



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Student Eligibility Guidance for High School Principals and Athletic Administrators

Transfer Bylaw Guidance Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 13 – Adult Criminal Behavior

This document will focus on Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 13. For guidance on the full text of Bylaw 4-7-2, please visit (<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/4-7-2Guidance.pdf>). Exception 13 reads as follows:

If it is determined that one or more of the exceptions that follow represents an event which creates the need to transfer, i.e., creates a cause and effect relationship, then one or more of the following exceptions may apply:

EXCEPTION 13: *If, as a result of the conduct of an adult associated with the school, a student is compelled to transfer in order to protect the student's physical and/or mental well-being, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons provided ALL of the following criteria are met:*

- (a) there is documented evidence the adult conduct was directed specifically towards the student; and*
- (b) the adult conduct is of such a nature as to trigger a criminal investigation or an event which is otherwise a "reportable" event that would require a mandatory reporter to report to the proper legal authorities; and*
- (c) the student suffered/suffers physical harm and/or severe emotional distress that required/requires medical treatment and/or mental health treatment, which was contemporaneously documented at the time of the event; and*
- (d) there is no evidence the transfer is due to the student/family's displeasure with a former coach's training tactics and/or the student's playing time.*

For purposes of this bylaw, "conduct" may include behavior of a physical nature as well as verbal and/or written expressions, gestures and interactions. The conduct referred to herein may also include interactions via social media or other forms of electronic communications.

This exception will not be applied where there has been no documented evidence of a criminal investigation or a "reportable" event as outlined in criteria (b), nor will this exception be applied for a student who simply alleges displeasure with a former coach's training tactics.

Until a student is declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office in accordance with this exception, they shall be ineligible for all OHSA tournaments in those sports in which the student participated during the 12 months immediately preceding this transfer. In addition, the student shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels AFTER the first 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests have been competed in those sports in which the student participated during the 12 months immediately preceding this transfer.

The "receiving district/school" is the entity who is required to submit the request on behalf of their new student-athlete. Gathering all the necessary documentation may require the school to work with the family and the former school in order to obtain all the necessary documentation.

To request a ruling under Exception 13, please complete the Exception 13 form found here: (https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/4-7-2_Exc13Form.pdf). Please review item 8 for items that will need to be included with the submission of the form. Please be sure to review all documents to ensure they are complete and that all items described above are addressed.

Please feel free to contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) or Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) if you have any questions!