



Ohio High School Athletic Association  
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Guidance for 2020-2021–High School Principals and Athletic Administrators

**Bylaw 4-6 - Residence**

**Overview 4-6-2 – Exception 11**

There are just two bylaws in the section entitled “RESIDENCE. **Bylaw 4-6-1** denotes that the State Board of Education establishes all public school districts. In addition, every Ohio resident lives within the boundaries of one of those public school districts. The bylaw further defines what it means to be a bona fide resident of our state. Criteria, including but not limited to 1) where the parents and family members sleep the majority of the time; 2) where mail is received; 3) where meals are prepared and eaten; 4) where the parents are registered to vote; and 5) where important family activities take place a significant part of each day, **are just some of the factors** that the OHSAA will examine in determining whether a family’s residence in our state is bona fide. This bylaw also reminds members that if parents establish a bona fide residence under Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception one or Bylaw 4-7-4 criterion one to support a transfer, the residence must be maintained for at least one year from the date the transfer is approved. In short, to be a bona fide resident of Ohio, you must actually live here!

This guidance will also alert administrators to the fact that **in many cases, a student who meets a residence exception will also have to adhere to the transfer bylaw.** Those cases will be clearly identified within this series of documents.

This document will focus on **Bylaw 4-6-2 – Out of State Residence – Exception 11 – Parents US Citizens Living Outside the United States and its Territories.**

This bylaw reads as follows:

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.)

**OHSAA Bylaws require that at least one parent reside in Ohio in order for the student to be compliant with this residency Bylaw 4-6-2.**

This bylaw has 12 exceptions. This guidance will focus on Exception 11, Parents who are US Citizens living outside the US.

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 Executive Director’s office upon submission of the appropriate documents.

To request a ruling, please provide the following:

- 1) A cover letter signed by the principal or athletic administrator stipulating that:
  - a. The student is a citizen of the United States.
  - b. The student’s parent(s) are United States citizens:
  - c. The parents are living outside the United States or any of its territories. Please provide a physical address for the parents outside the United States or any of its territories. .

3/20/2020

**Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must also adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 if they participated in an interscholastic sport(s) in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. If the student does not meet a transfer exception and has participated in one or more sports, the student will be eligible, insofar as transfer, immediately and through the first 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests. The student will become INELIGIBLE at all levels at the start of the second 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests and including the OHSAA tournament in those sports in which the student participated in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer.**

**Please feel free to contact Deborah Moore or Roxanne Price if you have any questions!**