



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 4 – Self Supporting Student

This document will focus on Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 4. 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 4 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 of more of the following exceptions may apply:*

EXCEPTION 4: *A student who does not live in the same school district as parents or legal guardian and who is financially self-supporting maybe ruled eligible upon approval of the Executive Director's office at a school in the district where the student resides. The Executive Director is empowered to establish requirements for the student to be determined to be self-supporting. These requirements shall be established for each school year by May 15th of the preceding year. Self-support documentation must be submitted for approval every 30 days. The student is eligible for the first 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contest, but then becomes INELIGIBLE for the second 50% of the season in all regular season contests plus the OHSAA tournament OR until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's office. **Note:** Living with and/or being employed by a relative or benefactor does not qualify for self-support under this exception.*

Until a student is declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office in accordance with this exception, they shall be ineligible for all OHSAA 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.

Notes:

- Receipt of financial and other types of support from a "benefactor" who has connections to the member school in which the student is seeking to transfer may disqualify the student from using this exception.
- **This exception shall only be applied for a student who is compelled to transfer to a different school when an event occurs which forces them to be financially self-supporting. It shall not be used as a loophole for a student who wants to transfer schools so they/their family coordinate/arrange a situation to meet the requirements of this exception in an attempt to restore full athletic eligibility.**
- To receive a ruling, the principal or athletic administrator shall send the form found at this link: <http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/selfsupport.pdf> with all accompanying documentation every 30 days. The documentation includes:
 - o Landlord information with a copy of the notarized statement from the Landlord (once) and a copy of the payment check and receipt monthly.
 - o Work information with copies of the earnings statements each month (\$500 net income required).
 - o Notarized Statement from Employer that he/she is not a relative of the student.
 - o Bank Account information – statements submitted monthly (must show activity in and out of the account).
 - o Grocery Receipts - monthly.

Submission of this form and these items must occur every 30 days in order for full eligibility to remain intact.

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