



Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214
Telephone: 614-267-2502; Facsimile – 614-267-1677

www.ohsaa.org

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

Bylaw 4-6 - Residence

Overview 4-6-2– Exception 9

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 Nine – Military POA.** 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 9, Military Power of Attorney.

EXCEPTION 9 – A student who has been enrolled in an Ohio school pursuant to the Interstate Compact of Educational Opportunities for Military Children may be declared eligible at a member school upon submission of a special power of attorney, relative to the custody or guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under applicable law. **The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director’s office.**

To request a ruling: Please provide the OHSAA Military Power of Attorney Form, which is found here: http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/Bylaw4-6-2_Exc9.pdf for parents who are serving in the military outside of Ohio and wish their students to remain eligible for interscholastic athletics in an Ohio member school. **Please be advised that this form is the only acceptable document for restoring eligibility under this residence bylaw.**

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