



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– Exceptions 3-8**

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 – Exceptions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.** 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 Exceptions 3-8. **Most of these exceptions require action on the part of the school in the form of a request for approval. Those exceptions are identified.**

**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 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.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED.**

**EXCEPTION 4** – A student who enrolls at first grade level in a school consisting of grades 1-12 and who maintains continuous enrollment shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-12 in that school regardless of place or state of residence of parents.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED.**

**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.** The Principal or athletic administrator shall submit a request for a ruling to either Deborah Moore or Roxanne Price 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 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.**

**EXCEPTION 6** – A student who resides within the boundaries of a parochial school system consisting of grades 1-12 that has multiple sites organized into elementary schools (1-8) and secondary schools (9-12), and who has enrolled by the beginning of the fourth grade level of an elementary school in that system and has maintained continuous enrollment in that school system through grade 8, shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 9-12 providing the secondary school attended by the student is the school designated by the school system for the continuance of the student's educational program.

**Note: The OHSAA does require that the superintendent of the non-public school system provide us with a list of any elementary schools under the system's jurisdiction that are located both inside and outside of Ohio.**

**The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office**The Principal or athletic administrator shall submit a request for a ruling to either Deborah Moore or Roxanne Price stipulating the following:

1. Name of the student
2. Verification of the parents' out of state residence
3. Verification of the name of the school or schools the student has attended continuously since 4<sup>th</sup> grade and confirmation that those schools are within the jurisdiction of the Ohio non-public system.
4. The student's transcripts for grades 4-8.

**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.**

**EXCEPTION 7** – A student who resides within the boundaries of a public school district in a neighboring state; and who attends an Ohio public school system under an arrangement through which the entire grade of the out-of-state student attends the Ohio public school system; and for whom the tuition or cost of education for said out-of-state student is paid by the neighboring state’s school district of residence; and who will be eligible to receive a high school diploma from an Ohio public school system shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-12 at the schools designated by the Ohio school system for attendance by the students from the neighboring state.

**The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director’s Office.** The Principal or athletic administrator shall submit a request for a ruling to either Deborah Moore or Roxanne Price stipulating the following:

1. Name of the student
2. Verification of the parents’ out of state residence
3. Verification of the Ohio school that student attends under this agreement.

**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.**

**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.** The Principal or athletic administrator shall submit a request for a ruling to either Deborah Moore or Roxanne Price 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 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!**