ATTENDANCE

An athlete is expected to attend all team activities unless excused by the coach prior to the absence. Unexcused absences will result in the disciplinary action described in the Code of Conduct. Extended excused absences may result in the loss of playing time. The coach will keep a written record of excused and unexcused absences and inform the parent and Athletic Director when the athlete's actions result in denial of participation.

COMPLIANCE

An athlete must comply with the rules of the Suburban League, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and the Nordonía Board of Education approved Student Code of Conduct.

Section 1. Eligibility

- 4-1-1 Each student shall meet all requirements in this bylaw to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition. Notwithstanding any provision of this Bylaw 4 to the contrary, if a student has met all of the substantive eligibility requirements of this Bylaw 4 but is declared ineligible due solely to an administrative error on the part of the school/ school personnel, the Executive Director's office may, in its absolute and sole discretion, restore eligibility to that student (prospectively and retroactively), provided it can be shown that the student's actions or failure to act did not contribute in any way to the administrative error that caused the declaration of ineligibility in the first place. Notwithstanding the restoration of eligibility, the school may be subject to additional penalties as prescribed in Bylaw 11. Note: The authority to correct administrative errors is limited to correcting student eligibility issues as codified within Bylaw 4 – Student Eligibility. Students who have not met the high school or middle school scholarship requirement are not “substantively eligible”; and a student who fails to register for enough credit hours, fails a class(es) or drops a class that lowers the student below the requisite number of credits, always has a shared responsibility for this shortcoming thus disqualifying such shortcoming from the “due solely to an administrative error” category. Therefore, this Bylaw shall never be used in conjunction with Bylaws 4-4-1 or 4-4-5.

EXCEPTION: A student who only participates in a single contest during a regular season is not required to meet all the requirements of Bylaw 4 but only if the following criteria are met:

- 1 — The participation happens one time during the regular season; and
- 2 — The student is a manager/student assistant or has an intellectual or physical disability; and
- 3 — The student would not likely otherwise participate in a meaningful way or have an impact on the outcome of a contest; and
- 4 — The opposing coach and/or officials are made aware of the student's participation before the student enters the contest and the playing time is agreed to by both coaches.

The intent of this exception is to specifically reward and/or recognize a student manager or a student with an intellectual or physical disability for his/her special contributions to a team even if they fail to meet certain criteria within Bylaw 4.

- 4-1-2 If a student participates in an athletic contest and his or her eligibility has been established by falsified information (includes but is not limited to: name, address, transcripts, birth certificate, etc.), or if an attempt is made to establish eligibility for a student by falsified information, the student shall be ineligible in Ohio for a maximum of one year from the date the penalty is imposed.
- 4-1-3 A student who is determined to be ineligible in accordance with Bylaw 4, or who is ineligible in accordance with any policy, rule or regulation as set forth in the General/Specific Sports Regulations, shall be ineligible to participate in any interscholastic sports contests, shall not be dressed in full uniform for any such contests and shall not participate in pre-game warmups during the student's period of ineligibility. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it shall remain within the discretion of the student's school administrators as to whether the student may continue to practice with the team, assist the coaches/managers with pre-game warmup drills, sit on the team bench/sidelines (jersey only), travel with the team and/or take part in other team functions during this period of ineligibility.
- 4-1-4 A student is a member of an interscholastic team when the student participates in an interscholastic contest. Such status as a team member continues until the start of the next school season in that sport. An athletic contest involving participants from another school or any non-interscholastic or any organized adult team is a game, preview or a scrimmage. 37 BYLAWS Notwithstanding the definition of an athletic contest above, if an interscholastic team only participates in a preseason event (preview, scrimmages, etc.) and does not participate in a regular season contest before dropping the sport and/or cancelling their season, the school will not be considered to have “sponsored the sport” for purposes of the application of Exception 6 to Bylaw 4-3-1. Such a student will still be considered to have “participated in the sport” for purposes of the transfer bylaw, but shall still be permitted to participate at a different school during the same season, subject to available opportunities afforded under an exception to Bylaw 4-3-1. For purposes of General Sports Regulation 7, these students will count towards the team membership of the school at which they participate in a regular season contest.

Section 2. Age Limitation

- 4-2-1 Once a student attains the age of 20, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition notwithstanding where that 20th birthday falls in relation to the sports season.
EXCEPTION: If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements and the student’s specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student’s inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Executive Director’s office if, in the sole discretion of the Executive Director’s office, the Executive Director’s office determines that:
- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
 - b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
 - c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
 - d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.
- 4-2-2 If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7th & 8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.
EXCEPTION 1: If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements and the student’s specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student’s inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Executive Director’s office if, in the sole discretion of the Executive Director’s office, the Executive Director’s office determines that:
- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
 - b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
 - c) the student would not likely participate in a way which would significantly impact the outcome of the contest; and
 - d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indications of academic dishonesty.
- EXCEPTION 2:** If a student has repeated any grade from kindergarten through grade 3 at the recommendation of the student’s teachers or other educational professionals and for purely academic reasons and, as a result of repeating any of these grades, the student cannot meet the age limitations of this bylaw in the student’s eighth grade year with the 7th & 8th grade school, the Executive Director’s office may declare the student eligible notwithstanding this bylaw 4-2-2 if, in the sole discretion of the Executive Director’s office, the following criteria can be met:
- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
 - b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes of her/his grade level; and
 - c) the student would not likely participate in a way which would significantly impact the outcome of the contest; and
 - d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indications of academic dishonesty.
- 4-2-3 An 8th grade student may, at the student’s option, become eligible for interscholastic athletics at the high school level when the student attains his/her 15th birthday before August 1 of the ensuing school year. The student who chooses to commence high school eligibility while still enrolled in grade eight is eligible at the school where the student is expected to enroll at the ninth-grade level. A student opting to commence her/his eligibility at the high school level shall have no more than eight semesters of high school eligibility taken in order of attendance in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-3.

Note: This means that a student’s senior year of eligibility will be affected if the student chooses to commence high school eligibility while still enrolled in grade eight. Furthermore, if the student does not opt to become eligible at the high school level, she/he shall be ineligible on account of her/his age at the 7th-8th grade level of interscholastic competition.

- 4-2-4 In determining the age of a student, the date of birth as recorded in the school records shall be considered as

final, except that when birth records, filed within six years after date of birth, are available in the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or BYLAWS 38 a comparable governmental agency, it shall be used. If this information is not available and if the school records do not agree, the earliest date of birth shall be considered the valid date of birth.

- 4-2-5 Family Bibles, physician's statements, parents' affidavits, baptismal certificates etc., will not be accepted in lieu of birth certificates. Amendments to birth certificates filed after six years from date of birth will not be considered.

Section 3. Enrollment and Attendance

For purposes of this section and the interpretations there under:

1. — A student cannot attend a school without being officially enrolled;
2. — A student cannot be enrolled in more than one school at any given time, and
3. — Once a student is enrolled and attending a new school, the OHSAA shall consider the student withdrawn from the former school.

Note: Notwithstanding these exceptions to Bylaw 4-3-1, all high school students must also comply with the transfer Bylaw 4-7.

- 4-3-1 All students participating in a school-sponsored sport must be enrolled in and attending in accordance with all duly adopted Board of Education or similar governing board policies of that school.

EXCEPTION 1: A student enrolled in the ninth grade separate from the high school (grades 10- 12) is eligible to participate with the school squad of the high school the student will be assigned to attend.

EXCEPTION 2: A student enrolled in a career center, a joint vocational/technical school, or in College Credit Plus is eligible at the high school where the students' records are maintained.

EXCEPTION 3: A student enrolled full time in a postsecondary institution (now known as College Credit Plus) is eligible to participate at the high school where the student's records are maintained, provided the student is receiving high school credit for a minimum of five one credit courses in the postsecondary institution.

EXCEPTION 4: A student enrolled in a non-traditional (alternative, magnet, career-oriented, digital, specialty, etc.) school that is sponsored by a Board of Education/Governing Board is eligible to participate at the member school, operated by the district/system sponsoring the non-traditional school provided the non-traditional school does not sponsor interscholastic athletics. Each student will be counted on the EMIS report for the member high school where that student's eligibility is vested. Students who attend non-traditional schools that are sponsored by a multiple high school public school district shall be assigned for interscholastic athletics to member schools within the district based on the business rules for participation that have been adopted by the Board of Directors.

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/BusinessRulesMultiHSPublic.pdf>

EXCEPTION 5: A student who is receiving home instruction in accordance with division (A) (2) of section 3321.04 of the Revised Code and is enrolled in a non-public member school in accordance with the partial enrollment policy of the governing board of that non-public school may be eligible at the non-public school where the student is enrolled and attending. Such partial enrollment policy requires that at least one of the courses be taken at the school's physical location, and that the class counts towards graduation. Note 1: A student entering a member non-public school from a home school must do so at the beginning of the school year after having been home educated for at least one calendar year. Failure to meet this one-year provision requires the student to be enrolled for a minimum of one grading period before the student can be declared eligible. Note 2: State law permits home educated students in accordance with ORC 3312.04 (A)(2) to be afforded the opportunity to participate at the public school in the district of residence of the parents without any enrollment obligation. If the residential public school district does not offer the sport, the home educated student MAY participate at another non-residential public school provided the superintendent of that district permits such participation.

EXCEPTION 6: Unless otherwise mandated within the Ohio Revised Code. Nonetheless, a student whose participation opportunity is afforded through these statutory provisions is still subject to the remaining eligibility requirements as with all other student-athletes including, but not limited to, age, semesters, scholarship and transfer eligibility bylaws.

See these documents for an explanation of the current mandates:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/BusinessRulesMultiHSPublic.pdf>

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/BusinessRulesSingleHSPublic.pdf>

EXCEPTION 7: A student who is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder who is enrolled in a Special Education program at a school outside of the district of residence of parents is eligible at the school where the student attends classes or the school located in the district of residence of the parents, PROVIDED each of the following is met: (a) the student’s parents reside in Ohio; (b) the school district in which the parents reside does not provide the required programs to meet the student’s special education needs; and (c) there is a contractual agreement specifying the responsibility for educating a “child with disabilities” between the respective schoolboards or between the parents and the school the student with the disability will attend.

- 4-3-2 For purposes of the semester bylaws 4-3-3 and 4-3-4 only, enrollment and attendance in a school shall be deemed continuous until such date when a student has been officially withdrawn from the school in accordance with that school’s policies. 39 BYLAWS
- 4-3-3 After a student completes the eighth grade or is otherwise eligible for high school athletics participation, the student may be eligible for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, regardless of whether the student participates or is even eligible to participate in accordance with these eligibility bylaws. A student in grade 7 or 8 who attains the age of 15 before August 1 shall be eligible only at the high school level for a period not to exceed eight semesters commencing with the semester of the student’s first participation at the high school level.

See Bylaw 4-3-5 for further definition of what constitutes “order of attendance” as it relates to these semester bylaws.

EXCEPTION 1: The Executive Director’s Office may permit a student who completes the eighth semester of eligibility during the season of a sport to complete the sports season of the sport in which the student is participating provided the student is enrolled in school. If such extension is granted, the student is ineligible for further interscholastic participation when the sports season, regular and tournament, has ended.

EXCEPTION 2: If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements and the student’s specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student’s inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Executive Director’s office if, in the sole discretion of the Executive Director’s office, the Executive Director’s office determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
- d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

EXCEPTION 3: The Executive Director’s Office, in its sole discretion, may permit a student who began high school in another country to have eight semesters of high school eligibility in the United States when evidence can be presented that the student’s placement in high school outside the United States was inappropriate for the student’s age and academic capabilities. Note: If a student competes at the high school level as an ineligible student, that semester(s) of eligibility shall count toward the eight semesters permitted.

- 4-3-4 After a student completes the sixth grade or is otherwise eligible for 7-8th grade athletics participation and before the student enters the ninth grade, the student may be eligible for a period not to exceed four semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not.
- EXCEPTION:** If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements and the student’s specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student’s inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Executive Director’s office if, in the sole discretion of the Executive Director’s office, the Executive Director’s office determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student would not likely participate in a way which would significantly impact the outcome of the contest; and
- d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indications of academic dishonesty.

4-3-5 A student who is enrolled 15 or more school days in any semester, or who participates in an interscholastic contest prior to or during a semester, shall have that semester count as one semester of eligibility. In addition, the following situations shall count as a semester of eligibility: 1: A student who does not attend school in a semester due to a suspension or an expulsion shall have that semester(s) count in the total of four (grades 7-8) or eight (high school) that are permitted. 2: A student who does not attend school due to enrollment in a postsecondary institution that is not part of the College Credit Plus Program (dual credit for both high school and postsecondary school) shall have that semester(s) count in the total of four or eight that are permitted. 3: A student who does not attend any school for a semester(s) due to truancy shall have that semester(s) count in the total of four or eight that are permitted. 4: A student who does not attend any school for a semester(s) due to withdrawal, and a student who is excused from compulsory attendance to be home educated shall have that semester(s) count in the total of four or eight that are permitted.

EXCEPTION: The Executive Director may, in the exercise of the Executive Director’s sole discretion, disregard a particular semester of “enrollment” if extenuating circumstances of such enrollment are presented and are shown to have existed through no fault of the student-athlete.

4-3-6 A student is considered a graduate when the student has completed the work required for graduation and is declared a graduate by the Board of Education or a similar governing board. Notwithstanding the fact the student may be age eligible BYLAWS 40 and have semesters of eligibility remaining, a graduate is no longer eligible for interscholastic sports except for participation in the remaining contests of that semester.

4-3-7 A student who has received his or her education outside the United States is considered a graduate when the student has completed the work required for graduation or has completed the requirements for compulsory education as mandated by that country in which the student received his/her education. Notwithstanding the fact the student may be age eligible and have semesters of eligibility remaining, such a graduate is no longer eligible for interscholastic sports except for participation in the remaining contests of that semester.

EXCEPTION: If it has been determined that a student, who has been educated in a system outside the United States, has not met the substantive academic requirements of the NCAA initial eligibility center in regard to high school graduation (notwithstanding ACT/SAT scores or English proficiency), the student may be declared eligible at a member school at the sole discretion of the Executive Director’s office.

Section 4. Scholarship

Note 1: The OHSAA will accept scholarship eligibility for students enrolling from outside Ohio if those students had met the eligibility standards of the state from which they transferred or the standards found in 4-4.

Note 2: For students who attend community schools, vocational schools or non-traditional schools sponsored by a school district, students who are involved with STEM, College Credit Plus and other educational options and students who are home educated, the immediately preceding grading period determination shall be the grading period of the school for which the student wishes to compete. Please see <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/CCP.Non-EnrolledStudentGradeSheet.pdf> to obtain a form to assist you in documenting grades for these students. Note 3: Scholarship Eligibility for the home educated student who was not home educated for an entire year, leaves a school for home education during a school year or who commences home education during the school year after being declared ineligible, shall be evaluated for eligibility based on ORC§3313.5312. Note 4: No student who has failed a course or was not enrolled in a course during the grading period shall be able to use that course to fulfill the scholarship requirement if the course was not a course that the student was enrolled in and passing at the conclusion of the grading period, unless in accordance with Exception 4.

4-4-1 In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be engaged in coursework during the immediately preceding grading period. For the purpose of this Bylaw 4, Section 4, the term “grading period” is defined as the school’s Board-adopted calendar (e.g., six-week, nine-week, 12 week or semester) and does not mean

an interim marking period. Additionally, at the conclusion of the immediately preceding grading period, a student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation. For the purpose of this bylaw, the term “immediately preceding grading period” refers to the grading period of the school which immediately precedes the grading period in question. Please see Bylaw 4-3-1 for enrollment and attendance requirements during any given grading period. Additionally, a student engaged in a College Credit Plus (CCP) Course during a high school’s semester may be presumed to be passing that class until it is shown that the student has received a failing grade at the conclusion of the class or subsequently dropped the class, at which time the class can no longer be used to assist the student in meeting the five-credit standard. A student who is engaged in a CCP course has an added responsibility to immediately notify the school for which they participate when any changes with their enrollment status within the CCP course occurs, and it is the school’s obligation to confirm the schedule change upon receipt of notification.

EXCEPTION 1: The Executive Director’s office may waive this requirement for a student in 12th grade and in their final year of school who (a) has accumulated sufficient credit hours to have graduated in the preceding semester/trimester, (b) continues to maintain engagement in coursework to the satisfaction of the school and in accordance with Bylaws 4-3-1 and (c) can demonstrate that the underlying purposes of this bylaw have been otherwise fulfilled based on an assessment of the student’s past behavior records, attendance and previous grades.

EXCEPTION 2: The Executive Director’s office may waive the requirements of this bylaw provided the student experienced a personal accident, illness or family hardship during the immediately preceding grading period which can be supported by documentation contemporaneously created at the time of the hardship. An appeal for such a waiver must come from the principal of the school using the form prescribed by the Executive Director’s Office and shall include contemporaneous documentation regarding the circumstances of the hardship.

EXCEPTION 3: If a student’s failure to meet the requirements of this bylaw are due to an “incomplete” given in one or more courses which the student was taking during the grading period in question, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Executive Director’s office once the “incomplete” has been changed to a passing letter grade provided:

- a) the failure to complete the required coursework during the grading period was due to calamity day(s), family tragedy, or illness or accident as verified by a physician contemporaneous at the time of the incident; and
- b) the “incomplete” was given in accordance with Board of Education/other governing board adopted policies and procedures and is applicable to all students in the school; and
- c) the previously scheduled work and/or exams is/are completed within the time period provided in Board policy for completing work required to convert an “incomplete” into a letter grade; and 41 BYLAWS
- d) there is no evidence that the “incomplete” was given in order to afford the student extended time in order to provide the student tutoring or other educational services simply to avoid a failing grade.

Note: This exception only applies where an “incomplete” has been issued and not a letter grade that is subsequently changed as a result of the extended time/additional work. If a high school district/system does NOT have a Board Policy on the Restoration of an Incomplete to a Grade or did not have a policy when this exception was requested, the student shall not be able to avail him or herself of this exception.

EXCEPTION 4: A student enrolled in a College Credit Plus (CCP) course or courses which credit hours would have counted towards the satisfaction of this Bylaw BUT FOR the fact that the actual course work did not commence in the grading period in question (but within the same semester), can nonetheless have the course credit/credits count towards satisfaction of this requirement PROVIDED the student was enrolled in the CCP course at the beginning of the semester in question. Likewise, if the CCP course work is successfully completed within the semester of the high school’s calendar but before the high school’s calendar’s next grading period within the same semester starts, the CCP credits can count towards satisfaction of this requirement. (See Bylaw 4-4-1 for enrollment requirements during any given grading period)

Note 1: This exception does not apply to CCP courses taken over the summer (see Bylaw 4-4-7) or those completed during a different semester.

Note 2: If a student utilizes this exception to satisfy the requirements of this bylaw and subsequently drops the CCP course, the student shall become ineligible for the remainder of the grading period in question

upon the school's confirmation of the schedule change. If the CCP course was not necessary to satisfy the requirements of the bylaw (5- credit standard) then there would be no penalty for dropping the course.

4-4-2 If, either through the due process procedure or the direct mediation process established by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, it is determined that a school has failed to provide all of the support services as identified in a student's IEP as necessary for the student to receive a "free and appropriate public education," AND the Executive Director's office determines that this failure to provide these necessary services caused the student to fail to meet the requirements of Bylaw 4-4-1 or Bylaws 4-4-4 or 4-4-5, the student may be declared eligible by the Executive Director's office upon the student's successful completion of the appropriate compensatory education as ordered by the Independent Hearing Officer (I.H.O.) or through the mediation process.

4-4-3 The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. For the purposes of this bylaw, "school day" includes faculty in-service days and regular school attendance days, but not holidays, calamity days or school breaks.

EXCEPTION 1: Eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period commences with the start of the fall sports season.

EXCEPTION 2: A student coming off the "ineligible status" may become eligible after the fifth calendar day immediately following the end of the grading period provided those grades can be obtained and verified by a school administrator.

4-4-4 A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of four of all subjects carried the immediately preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.

4-4-5 A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be engaged in coursework during the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades at the conclusion of that grading period in a minimum of four of those subjects in which the student received grades.

EXCEPTION 1: The Executive Director's office may waive the requirements of this bylaw provided the student experienced a personal accident, illness or family hardship during the immediately preceding grading period which can be supported by documentation contemporaneously created at the time of the hardship. An appeal for such a waiver must come from the principal of the school using the form prescribed by the Executive Director's Office and shall include contemporaneous documentation regarding the circumstances of the hardship.

EXCEPTION 2: If a student's failure to meet the requirements of this bylaw are due to an "incomplete" given in one or more courses which the student was taking during the grading period in question, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Executive Director's office once the "incomplete" has been changed to a passing letter grade provided:

- a) the failure to complete the required coursework during the grading period was due to calamity day(s), family tragedy, or illness or accident as verified by a physician contemporaneous at the time of the incident; and
- b) the "incomplete" was given in accordance with Board of Education/other governing board adopted policies and procedures and is applicable to all students in the school; and
- c) the previously scheduled work and/or exams is/are completed within the time period provided in Board policy for completing work required to convert an "incomplete" into a letter grade; and
- d) there is no evidence that the "incomplete" was given in order to afford the student extended time in order to provide the student tutoring or other educational services simply to avoid a failing grade.

Note: This exception only applies where an "incomplete" has been issued and not a letter grade that is subsequently changed as a result of the extended time/additional work. If a school district/system does NOT have a Board Policy on the Restoration of an Incomplete to a Grade or did not have a policy when this exception was requested, the student shall not be able to avail him or herself of this exception.

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- 4-4-6 The primary responsibility for verifying eligibility rests with the receiving school. Eligibility shall be verified by reviewing school records or written verification from the sending school.
- 4-4-7 Summer school and other educational options may not be used to bring a student into compliance with Bylaws 4-4-1, 4-4-4 or 4-4-5.
Note: The prohibition in this bylaw is applicable both prospectively and retrospectively.

Section 5. Conduct, Character, Discipline

- 4-5-1 In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to whether the student may participate in athletics.
- 4-5-2 In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are involved, the principal and game officials shall file a report and the Executive Director's office shall have jurisdiction to determine additional penalties including whether or not the student may participate in athletics.
- 4-5-3 Physical attacks on any official shall be reported to the Association office immediately by the officials involved. The Executive Director's office shall conduct an investigation and determine the penalties involved.
- 4-5-4 Any students who are ejected or disqualified from an athletic contest in any sport for unsporting conduct or a flagrant violation shall be immediately placed under the direct supervision of a school official.
- 4-5-5 Any student suspended or expelled from a member school shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any member school for the duration of the suspension or expulsion. For the purpose of this bylaw, suspension refers to the denial of attendance at school for a period of not more than 10 days. Expulsion refers to the involuntary removal of a student for more than 10 days.
- 4-5-6 Any student who is or would have been subject to a penalty or consequences for violations of a school's Board adopted Code of Conduct (Student, Athletic) shall be declared ineligible in the event the student transfers to another school before the penalty or consequence has been fully served. Once the terms of the penalty or consequence have been fully served at the new school, or once one full calendar year has passed since the date of first attendance at the new school, whichever comes first, then the student is permitted to regain their athletic eligibility, at the discretion of the new school, assuming they are eligible in all other respects. It is the responsibility of an administrator at the former school to alert an administrator at the student's new school of any violation of this nature that would affect the student's eligibility in interscholastic athletics and the duration of the suspension for that violation.

Section 6. Residence

- 4-6-1 The districts for all public schools are established by the State Board of Education and defined for athletic purposes. In addition, school districts with multiple high schools may establish attendance zones within those districts. In determining one's residence for purposes of these bylaws, the following criteria shall apply: (a) where the parents and family members sleep the majority of the time, (b) where the mail is received, (c) where the meals are prepared and eaten, (d) where the parents are registered to vote, and (e) where important family activities take place during significant parts of each day.

Note: It shall not be considered a "bona fide" change of residence as prescribed in Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 1, or Bylaw 4-7-4 (1) if the parents of a transfer student vacate the residence prior to one year from the date that the student's transfer is approved, and the student remains in the school into which the transfer was approved.

- 4-6-2 A student whose parents, (biological or adoptive), reside outside the state of Ohio will be ineligible for interscholastic athletics in a member school. (See Bylaw 4-8-1 for eligibility requirements for international students). If/when a student is/has been subject to a custody order in accordance with Chapter 2151 of the

Ohio Revised Code, the student shall no longer be subject to the provisions of this section of the residency bylaw. Note: Students affected by this out of state residence bylaw may still be affected by all other eligibility standards in Bylaw 4 including the transfer provisions in 4-7 and the international provisions in 4-8.

EXCEPTION 1: The Executive Director's office may declare a student who is the subject of a custody or guardianship order issued by a court of proper jurisdiction conferring custody/guardianship upon a grandparent, aunt, uncle or sibling who resides in Ohio, if, in the sole discretion of the Executive Director's office, the Executive Director's office determines that the purpose of this change in custody was not for athletic reasons, but purely for the best interest of the student in terms of the student's mental, physical and educational well-being. Such a student is ineligible until declared eligible by the Executive Director's office.

The Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive the formal requirement of a court order for a student who is 18, when circumstances are presented that the student was compelled to transfer schools and reside with a primary relative as outlined above who is a bona fide resident of the state of Ohio.

Note: Upon enrollment of a student whose parents live outside the state of Ohio but within the United States or any of its territories, or if the parents move outside the state of Ohio prior to or during the student's high school career, the principal of that school in which the student is being enrolled shall notify the Executive Director's office of said enrollment, and the facts and circumstances regarding any change of custody so that the Executive Director's office can make an informed decision regarding the student's qualifications under this exception. 43 BYLAWS Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been completed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

EXCEPTION 2: The Executive Director's office may grant eligibility to a student who makes a bona fide move into Ohio with his/her legal custodian/guardian, and it can be shown that, pursuant to a court order, the individual has had legal custody/guardianship of the student for a minimum of one year. Such a student is ineligible until declared eligible by the Executive Director's office. Note: Upon enrollment of a student whose parents live outside the state of Ohio but within the United States or any of its territories, or if the parents move outside the state of Ohio prior to or during the student's high school career, the principal of that school in which the student is being enrolled shall notify the Executive Director's office of said enrollment, and the facts and circumstances regarding any change of custody so that the Executive Director's office can make an informed decision regarding the student's qualifications under this exception. Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception #2 and have been under the custody/guardianship of the individual who is now an Ohio resident for less than two years, must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests have been completed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

EXCEPTION 3: If a student's parents move outside the state of Ohio at any time after the student has been enrolled and attending a minimum of 15 days at the beginning of the student's 11th grade school year, the student may be declared eligible for the remainder of the student's high school career at the high school he/she was attending at the time of the parents' move, provided:

- a) the student's enrollment at that high school has been continuous following the parents' move, and
- b) the student meets all other eligibility requirements of these Bylaws.

EXCEPTION 4: A student who enrolls at the sixth-grade level in a school/district consisting of grades 1-12 and who maintains continuous enrollment shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 9-12 in that school/district regardless of place or state of residence of parents. A student who enrolls at the fourth-grade level in a school/district consisting of grades 1-12 and who maintains continuous enrollment shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-8 in that school/district regardless of place or state of residence of parents.

EXCEPTION 5: A student whose parent(s) has been continuously employed for a minimum of three years as a fulltime, licensed or classified employee in an Ohio school district or system, may be declared eligible in an Ohio school in that district or system where the parent is employed. Once eligibility is established at the member school/district, the student shall remain eligible under this exception for as long as he or she maintains continuous enrollment in that school. The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office.

EXCEPTION 6: A student who has been continuously enrolled and attending a "parochial school" by the beginning of the sixth-grade level and who has maintained continuous enrollment in that same system of education through grade 8 shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 9-12 if the student matriculates directly into a parochial high school in Ohio and maintains enrollment in that high school for the duration of their high school education. Should such a student ever break enrollment from the same system of education then they will no longer be eligible for residency eligibility under this exception. For purposes of this exception, a "parochial school" shall be defined as a school which is part of the Catholic Conference of Ohio, as denoted by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. A student who enrolls at the fourth-grade level in a parochial school and who maintains continuous enrollment shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-8 in that school system regardless of place or state of residence of parents.

Note: The OHSAA will use the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to denote schools within the same system of education.

The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been completed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

EXCEPTION 7: The Executive Director's office may grant eligibility to a student whose parent(s) have moved outside of Ohio provided the following criteria are met:

a) the student has been continuously enrolled in the same district/system for a minimum of three years and;

b) the student has been the subject of a custody or guardianship order issued by a court of proper jurisdiction conferring legal custodian/guardian to an individual for a minimum of one year and;

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c) the student maintains continuous enrollment at the school within the district/system in which he/she has been enrolled and;

d) the Executive Director's office determines that the purpose of this change in custody was not for athletic reasons, but purely for the best interest of the student in terms of the student's mental, physical and educational well-being

A student may be declared eligible for the remainder of the student's career at the school at which he/she was attending at the time of the parents' move. Such a student is ineligible until declared eligible by the Executive Director's office.

Note: Should a student transfer to a different school after being approved under this residency exception, such an approval may follow if the Executive Director's Office determines that the change in enrollment was not for athletic reasons. Should the residency exception shift to a new school, please be advised that such a student must still adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer.

EXCEPTION 8: A student who is enrolled in a member school that provides housing for the student and accepts the role of the parent in loco parentis. The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office. Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been completed, the

student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

EXCEPTION 9: A student who has been enrolled in an Ohio school pursuant to the Interstate Compact of Educational Opportunities for Military Children may be declared eligible at a member school upon submission of a special power of attorney, relative to the custody or guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under applicable law. The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office.

EXCEPTION 10: A student who is a citizen of the United States may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics in the event that the student's parents are deported from the United States as long as the student maintains continuous enrollment in an Ohio school. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the OHSAA Executive Director's Office upon submission of the appropriate documents.

EXCEPTION 11: A student may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics when the student's parent(s) are citizens of the United States who reside outside the United States or any of its territories. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the OHSAA Executive Director's Office upon submission of the appropriate documents. Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been completed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

EXCEPTION 12: A student who is a United States citizen, and whose parent(s) are non-citizens living outside the United States or any of its territories, may be eligible for interscholastic athletics subject to the restrictions and conditions set forth below:

- a) The student may be eligible for a maximum of one school year which is the first year of enrollment at the Ohio member school.
- b) The student has not previously participated in any other visitor exchange program in Ohio or any other state within the United States or any of its territories, or attended any other high school in the United States or any of its territories. The period of participation in another visitor exchange program or the period of attendance at another high school in the United States or any of its territories shall count against the one-year maximum eligibility set forth in (a) above.
- c) There shall be no evidence of a direct placement for athletic purposes into a specific member school in Ohio.
- d) The member school at which the student wishes to be declared eligible for interscholastic athletic participation must submit the appropriate form(s) to the Executive Director's office, and the student and school must cooperate with the Executive Director's office in determining that all other requirements for eligibility have been satisfied, including the scholarship and age requirements.

The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the OHSAA Executive Director's Office upon submission of the appropriate documents.

Note: A student may travel freely back and forth between the United States or any of its territories and the home country with the proper U.S. passport. Thus, a student could have attended high school in the United States or any of its territories previously without being part of any International Exchange Program. It is the responsibility of the school administration to verify that the student in these circumstances meets all the requirements of eligibility expressed above.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to fulfill the transfer consequence in any sport in which they participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. After the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular 45 BYLAWS season contests have been completed, the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s).

Section 7. Transfers

Note: Students who change high schools (transfer) are reminded that they must meet all eligibility

standards found in Bylaw 4. This includes meeting the out of state residency bylaw 4-6-2, which requires a student to have a parent residing in Ohio or to meet one of the exceptions to that residency bylaw.

- 4-7-1 The transfer bylaws apply to all students enrolled in grades 9-12 who are transferring high schools whether the schools are public or non-public, member or non-member or whether the high schools are within the same school system or district.
- 4-7-2 **Definition of Transfer:** A student is considered to have transferred whenever a.) enrollment is changed from one school to another school and the student attends a new school, or b.) enrollment is changed from one school to become home schooled or vice versa, or c.) the student participates in a practice, scrimmage or contest in an OHSAA recognized sport with a school-sponsored squad of a school in which the student has not been enrolled and attending, or d) the participation opportunities afforded a student pursuant to state law change.

Note 1: Notwithstanding (a) above, if enrollment is changed from one school to another school and the student attends a new school BUT returns to his/her prior school of attendance without playing interscholastic athletics for any school during the pendency of their withdrawal, such a student shall NOT be subject to the provisions of this section and shall be fully eligible, with respect to transfer, at the school in which he/she was initially enrolled.

Note 2: Notwithstanding (b) above, if a student is enrolled in a school located in his/her residential district and withdraws from the school for home education pursuant to division (A)(2) of O.R.C. §§ 3321.04, or vice versa, such a student shall NOT be considered a transfer student subject to the provisions of this section.

Note 3: Notwithstanding (c) and (d) above, if a non-enrolled student's participation is pursuant to O.R.C. §§ 3313.5311 (Ohio non-public school students), 3313.537 (Ohio community/STEM school students), or O.R.C. §§ 3313.5321 (Ohio public school students) the non-enrolled student's participation opportunity shall transfer back and forth between the student's school of enrollment and the public school at which they are afforded a participation opportunity without transfer consequences based on sports offered at the school of enrollment. If the school of attendance ever sponsors the sport/sports in which the non-enrolled student wishes to participate, the student's participation opportunity shall also be transferred back to the school of attendance without consequence.

Note 4: Notwithstanding (d) above, if a non-enrolled student's participation is pursuant to O.R.C. §§ 3313.5312 (Ohio home educated students), the non-enrolled student's participation opportunity shall transfer back and forth between the student's residential school and a non-residential school, pursuant to the residential school's sports offered, and no transfer consequence shall apply.

Note 5: Any in-season changes in the participation opportunities that may be afforded by state law shall be subject to Bylaw 4-7-3, unless otherwise specified within the Ohio Revised Code.

Transfer Consequence: If a student transfers at any time after commencing the ninth-grade year, the student shall be ineligible for all OHSAA tournaments in those sports in which the student participated during the 12 months immediately preceding this transfer. In addition, the student shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels AFTER the first 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests have been competed in those sports in which the student participated during the 12 months immediately preceding this transfer. The transfer consequence shall remain in effect until the one-year anniversary of the date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred, at which time the student is no longer considered a transfer student. For purposes of the transfer bylaws, a student will be considered as having commenced the ninth-grade year by either attending five or more days of school as a ninth grader or by establishing eligibility at a school by having participated in a contest. Furthermore, the term "participated in a contest" for purposes of the transfer bylaw means to have played at least one play in a scrimmage, preview/jamboree, Foundation game or regular season/ tournament game or contest.

A student who did not participate in an OHSAA recognized sport in the 12 months immediately preceding

the transfer is not subject to the consequence of this transfer bylaw.

Note 1: The Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, is authorized to make certain equitable adjustments to the period of REGULAR SEASON ineligibility in cases when a student, through no fault of the athlete, is subject to documented, extenuating circumstances which prevent him/her from competing during all or part of the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests in a sport. However, no such approval shall ever permit a student-athlete a participation opportunity in the OHSAA postseason tournament of a sport in which they are ineligible. If such an adjustment is granted, 1) the student must be physically attending the school at the start of the season for such an adjustment to be considered and 2) the student will only be eligible for those contests outlined in the Executive Director's Office's approval, which will never exceed 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests regardless of whether the student participates in those contests. It is the sole responsibility of the school to which the student transfers to ensure a student granted such an adjustment participates only during the appropriate contests outlined in the Executive Director's Office's approval. BYLAWS 46

Midseason Transfers: Notwithstanding the above, if a student transfers during the season of a sport in which he or she has participated in a regular season contest, and if Bylaw 4-7-3 requires that the student is ineligible for participation in the remainder of the contests in that sports season, the student shall remain ineligible for the remainder of all regular season contests, as well as the OHSAA tournament, in that sport at the school into which the student has transferred (or at the school where the student is now permitted a participation opportunity). Furthermore, the student shall finish fulfilling his/her transfer consequence, for ONLY that sport in which the mid-season transfer occurred, at the start of the sport season during the next school year unless an exception can be met to restore eligibility for the next sport season. This consequence requires that the student shall remain ineligible for all preseason contests (scrimmages, preview/jamboree, Foundation games) and all regular season contests until the total number of varsity regular season contests missed (including those missed during the previous season) equals 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests in that sport.

Maximum Allowable Contests in All OHSAA-recognized Sports and Formula for Determining Eligibility under the 50% Transfer Consequence

Sport	Maximum # of Contests as per the OHSAA Board of Directors Policy	Transfer Student: BECOMES INELIGIBLE AT VARSITY:
Baseball	27 Games	Game 15
Basketball (Boys and Girls)	22 Games	Game 12
Bowling (Boys and Girls)	24 Matches	Match 13
Cross Country (Boys and Girls)	16 Meets	Meet 9
Field Hockey	18 Games	Game 10
Football	10 Games	Game 6
Flag Football	12 Games	Game 7
Golf (Boys and Girls)	20 Matches	Match 11
Gymnastics	14 Meets	Meet 8
Ice Hockey	35 Games	Game 19
Lacrosse (Boys and Girls)	18 Games	Game 10
Soccer (Boys and Girls)	17 Games	Game 10
Softball	27 Games	Game 15
Swimming and Diving (Boys and Girls)	16 Meets	Meet 9
Tennis (Boys and Girls)	22 Contests	Contest 12
Track and Field (Boys and Girls)	16 Meets	Meet 9
Volleyball (Boys and Girls)	22 Matches	Match 12
Wrestling	20 Points/16 points (for schools that do not field teams – 6 or fewer weight classes)	Point 11/9

Whenever a student is considered a transfer, as defined in Bylaw 4-7-2, but is permitted a participation opportunity at a member school at which they are not enrolled in accordance with ORC 3313.5311, 3313.5321, 3313.5323 or 3313.537, it is the responsibility of the member school where the student is participating to submit any applicable paperwork to waive the transfer consequence outlined above.

If it is determined that one or more of the exceptions that follow represents an event which creates the need to transfer, i.e., creates a cause-and-effect relationship, then one of more of the following exceptions may apply:

EXCEPTION 1: If a student is compelled to transfer to another high school as a result of a bona fide legal change of residence made by BOTH PARENTS (biological, adoptive or stepparents) from one public school district into another public school district, whether from outside the state of Ohio or within Ohio, the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons at:

- a) the public high school in which the new residence is physically located (or any school to which the student is placed and enrolled in a multiple high school district) or;
- b) any non-public high school if the family's new residence is at least 15 miles from their former residence, as determined by the most direct route when using Google Maps or other such navigational system, or;
- c) any high school, public or non-public, if the new residence into which the family has moved is more than 80 miles from the residence from which the family moved, as determined by the most direct route when using Google Maps or other such navigational system.

For purposes of this exception, a bona fide change of residence shall be defined as a change of residence during which the student's parents have relinquished any and all responsibility with regard to the prior residence, through a sale, lease agreement with a non-family member, the transfer of the prior residence to an LLC for business purposes, or the termination of the lease, while having established the new residence as their primary residence as defined within Bylaw 4-6-1 of the OHSAA Handbook. In cases where the prior residence has been transferred to an LLC, the student's parents must provide clear and convincing evidence that the prior residence is being utilized solely for bona fide business purposes and not for residential use. Evidence may include, but is not limited to, tax returns, commercial lease, commercial utility bills, etc.

In cases where the student's parents have not relinquished any and all responsibility, the Executive Director's Office may grant the student partial eligibility, not to include participation in the OHSAA post season tournament in any applicable sports, should all other requirements of this exception be satisfied. In such a case, full eligibility may later be granted should the student's parents provide proof that any and all responsibility of the prior residence has been relinquished since the original ruling.

The requirement that "both parents" make the move may be waived by the Executive Director's Office if the marriage of the parents has been or is in the process of being legally terminated or if the parents were never married. In addition, the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may extend conditional eligibility for up to 90 days immediately following the date of the student's transfer in cases where parents are making a bona fide move into a residence that is more than 80 miles from their former residence, and there are extenuating circumstances that are presented which prevent one of the parents from making the move immediately. This 90-day conditional provision may be extended for up to 90 more days ONLY in the case of medical or military obligations that prevent one of the parents from making the move at the same time as the other parent.

If the person(s) making the bona fide move is not the biological or adoptive parent or stepparent of the student, the school administrator must disclose the custodial relationship, provide the court ordered documents and advise as to the whereabouts of the student's biological or adoptive parents.

An *Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence* in the form requested by the Executive Director's Office, must be submitted along with any request for the application of this exception. Please refer to Bylaw 4-1-2 concerning eligibility established via falsified information.

Note 1: The student and the student's parents must reside in this new residence for a period of one year from the date on which this exception was applied to a given student in order to maintain eligibility at the school into which the student's transfer has been approved. The school district will have a continuing duty to monitor compliance with the residency requirements during this one year period.

Note 2: If, as a result of a bona fide change of residence of the student's parents, a student transfers and is permitted a participation opportunity at a member school where he or she is not enrolled, in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-1 exceptions #4 and/or 6, the Executive Director's Office may apply this exception 1 to restore full eligibility in regard to transfer/ change of participation opportunity provided the student's participation is in accordance with OHSAA business rules and in accordance with Bylaw 4-7-3.

EXCEPTION 2: If, as a result of a legal change of custody as between a student's parents, who live in two different school districts, the student is compelled to transfer from one school district to the other school district where the other parent resides, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/ sport seasons provided the student continues to live with the new custodian in order to support the approval of the transfer to the new high school. If custody/guardianship of a student is changed to a non-parent which custody/ guardianship change is the result of the death or incarceration of the prior custodian, the intervention of child protective services, social services or similar state agency, and the new custodian/guardian lives in a different school district than the previous custodian/guardian, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sports/sport seasons provided the student continues to live with the new custodian/guardian in order to support the approval of the transfer to the new high school.

The Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive the requirement of a court-ordered legal change of custody for a student who is 18, when circumstances are presented that the student was compelled to transfer schools and reside with a parent who is a bona fide resident of the state of Ohio.

By operation of statute, both parents in a Shared Parenting Plan are the residential and custodial parents of the child at all times under such Plan. Therefore, so long as a Shared Parenting Plan remains in effect, there can be no "change of custody" as contemplated by this Exception 2. However, in the event a Shared Parenting Plan remains in effect but a change in the designation of "residential parent" has been made by the court within that plan, the student who is the subject to the Shared Parenting Plan may apply one time to the Executive Director's Office for a one-time exception to the transfer bylaw under this provision.

Exception 2 permits the choice of the public high school located in the residential school district of the new legal custodian or new residential parent, or any non-public school.

EXCEPTION 3: If the high school, which is either a chartered high school in a single high school public school district or a chartered non-public high school, in which the student is enrolled closes or discontinues its entire high school educational program after grade nine, the student may enroll in any school and be immediately eligible at that high school insofar as transfer is concerned. Likewise, if the bona fide residence of the student's parents is annexed to a different school district or consolidated within a school district, the student may be ruled eligible upon transfer to a school in the annexed or consolidated district subject to modification by formal action by the Boards of Education concerned. A copy of such action by Boards of Education must be on file in the Association office before the Executive Director's office can rule the BYLAWS 48 student eligible. This exception shall be available to any student whose high school has closed as long as that high school was an OHSAA member school prior to the 2012-13 school year.

Note 1: For school closings in a multiple high school district, see Bylaw 4-7-4 regarding intra-district transfers. Note 2: This exception has no application to the closing of any "non-traditional school" such as a community school or a non-chartered non-public high school or an out of state high school.

EXCEPTION 4: A student returning from a domestic exchange program with whom the member school has partnered to the same high school the student attended immediately before entering into this domestic exchange program may be declared eligible insofar as the transfer bylaw is concerned if all of the following conditions have been met:

- a) The domestic exchange program exists primarily for academic and educational learning experiences; and
- b) The student receives credits that apply toward the student's graduation in the Ohio member

- school for the student's work in the domestic exchange program; and
- c) In the event that student did participate in interscholastic athletics while enrolled in this domestic exchange program, the student's athletic participation was secondary to his/her academic and educational reasons for participation in the program; and
- d) The domestic exchange program has, in its curriculum guide, a structured beginning and ending to the program itself; and The Executive Director's Office in its sole discretion may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility upon submission of the appropriate documentation for this exception.

EXCEPTION 5: If the student transfers pursuant to state or federal statutes addressing academically poor performing schools, and the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Executive Director's Office that the transfer is for purely academic reasons and not athletic reasons, the Executive Director's office may declare such transferring student eligible for the second half of the season and the OHSAA tournament upon application to the Executive Director's office. The OHSAA uses the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's List of Ed Choice Schools as of the date of the transfer to denote academically poor-performing schools.

Note 1: The student shall be entitled to one transfer only under the provisions set forth in this bylaw. In addition, this bylaw shall not be used to establish eligibility at another high school if the student transfers into and then back out of the poor performing school in an attempt to circumvent the transfer bylaw, nor can it be used to transfer between poor performing schools.

Note 2: If a student has used this bylaw to transfer out of a poor performing school at any time during his or her high school career, the student shall not be permitted to transfer back to the same poor performing school and regain transfer eligibility.

EXCEPTION 6: If, as a result of the conduct of an adult associated with the school, a student is compelled to transfer in order to protect the student's physical and/or mental well-being, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons provided ALL of the following criteria are met:

- a) there is documented evidence the adult conduct was directed specifically towards the student;
- b) the adult conduct is of such a nature as to trigger a criminal investigation or an event covered under ORC 2151.421 that would require a mandatory reporter to report to the proper legal authorities; and
- c) the student suffered/suffers physical harm and/or severe emotional distress that required/requires medical treatment and/or mental health treatment, which was contemporaneously documented at the time of the event; and
- d) there is no evidence the transfer is due to the student/family's displeasure with a former coach's training tactics and/or the student's playing time.

For purposes of this bylaw, "conduct" may include behavior of a physical nature as well as verbal and/or written expressions, gestures and interactions. The conduct referred to herein may also include interactions via social media or other forms of electronic communications.

This exception will not be applied where there has been no documented evidence of a criminal investigation or a "reportable" event as outlined in criteria (b), nor will this exception be applied for a student who simply alleges displeasure with a former coach's training tactics.

EXCEPTION 7: If a student is compelled to transfer from a high school as a result of documented harassment, intimidation or bullying as those terms are defined at ORC §3313.666 (A)(2), the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sports seasons provided:

- 1) — The District's Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, Anti-Bullying policies and procedures adopted in accordance with ORC §3313.666 have been substantially followed and complied with; and
- 2) — The district provides the Executive Director's Office with a copy of the duly adopted policies and procedures; and 49 BYLAWS
- 3) — The District secures the appropriate releases from the student/student's parents authorizing the District to provide a complete record of the events and circumstances on which the policies and procedures were initiated including:
 - a) A specific, detailed report of the prohibited incident(s);

- b) An outline of the procedures used to respond to and investigate the reported incident(s);
- c) A copy of the findings that were a result of the complaint process and investigation;
- d) A specific, detailed disciplinary procedure for any individual found guilty of harassment, intimidation or bullying;
- e) All reports of notification to parents or guardians of any student involvement in the incident(s);
- f) A report of the intervention strategies and remedial action the school has undertaken to assist the student and redress the complaint.

Note: In concurrence with ORC §3313.666 (A)(2), this exception cannot be used for any isolated incidents or alleged incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Additionally, this exception cannot be used in cases where there has been no contemporaneous reporting of the alleged bullying, harassment or intimidation.

EXCEPTION 8: The Executive Director shall have the discretionary power to waive the residence requirements for a student who has been enrolled in the district in accordance with ORC §§ 3313.64 (F)(6) or 3313.64 (F)(7). The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office.

EXCEPTION 9: A student who has transferred to another high school to take advantage of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program may be ruled eligible upon approval of the Executive Director's Office. Such a student who transfers under this provision and who subsequently drops out of the Diploma Program shall be declared immediately ineligible and may be subject to sanctions in accordance with Bylaw 11-Penalties.

- 4-7-3 If a transfer, as defined in Bylaw 4-7-2, takes place during the sport season in which the student has participated in a regular season interscholastic contest in a sport, the student shall be ineligible in that sport for the remainder of all regular season contests, as well as the OHSAA tournament, in that sport at the school into which the student has transferred (or at the school where the student is now permitted a participation opportunity). Furthermore, the student shall finish fulfilling his/her transfer consequence, for ONLY that sport in which the mid-season transfer occurred, at the start of the sport season during the next school year, unless an exception can be met to restore eligibility for the next sport season. This consequence requires that the student shall remain ineligible for all preseason contests (scrimmages, preview/jamboree, Foundation games) and all regular season contests until the total number of varsity regular season contests missed (including those missed during the previous season) equals 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests in that sport.

An in-season transfer student who only participated in sub varsity events at the former school prior to his/her transfer may use any of the OHSAA Transfer Bylaws/exceptions to restore his/her full athletic eligibility for participation in ONLY sub-varsity regular season contests at the new school into which the student transferred. If the sport in question does not have varsity/sub-varsity classifications at either the former school or the new school, then this option shall not be available. Furthermore, any such approval for sub varsity participation would only be extended for regular season participation (no OHSAA tournament competition).

An in-season transfer student may not use any of the exceptions to the transfer bylaw to restore full athletic eligibility for participation in varsity regular season contests or the OHSAA tournament EXCEPT if one of the following circumstances occurs:

- 1) — The parents make a bona fide move into a new public school district, the student is approved for transfer eligibility under the requirements of Exception 1 of Bylaw 4-7-2 AND the school building into which the student transfers is more than 50 miles from the school building from which the student transfers as determined by mapquest.com, or such other navigational system as adopted by the Board of Directors at its August meeting, using the most direct route.
- 2) — As a result of a change in placement which is a result of the death or incarceration of the student's parent(s) or the intervention of Children's Services or a similar government agency, the student may be approved for transfer eligibility regardless of the distance between the two schools.

- 3) — The student transfers and their participation opportunity remain at the school from which they transferred. If so, the student is permitted to continue participation for the remainder of the season at that school ONLY IF they can meet the requirements of an exception to the transfer bylaw in order to restore their full athletic eligibility.

If none of the aforementioned situations transpire, or if the student's transfer no longer leads to a participation opportunity at the school from which they transferred, then the student shall become ineligible for the remainder of the season during which the transfer occurred.

For purposes of this bylaw, "sport season" shall be determined by the sports regulations for that sport, beginning with the first date on which coaching may begin and concluding on the last date the school into which the student transferred (or at the school where the student is now permitted a participation opportunity) participates in a contest (regular season or postseason). Notwithstanding this definition of sports season, if the student's former school concluded their season (i.e. BYLAWS 50 played last contest) prior to the student transferring schools (even if the receiving school is still playing), then the aforementioned prorotation outlined within Bylaw 4-7-3 shall not apply and the student shall be subject to the normal transfer consequence the following season unless an exception can be met.

Note: In addition, if a student's participation opportunity changes during the sport season in which the student has already participated in a regular season interscholastic contest in a sport at a school where they are not enrolled (pursuant to O.R.C. §§ 3313.5311 or 3313.537), the student is ineligible in that sport for the remainder of that sport's season at the new school into which the student is now entitled a participation opportunity. A student may not use any of the exceptions to the transfer bylaw to circumvent this bylaw if the student is not transferring schools. If the student is transferring schools, then the same exceptions as outlined above apply.

- 4-7-4 The superintendent or person delegated by the superintendent of either a non-public system or public school district may transfer students within the system without jeopardizing their eligibility only by using one of the following exceptions.

EXCEPTION 1: If, as a result of a bona fide legal change of residence made by BOTH PARENTS (biological, adoptive or stepparents) from one attendance zone into another attendance zone in a multiple high school district/system, the student is compelled to transfer to another district/system high school, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons. The requirement that "both parents" make the move may be waived by the Executive Director's Office if the marriage of the parents has been or is in the process of being legally terminated or if the parents were never married. If the person(s) making the bona fide move is not the biological or adoptive parent or stepparent of the student, the school administrator must disclose the custodial relationship, provide the court ordered documents and advise as to the whereabouts of the student's biological or adoptive parents. An affidavit of bona fide residence in the form requested by the Executive Director's Office shall be submitted along with any request for application of this exception. Note: Please refer to Bylaw 4-6-1 for a definition of bona fide residence. Also, the student and the student's parents must reside in this new residence for a period of one year from the date on which this exception was applied to a given student in order to maintain eligibility at the school into which the student's transfer has been approved. The school district/ system will have a continuing duty to monitor compliance with the residency requirements during this one-year period. Exception one permits the choice of the public high school in the parents' new attendance zone only.

EXCEPTION 2: If, as a result of a legal change of custody as between a student's parents, who live in two different attendance zones within the multiple high school district/system, the student is compelled to transfer from one district/ system high school to another district/system high school, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons provided the student continues to live with the new custodian in order to support the approval of the transfer to the new high school. If custody/guardianship of a student is changed to a non-parent, who lives in a different attendance zone than the previous custodian, which custody/guardianship change is a result of the death or incarceration of the prior custodian, the intervention of child protective services, social services or a similar agency, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/ sport seasons. A re-designation of residential parent within a Shared Parenting Plan will not comply with this exception.

EXCEPTION 3: A member school in the district/system closes, or there was a mistake made in the student's initial placement. This exception has no application to the closing of any "non-traditional school" or a non-chartered non-public high school.

EXCEPTION 4: The student is a child with a disability whose program as prescribed by the student's I.E.P. has been changed to another high school.

EXCEPTION 5: If the student transfers pursuant to state or federal statutes addressing academically poor performing schools, and the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Executive Director's office that the transfer is for purely academic reasons and not athletic reasons, the Executive Director's office may declare such transferring student eligible for the second half of the season and the OHSAA tournament upon application to the Executive Director's office. The OHSAA uses the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's List of Ed Choice Schools as of the date of the transfer to denote academically poor-performing schools.

Note 1: The student shall be entitled to one transfer only under the provisions set forth in this bylaw. In addition, this bylaw shall not be used to establish eligibility at another high school if the student transfers into and then back out of the poor performing school in an attempt to circumvent the transfer bylaw, nor can it be used to transfer between poor performing schools.

Note 2: If a student has used this bylaw to transfer out of a poor performing school at any time during his or her high school career, the student shall not be permitted to transfer back to the same poor performing school and regain transfer eligibility.

EXCEPTION 6: If, as a result of the conduct of an adult associated with the school, a student is compelled to transfer in order to protect the student's physical and/or mental well-being, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons provided ALL of the following criteria are met:

- a) there is documented evidence the adult conduct was directed specifically towards the student; and 51 BYLAWS
- b) the adult conduct is of such a nature as to trigger a criminal investigation or an event covered under ORC 2151.421 that would require a mandatory reporter to report to the proper legal authorities; and
- c) the student suffered/suffers physical harm and/or severe emotional distress that required/requires medical treatment and/or mental health treatment, which was contemporaneously documented at the time of the event; and
- d) there is no evidence the transfer is due to the student/family's displeasure with a former coach's training tactics and/or the student's playing time.

For purposes of this bylaw, "conduct" may include behavior of a physical nature as well as verbal and/or written expressions, gestures and interactions. The conduct referred to herein may also include interactions via social media or other forms of electronic communications. This exception will not be applied where there has been no documented evidence of a criminal investigation or a "reportable" event as outlined in criteria (b), nor will this exception be applied for a student who simply alleges displeasure with a former coach's training tactics.

EXCEPTION 7: If a student is a victim of harassment, intimidation or bullying as those terms are defined at ORC §3313.666 (A)(2) which harassment, intimidation or bullying has been documented to the school district/system in accordance with the ORC, and as a result of this documented harassment, intimidation or bullying, the student is compelled to transfer, the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive all or part of the 50% period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sports seasons provided;

- 1) — The District's Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, Anti-Bullying policies and procedures adopted in accordance with ORC §3313.666 have been substantially followed and complied with; and
- 2) — The district provides the Executive Director's Office with a copy of the duly adopted policies and procedures; and
- 3) — The district secures the appropriate releases from the student/student's parents authorizing the District to provide a complete record of the events and circumstances on which the policies and procedures were initiated including:
 - a) A specific, detailed report of the prohibited incident(s)
 - b) An outline of the procedures used to respond to and investigate the reported

incident(s);

c) A copy of the findings that were a result of the complaint process and investigation;

d) A specific, detailed disciplinary procedure for any individual found guilty of harassment, intimidation or bullying;

e) All reports of notification to parents or guardians of any student involvement in the incident(s);

f) A report of the intervention strategies and remedial action the school has undertaken to assist the student and redress the complaint.

4) — The District provides the Executive Director's Office with all of the above-referenced records.

5) — In concurrence with ORC§3313.666 (A)(2), this exception cannot be used for any isolated incidents or alleged incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying, nor can this exception be used in cases where there has been no contemporaneous reporting of the alleged bullying harassment or intimidation.

The student becomes ineligible beginning with the second 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests until declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office under this exception.

4-7-5 A student shall be entitled to transfer to a school and have his/her eligibility restored at the discretion of the Executive Director's Office provided requirements of one of the following provisions have been met:

PROVISION 1: A student may RETURN to non-public education and have his/her eligibility restored at the discretion of the Executive Director's Office one time during their high school career provided the following conditions are met:

a) the student had been continuously enrolled in a school within the same system of non-public education as the school into which the student is transferring (e.g., Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Association of International Schools, Association of Christian Schools International or other category as denoted by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce) beginning in the sixth grade and continuing consecutively through the entire eighth grade and;

b) the student has not attended more than one other high school during the course of their high school enrollment.

Furthermore, if the student commences attendance at any high school within the same system of non-public education, then breaks enrollment for a period of time at a school located outside the same system of non-public education, this provision will only be available for use back to the same high school at which the student was previously enrolled, provided the aforementioned criteria are all met.

PROVISION 2: A student may transfer to a public school and have his/her eligibility restored at the discretion of the Executive Director's Office one time during their high school career provided the following conditions are met:

a) The student's residential parent/legal custodian has resided in the public school district (in which the school is a part of) for a minimum of one year immediately preceding the request for eligibility and; BYLAWS 52

b) The student is transferring from a school which is within a different district/system than the school into which he/ she is transferring, regardless of whether the student is transferring from a public or nonpublic school.

Note 1: For transfers covered under this Provision into a multiple high school district, the Executive Director's authority to waive all or part of the period of ineligibility shall be applicable at only the member high school located in the parent's residential attendance zone or, if there are no defined attendance zones, at the member high school that is closest to the parent's residence unless the district superintendent makes a specific request, based upon objective educational criteria, for application of this Provision at another high school within the district. Such a request should accompany the Provision 2 application.

Note 2: A non-public student whose parents live in two different public-school districts may have the option under this bylaw to transfer to the public high school in either public school district in which the student's parents reside provided the student has never established eligibility at a public school in a district

in which a custodial parent resides.

Note 3: Provision 2 cannot be used to transfer from the public high school of the district in which one parent resides to the public high school of the district in which the other parent resides in a split-family situation. If a student establishes his/her eligibility at a public high school located within the district of one legal custodian and subsequently transfers to another public high school in a different district of a different legal custodian, the original school of enrollment shall remain the student's "residential district school" for the purposes of this provision until the student has been attending the new school for one calendar year. After one calendar year, the student will have reestablished his/her "residential district school" for the purposes of this provision and is no longer permitted to use this provision to transfer back to his/ her original school using this provision.

Note 4: If, as a result of a transfer/change of participation opportunity in accordance with provision 2, a student is permitted a participation opportunity at a member school where he or she is not enrolled in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-1 provisions 4 and/or 6, the Executive Director's Office may apply this provision 2 to restore full eligibility in regard to transfer/change of participation opportunity provided the student's participation is in accordance with OHSA business rules and in accordance with Bylaw 4-7-3. Application of this provision as a non-enrolled student shall constitute the student's one time use of this provision.

- 4-7-6 If a student transfers between high schools within the same public school district, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Executive Director's office provided the following conditions have been met:
- 1) — The student has been reassigned to the high school by the superintendent, or other administrative authority of that school district, as a result of a) redistricting, b) a material changes in transportation circumstances so as to create a hardship or c) a specific change of academic program, the details of which shall be clearly stipulated to the Executive Director's office; and
 - 2) — The reassignment takes place either a) after the conclusion of the previous school year and prior to the beginning of the current school year; and the student commences enrollment and attendance on day one of the current school year; or b) at this district's semester break and the student commences enrollment and attendance on day one of the next semester; and
 - 3) — The superintendent, or other administrative authority of the district, petitions the Executive Director's office for the restoration of eligibility for the student no later than 15 school days after the beginning of the school year/ after the beginning of the new semester; and
 - 4) — The superintendent, or other administrative authority of the district, certifies that the transfer is not being done for athletic reasons; and
 - 5) — The student becomes ineligible beginning with the second 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests until declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office under this exception.

Note 1: Change in academic program requests will have no application for seniors. Furthermore, this change in academic program transfer option is shall only be available one time only during the student's high school career. A student who subsequently withdraws from the academic program to which he or she has been assigned shall be declared immediately ineligible and may be subject to sanctions in accordance with Bylaw 11.

Note 2: Notwithstanding condition #2, if a material change in transportation circumstances creates an immediate hardship for a family, then the school district may reassign the student at any time throughout the course of a school year and still petition the Executive Director's Office for a ruling, subject to Bylaw 4-7-3.

- 4-7-7 If a student transfers to a high school located within the jurisdiction of a non-public multiple high school system (e.g., Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Association of Independent Schools, Association of Christian Schools International or other category as denoted by the Ohio Department of Education and

Workforce) from another high school within that same system, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Executive Director's office provided the following conditions have been met:

- 1) — The student has been reassigned to the high school by the superintendent or other administrative authority of that school system as a result of a) a specific change of academic program the details of which shall be clearly stipulated in writing to the Executive Director's office; or b) a material change in economic circumstances so as to create a hardship; or c) a material change in transportation circumstances so as to create a hardship; and
- 2) — The reassignment takes place either a) after the conclusion of the previous school year and prior to the beginning of the current school year; and the student commences enrollment and attendance on day one of the current 53 BYLAWS school year; or b) at the district's semester break and the student commences enrollment and attendance on day one of the next semester; and
- 3) — The superintendent or other administrative authority of the system petitions the Executive Director's office for the restoration of eligibility for the student no later than 15 school days after the beginning of the school year/ the beginning of the new semester, and
- 4) — The superintendent, or other administrative authority of the system, certifies that the transfer is not being done for athletic reasons; and
- 5) — The student becomes ineligible beginning with the second 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests until declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office under this exception.

Note 1: Change in academic program requests will have no application for seniors. Furthermore, this change in academic program transfer option is shall only be available one time only during the student's high school career. A student who subsequently withdraws from the academic program to which he or she has been assigned shall be declared immediately ineligible and may be subject to sanctions in accordance with Bylaw 11.

Note 2: Notwithstanding condition #2, if a material change in transportation circumstances creates an immediate hardship for a family, then the school system may reassign the student at any time throughout the course of a school year and still petition the Executive Director's Office for a ruling, subject to Bylaw 4-7-3.

- 4-7-8 Notwithstanding Bylaw 4-7-2, a student who transfers between two OHSAA member schools governed by two different school districts/systems of education may have his/her eligibility restored if the Superintendents/Heads of School (or their designee) of those districts/systems complete a memorandum of understanding stating the transfer is unrelated to interscholastic athletics and is made to protect the student's physical or mental well-being or address other extenuating circumstances they deem appropriate. The student remains subject to Bylaw 4-7-2 until the Executive Director's Office declares eligibility. Note 1: This Bylaw shall only be applicable for the transfer of a student between OHSAA member schools. Additionally, it shall not allow a student to restore eligibility at a different school during the same sports season per Bylaw 4-7-3, Mid-Season Transfer. The student may be declared eligible up to two times under the provisions set forth in this bylaw.

Section 8. International and Exchange Students

- 4-8-1 For the purpose of this bylaw, an international student is a student who is not a United States citizen and who is in Ohio receiving education in an Ohio school. An international student who does not have a parent (biological or adoptive) residing in Ohio is ineligible for interscholastic athletics in Ohio unless the student can meet one of the exceptions below. The following exceptions apply.

Note: Students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this international exception must adhere to transfer bylaw 4-7-2.

EXCEPTION 1: The international student who is a participant in a recognized visitor exchange program may be eligible for interscholastic athletics subject to the restrictions and conditions set forth below:

- a) The international student may be eligible for a maximum of one school year which is the first

- year of enrollment at the Ohio member school.
- b) The international student has not previously participated in any other visitor exchange program in the United States. If the international student has participated in another visitor exchange program in Ohio or any other state, the period of participation in that other program shall count against the one-year maximum eligibility set forth in (a) above.
 - c) The international student is in this country pursuant to a J-1 Visa. No other visa type, passport or other documentation shall qualify the student for eligibility under this exception.
 - d) There shall be no evidence of a direct placement for athletic purposes into a specific member school in Ohio.
 - e) No more than five (5) international students from the same visitor exchange program, in one member school, shall be permitted to be eligible during any school year.
 - f) The member school at which the international student wishes to be declared eligible for interscholastic athletic participation must submit the appropriate forms to the Executive Director's office, and the student and school must cooperate with the Executive Director's office in determining that all other requirements for eligibility have been satisfied.

The international student described in this Exception 1 shall be ineligible until declared eligible by the Executive Director's office upon submission of the appropriate form.

EXCEPTION 2: An international student may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics upon the submission of a court approved document certifying the student's adoption by a legal resident of the school district in which the student is attending. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Executive Director's office upon submission of the appropriate court documents.

EXCEPTION 3: An international student may be declared eligible in accordance with specific state or federal statutes. BYLAWS 54 Note: Students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this international exception must adhere to transfer bylaw 4-7-2.

- 4-8-2 An Ohio student returning from an international exchange program may resume interscholastic competition in the same Ohio member school from which the student left provided the student meets all requirements relative to age, semesters of eligibility as well as preceding grading period scholastic requirements upon return to the member high school. These requirements mean that the student shall be considered to have used semesters of eligibility while studying abroad, and shall have received passing grades which count toward graduation in a minimum of five one credit courses or the equivalent in the final grading period of the exchange program (Bylaw 4-4-1). Such a student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's office. However, if a student intends to audit all course work while engaged in the international exchange program and thus receive no credit for the experience, the Executive Director's office may consider restoration of academic and/or semester eligibility upon return to the same high school under the following conditions:

- 1) — An application for consideration, which clearly articulates the academic program the student will fulfill, is filed with the Executive Director's office prior to commencing participation in the international exchange program. The application will specify the course work to be attempted and the fact that no credit will be earned for the experience.
- 2) — The student will not participate in any sport in which he or she wishes to retain semesters of eligibility while engaged in the international exchange program. If the student participates in either an interscholastic or non-interscholastic program, the semesters during which such participation takes place shall count toward the total of eight which are permitted.
- 3) — This waiver is available only for sophomore or junior students who have completed their first or second year of high school.

Section 9. Recruiting

- 4-9-1 A student is considered a prospective athlete after enrolling in the seventh grade, or the grade corresponding to the seventh grade for a student from a foreign country, irrespective of whether the student is currently enrolled in a public 7th-8th grade school located within a public school district or a non-public school that is part of a non-public system. Any attempt to recruit a prospective student-athlete for athletic purposes shall be strictly prohibited.

- 4-9-2 For purposes of this Bylaw Section 9, the term “recruit” shall mean the use of influence by any person connected or not connected with the school to secure the enrollment or participation of a prospective student-athlete for athletic purposes. The Executive Director’s Office may suspend the privilege of participation in interscholastic athletics for up to 30 days during the pendency of any alleged recruiting violation.

EXCEPTION 1: It is permissible for coaches and other school employees of a public school district to have contact with seventh and eighth grade students currently enrolled in that public school district; however, coaches and other school employees in a multi-high school public school district may have contact with only those students in grades seven and eight who are assigned by that district to attend that high school where the coach or school employee works.

EXCEPTION 2: It is permissible for coaches and other school employees of a non-public school system to have contact with seventh and eighth grade students currently enrolled in a non-public school of the same type (Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Association of Independent Schools, Association of Christian Schools International or other category as denoted by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce) provided the boundaries of that non-public school system are clearly defined and on file with the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the contact is restricted to students enrolled within that defined boundary. Likewise, it is permissible for non-public school coaches to have contact with 7-8 grade students if the non-public school is K-12 and the 7-8 grade building is located in the same building as the high school and the 7-8 grade students would be assigned to the high school where the coach or school employee works. Note: Feeder schools boundaries designated for competitive balances purposes are NOT the same boundaries as referenced in this exception to the recruiting bylaw. Unless a school system assigns all the students at the elementary school(s) within a particular boundary to a particular high school and these boundaries are on file with the OHSAA, coaches are prohibited from contacting these students in accordance with this exception.

- 4-9-3 “Marketing,” though a form of recruiting students, may be permitted under this bylaw by any and all member high schools provided the marketing complies with the following requirements:
- 1) — Any marketing must involve the entire high school program and all of its elements and shall not be solely or primarily for the school’s athletic program or programs.
 - 2) — If a mailing or electronic transmission is utilized, the mailing/transmission may not be directed to a specific individual or individuals by name. The use of “occupant” or “resident” is permitted. Once a prospective student-athlete has attended an open house/information session/shadow day as outlined in 4-9-3 #3, only then it is permissible for the school to send enrollment/general school information to the named individual. (See 4-9-4 #3 and #4 for guidelines outlining when a coach or other students are permitted to contact a prospective student-athlete.)
 - 3) — Conducting an open house/information session/shadow day for all prospective students, which SHALL be held 55 BYLAWS on the campus of the member school, in a church or other house of worship that is a sponsor for that member school, or in one of the other schools sponsored by that same school system or district, is permissible provided all elements of the school program are presented. During such an event, it is permissible for a coach to talk with a prospective student-athlete in the presence of a school administrator if the conversation centers around program procedures and expectations but not the student’s expected impact on the program.

EXCEPTION: A school may be permitted to hold an open house at an alternative site provided:

- a) the facility is open and accessible to the general public; and
- b) the facility is not a private club, private room within a public facility or a private home; and
- c) the school submits a request for a waiver to use this alternative site at least 30 days prior to the open house.
- 4) — Inviting a prospective student to campus for activities that are related to all aspects of the school’s educational offerings and not solely for athletic purposes is permissible provided the prohibition in item #2 is not violated.
- 5) — Using the school website or other forms of media such as billboards, newspaper advertisements, etc. to advertise all aspects of the school’s educational offerings and not

solely athletics information is permissible. Schools are permitted to utilize athletic advertisements of this nature so long as the advertisement simply congratulates a team and does not attempt to promote the athletic program (i.e. a billboard congratulating a state championship team).

- 6) — Providing athletic camp brochures that advertise athletic camps/clinics available to a general population is permissible as long as 1) there are no direct mailing to specific individuals (See #2) and 2) the brochures are solely used to advertise for a specific non-interscholastic opportunity (camp/clinic). These brochures are not to be used to promote the school. (See 4-9-4 #9 regarding prohibitions on school personnel who are permitted to be in attendance at these camps/clinics.)
- 7) — The only time in which it is permissible to invite students and/or their parents to a high school contest or another athletic related event such as a banquet or recognition ceremony is when the invitation is extended to an entire group or team, such as a school's 7th or 8th grade team or a non-interscholastic group such as a C.Y.O. program in a specific sport, AND the participation is mutually agreed upon by the administration of both schools/organizations.

Though the group may receive admission to the contest, this invitation to attend a high school contest or athletic related event shall not include running out onto the contest venue with the team or standing on the sidelines and shall not include locker room visits, pre-contest meals with the high school team and/or any other interaction with the team prior to or after the contest.

4-9-4 Forms of recruiting that are prohibited by this bylaw include but are not limited to:

- 1) — Using direct mailings or electronic communication to send information to a specific individual or individuals by name. However, mailings to "occupant" or "resident" are permitted provided the stipulations outlined in 4-9-3 #1 and 4-9-3 #2 are followed.
- 2) — Meetings with, functions for or marketing to a select athletic group or individual/individuals, i.e., eighth grade team or individual sports participant for the purpose of influencing enrollment at the high school.
- 3) — Any coach or group of coaches having any contact with prospective student-athletes, except as permitted in Bylaw 4-9-3, who are not presently enrolled in the school's educational program, or their parents/non-interscholastic coach, prior to 1) the student's application fee being submitted to the school (for tuition-based schools) or 2) the school accepting the student's application for enrollment (for non-tuition-based schools). Outside the context of a meeting during an open house/information session/shadow day, a coach is not permitted to have communication with a prospective student-athlete about athletics.

Note: For the purposes of this section of Bylaw 4, the description of "coaches" as stated in Bylaw 6-1-1 and 6-1-2 shall be applicable. Furthermore, the mere fact that a coach may also have another job title with his/her employer does not relieve that individual from this prohibition.

- 4) — Any individual associated with a school, including team members, attempting to use electronic communication or a social media platform(s) to communicate with a prospective student-athlete about athletics prior to 1) the student's application fee being submitted to the school (for tuition-based schools) or 2) the school accepting the student's application for enrollment (for non-tuition-based schools).
- 5) — Interscholastic coaches answering athletic questions from prospective student-athletes and/or their parents and describing their programs except within the school in accordance with approved administrative policies and procedures (i.e. via admissions offices) and consistent with the provisions set forth in Bylaw 4-9-3 #3.

Note: When an admissions officer is also a member of a coaching staff, that admissions officer shall have no contact with prospective enrollees except as specified within these bylaws as permissible for coaching staff members.

- 6) — Member schools distributing athletic publications or advertising solely for athletics, with the exception of camp/ clinic brochures following the guidelines outlined in 4-9-3 #6. All

athletic materials must be accompanied by general school information prior to 1) the student's application fee being submitted to the school (for tuition based schools) BYLAWS 56 or 2) the school accepting the student's application for enrollment (for non-tuition based schools).

- 7) — Providing favors or inducements, such as T-shirts or caps, to prospective student-athletes or their parents. However, if a perspective-athlete attends a camp/clinic run by a school, this student is permitted to accept any items (T-shirt, bag, etc.) as long as they are given to every participant at the camp/clinic.

EXCEPTION: A small token, such as a "goodie bag" containing an item or items, the value of which cannot exceed \$25 and which cannot be related to the school's athletic program, may be given to prospective students who "shadow" or visit a member school in contemplation of enrollment.

- 8) — Providing financial aid or scholarships to a student-athlete on the basis of athletic ability/involvement. See Bylaw 4-10 for prohibitions on offering athletic scholarships to a student currently enrolled in a school.
- 9) — Using an athletic camp/clinic to distribute general admission information about the school. (i.e. no setting up an admissions table or having admissions personnel/administrators available to answer questions about enrollment) During these camps/clinics a perspective athlete is permitted to accept any items (T-shirt, bag, etc.) as long as they are given to every participant at the camp/clinic.
- 10) — If a coach leaves a school to pursue a coaching opportunity at another school, the coach shall refrain from any communication regarding athletics with any students at his or her former school. Further as it relates to any former student-athlete who might transfer to or enroll at the school where the coach is now approved as a member of the coaching staff, said transfer or enrollment shall create a rebuttable presumption of recruiting and render the student ineligible for up to one year from the date of enrollment unless the recruiting can be rebutted. Once the coach has been employed by or appointed to his/her new school for one calendar year from the date of employment/approval, the coach is still prohibited from communication with any students at his/her former school, but there is no longer any obligation for the new school to rebut the presumption of recruiting unless specifically requested to do so by the Executive Director's Office.

- 4-9-5 Prior to enrollment, a student-athlete may visit a public or non-public school in contemplation of enrollment, as long as that contemplated enrollment is consistent with Board of Education or similar governing board policy formally adopted by that school district and arrangements for the visit are made through the principal and/or school administrator designated by the Board of Education or similar governing board. During such an event, it is permissible for a coach to talk with a prospective student-athlete in the presence of a school administrator if the conversation centers around program procedures and expectations but not the student's expected impact on the program. After the conclusion of the visit, a coach is not permitted to have further communication with the prospective student-athlete about athletics (outside the context of another open house/information session/shadow day) prior to 1) the student's application fee being submitted to the school (for tuition-based schools) or 2) the school accepting the student's application for enrollment (for non-tuition based schools).
- 4-9-6 All questions relating to enrollment, attendance or the athletic program shall be handled through the school administration or the admissions office. If a coach is contacted by a parent or another individual who is advocating for a student, the coach is obligated to immediately disclose this contact to a school administrator and to cease all contact with the prospective student and/or parents until 1) the student's application fee is submitted to the school (for tuition-based schools) or 2) the school accepts the student's application for enrollment (for non-tuition based schools).
- 4-9-7 Any violation of the recruiting prohibitions as set forth in this bylaw may cause the recruited student-athlete to be ineligible upon enrollment. If it is determined by the Executive Director's Office that a student-athlete was recruited in violation of these prohibitions, the Executive Director's Office may deny the student-athlete from participation (which may include participation in the OHSAA tournament) in the sport or sports for which the student-athlete was recruited. Furthermore, the school into which the recruited student-athlete enrolls or the school the recruiting attempts were intended to benefit shall be subject to

sanctions as set forth in Bylaw 11. If a coach has been found to have violated these recruiting prohibitions by the Executive Director's Office, and is employed/approved to coach in the ensuing school year by another member school in the same sport in which the violations occurred, the school where the coach is employed/approved to coach may be subject to other penalties as set forth in Bylaw 11 including, but not limited to, ineligibility for OHSAA tournament competition in that sport.

Section 10. Amateur

- 4-10-1 A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who participates in the activities of his/her sport for the purpose of deriving the physical, mental and social benefits of organized sports competition with no expectation of compensation for his/her participation. Since the student is considered an integral member of the student body, a clear line of distinction between educationally based athletics and professional sports must exist and be maintained at all times. It shall be the shared responsibility of school personnel, the athletes and their parents to maintain this clear line of distinction.

An athlete is permitted to be a professional in one sport (in which they do not participate interscholastically) but still retain their amateur status in another interscholastic sport.

- 4-10-2 An athlete forfeits amateur status, and thus interscholastic athletic eligibility, if any of the following standards of amateurism are violated:
- a) Competing in athletic competition(s) for money/cash or other remuneration.
EXCEPTION: If a student competes, in a competition where travel, meals and lodging expenses are being re- 57 BYLAWS imbursemented, or where prize money is available, the student shall complete prior to the competition a Request for Retention of Amateur Status written declaration prior to the competition in which the student agrees that he or she:
 - will not accept any prize money/cash and;
 - will only accept awards/gifts/prizes which do not exceed the awards amount authorized by the Association (See Bylaw 5) and;
 - will only accept allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses provided that these expenses are not contingent upon the student's individual or a team's finish or performance or given as an incentive to achieve a specific goal or performance. Receipt of expenses received by the athlete shall be reported to the OHSAA via the approved form so as to determine whether or not the expenses are in excess of those reasonable amounts for travel, meals and lodging.
 - b) Signing a contract or making a commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any payment received. This prohibits signing a contract during the interscholastic athletics season that is dated after the completion of the athlete's interscholastic athletic eligibility;
 - c) Receiving, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses, merchandise or services or any other form of financial assistance or benefits from a professional sports organization based upon athletics skills or participation.
EXCEPTION: An athlete may receive reimbursement of expenses as per item (a) for a professional tryout;
 - d) Competing with any professional athletics team, even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received; or
- 4-10-3 The following activities do not jeopardize amateur status:
- a) Accepting a fee for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground or camp activities;
 - b) Receiving school-sponsored membership or participation fees in youth serving agencies, athletic clubs, community recreation centers, instructional programs or camps, etc. provided such fees are paid directly to the agency;
 - c) Receiving an award, playing equipment or prize of monetary value which does not exceed the awards amount authorized by the Association;
 - d) Receiving all non-monetary benefits and awards provided to members of an Olympic team or Junior National Team beyond actual and necessary expenses, including entertainment, equipment, clothing, long distance telephone service, Internet access, and any other item

or service for which it can be demonstrated that the same benefit is available to all members of the nation's Olympic and/or Junior National team or the specific sport Olympic and/ or Junior National team in question;

- e) Accepting funds that are administered by the United States Olympic Committee pursuant to its Operation Gold Program; or
- f) Participating in member school, charitable or educational promotions or fund-raising activities that involve the use of athletic ability by student-athletes to obtain funds (e.g., swim-a-thons, lift-a-thons, shoot-a-thons) from donors, provided no compensation or prizes are given to the student-athletes based on their performance. Symbols of participation (T-Shirts, bags, etc.) are permitted as long as they are given to every athlete involved.
- g) Accepting scholarship funds that are administered by a national governing body, e.g. the United States Bowling Congress' Scholarship Program, provided such funds are paid directly to a postsecondary institution and the funds are not available until after the student has graduated from high school.

- 4-10-4 A high school student who loses amateur status/athletic eligibility may apply to the Association for reinstatement in the interscholastic program. Such appeals shall be handled by the Executive Director in accordance with the bylaws and will include, but not be limited to, considerations such as length of time student relinquished amateur status, and total monetary gains achieved and considerations if those monies can be returned, and whether or not the student signed a contract. If a student-athlete in one sport violates a provision of the amateur bylaw as detailed above, the student-athlete may represent the member school in a different sport.

Section 11. Name, Image & Likeness/Personal Branding Rights

Pursuant to Bylaw 4-10-1, a student may not participate in an interscholastic sport unless the student is an amateur. Pay-for-play (receiving payments simply for being a student-athlete), entering an agreement/contract with a professional sports team and improper recruiting inducements remain prohibited.

- 4-11-1 For purposes of this bylaw, Name, Image and Likeness (NIL)/Personal Branding Rights shall mean the use of self-publicity due to public recognition (athletic fame) and/or the prominence a student may attain to receive a benefit through appearances, licensing, social media, endorsements and/or the use of branding.
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Note 1: This bylaw has no connection to Bylaw 5, which permits a student to accept awards, gifts and prizes resulting from their participation/finish in athletic competitions. The requirements outlined within Bylaw 4-11 are solely related to a student-athlete's promotional and marketing efforts based on their public recognition (athletic fame) or notoriety.

Note 2: A collective is a third-party group, typically formed by alumni and supporters, that pools donations and fundraising to create and manage NIL/Personal Branding Rights opportunities for student-athletes. The collectives provide student-athletes with sponsorships, endorsement deals and other ways to monetize their NIL/Personal Branding Rights, bridging the gap between athletes and the brands or businesses looking to leverage their popularity and control their earnings from their public persona. Collectives are strictly prohibited.

- 4-11-2 A student may enter into an agreement/arrangement whereby the student capitalizes on their Name, Image and Likeness/ Personal Branding Rights provided the following criteria are met:
- a) The student does not utilize the name, logos, mascots, trademarks or other proprietary properties of the OHSAA or any OHSAA member school or school team while receiving the compensation and/or during any promotions or imply that the OHSAA or the OHSAA member school or school team approves the NIL/personal branding activity, and
 - b) The student does not engage in an NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement that is provided, procured, or facilitated by an OHSAA member school or an agent of the school (e.g. collectives, booster clubs, foundations, administrators, coaches or other individuals), and
 - c) The student does not engage in any name and image/personal branding activities during school

hours, while traveling to or from any OHSAA event or during school or team events including any practice, meeting, contest, tournament or any similar event or facility the OHSAA deems inappropriate or distracting (defined henceforth as “official team activities”), and

- d) The student does not engage in an NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement that provides compensation based on specific athletic participation, performance or achievement (e.g. points scored, etc.), and
- e) The student does not engage in an NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement that is provided as an inducement to attend a particular school, and
- f) The student does not display the sponsor’s product or otherwise advertise for a sponsor during official team activities, and
- g) The student is the only person impacted by the NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement and this agreement shall never provide any money, merchandise, services of value or any other benefits directly to the student’s school and/ or team, and
- h) The student does not engage in an NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement associated with gaming/gambling, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, cannabis, banned or illegal substances, adult entertainment products or services, firearms or other weapons or any other product or service the OHSAA deems inappropriate or distracting, and
- i) The student is responsible for determining what, if any, effect the NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement may have on eligibility with the NCAA, NJCAA and/or the NAIA.

- 4-11-3 A student engaged in an NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement shall disclose each agreement to the OHSAA within 14 days after entering into said agreement. Students who fail to disclose their agreement(s) or fail to disclose their agreement(s) within the 14 days shall be subject to a period of ineligibility up to 20 percent of the sport season in which they participate and/or any other penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11. Note: Details on how to disclose said agreement(s) shall be posted on the OHSAA website.
- 4-11-4 A student engaged in an NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement shall also comply with any other applicable OHSAA bylaws and regulations and any applicable policies of his or her school.
- 4-11-5 If a student transfers to a school and the transfer can be shown to be reasonably linked to a student’s NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement, a rebuttable presumption shall exist that the student has been recruited, which is in violation of Bylaw 4-9. The Executive Director’s Office may suspend the privilege of participation in interscholastic athletics during the pendency of any alleged violation of this bylaw.
- 4-11-6 Member school administrators and coaches shall have an obligation to educate the school community that any attempt to facilitate an NIL/Personal Branding Rights agreement to help secure the enrollment of a prospective student shall result in penalties as prescribed in Bylaw 11, including a review of the school’s membership status.
- 4-11-7 Student-athletes with NIL/Personal Branding Rights deals, along with their parents or guardians, are encouraged to seek professional advice, understand contracts thoroughly and prioritize academic and athletic commitments to protect the student-athlete’s eligibility and long-term success. These activities should be regarded as a business, and participants should stay compliant with school and state regulations and focus on building a strong support system to avoid mismanagement of funds and protect future opportunities.
- 4-11-8 A student may enter into an agreement with an athlete agent, as defined within ORC §§4771.01, solely for the purpose of marketing the student or the student’s reputation in accordance with Bylaw 4-11. Students and athlete agents must abide by all requirements set forth within ORC §§4771. A student engaged in an agreement with an athlete agent must disclose the agreement to the OHSAA within 14 days after entering into said agreement. Students who fail to disclose their agree- 59 BYLAWS ment, or fail to disclose their agreement within the 14 days, shall be subject to a period of ineligibility up to 20 percent of the sport season in which they participate and/or any other penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.
- 4-11-9 Any violation of Bylaw 4-11 shall be subject to penalties outline in Bylaw 11.