



Student Eligibility Guidance for High School Principals and Athletic Administrators

Bylaw 4-4-6 and 4-4-7, Verification of Eligibility and Summer Schools

This document will focus on Bylaws 4-4-6 and 4-4-7, which read as follows:

BYLAW 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.*

BYLAW 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.

Please note the importance of establishing this scholastic record through written verification whenever a student enrolls in your school for the first time or transfers from another school from either within Ohio or from outside Ohio.

The members have verified Bylaw 4-4-7 several times in the past 30 years. Currently all course work must be completed during the grading period except as specified in any of the exceptions to the scholarship bylaws. Thus, summer school or any other educational options outside of the end of the preceding grading period shall not be used to replace failing grades from the preceding grading period or to add to course work from the preceding grading period. This prohibition includes College Credit Plus coursework taken during the summer. Such work shall not be used to satisfy the requirements of the scholarship bylaws 4-4-1, 4-4-4 or 4-4-5 for the first grading period of the new school year.

In addition to checking a students' eligibility at the conclusion of a grading period, it is also always important to check students' course schedules at the beginning of each grading period to determine that the students are taking enough course work to support eligibility for the next grading period.

Please remind students and parents frequently that a student-athlete should never change a schedule or drop a course without consulting either the athletic administrator or the principal. We recognize that school counselors do a fantastic job advising students, but it is not their primary responsibility to advise students on athletic eligibility. Scheduling decisions are primarily the responsibility of the student and parents.

Please feel free to contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) if you have any questions!