



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, Exceptions 3-8

This document will focus on Exceptions 3-8 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 3 (15 days in Grade 11)

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 eleventh 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.*

To request a ruling on Exception 3: No ruling needed by the Executive Director's Office. A school administrator simply needs to verify that the student meets the requirements of this exception in order to have eligibility under this residency bylaw. Please contact Mrs. Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) with any questions.

EXCEPTION 4 (Continuous Enrollment K-6)

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

To request a ruling on Exception 4: No ruling needed by the Executive Director's Office. A school administrator simply needs to verify that the student meets the requirements of this exception in order to have eligibility under this residency bylaw. Please contact Mrs. Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) with any questions.

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EXCEPTION 5 (Parents Employed in the District/System)

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.

To request a ruling on Exception 5: The Principal or athletic administrator shall submit a letter request for a ruling to Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) stipulating the following:

1. Name of the student
2. Verification of the parents' out of state residence
3. Verification of the parent's employment history with the Ohio school district.

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 5 may still be subject to the transfer consequence unless an exception can also be met to Bylaw 4-7-2.

EXCEPTION 6 (Parochial Schools in the Same Non-Public System)

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.

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

To request a ruling on Exception 6: To request a ruling under this exception, please complete the form found at this link: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/4-6-2Exc6Form.pdf> and submit it to Kristin Ronai (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 6 may still be subject to the transfer consequence unless an exception can also be met to Bylaw 4-7-2.

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EXCEPTION 7 (Continuous Enrollment, Parents Move Out Of State)

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;*
- 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.

To request a ruling on Exception 7: To request a ruling under this exception, please complete the form found at this link: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/4-6-2Exc7Form.pdf> and submit it to Kristin Ronai (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 7 may still be subject to the transfer consequence unless an exception can also be met to Bylaw 4-7-2.

EXCEPTION 8 (Boarding School)

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.

To request a ruling on Exception 8: The Principal or athletic administrator shall submit a letter request for a ruling to Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) stipulating the following:

- 1. Name of the student
- 2. Verification of the parents' out of state residence
- 3. Verification the student lives in residential housing on the campus of the member school.

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 8 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) if you have any questions!