



# OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

## Student Eligibility Guidance for High School Principals and Athletic Administrators

### Residence Bylaw Guidance Bylaw 4-6-2, Exception 12- Student is a US Citizen, Parents are non-citizens living outside the United States or any of its territories

This document will focus on Exception 12 to Bylaw 4-6-2, which reads as follows:

#### **Bylaw 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 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 season contests have been competed, 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).*

To request a ruling under this exception, please complete the form found at this link:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/4-6-2Exc12Form.pdf> and submit it to Kristin Ronai ([kronai@ohsaa.org](mailto:kronai@ohsaa.org)).

Please note the student is ineligible until a favorable ruling is issued by the Executive Director's Office. Furthermore, any student approved under Bylaw 4-6-2, Exception 12 may still be subject to the transfer consequence unless an exception can also be met to Bylaw 4-7-2.

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