



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 9 – District Discontinues all Sport Programs

This document will focus on Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 9. 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 9 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 9: *A student who has been enrolled in and attending a member school in a school district that, through formal action by the school district's Board of Education, has elected to effectively cease with its sponsorship of its entire interscholastic athletic programs, may transfer to any other school district/system and have his/her eligibility restored upon application to the Executive Director's Office. Furthermore, if the school district formally elects, through Board of Education action, to resume its sponsorship of its interscholastic athletic programs, a student who transferred under the provisions of this Exception may transfer back to the member school from which she/he transferred under this provision provided this transfer back occurs prior to the start of the next school year following the school year in which resumption of the sponsorship of interscholastic athletic programs occurred.*

In consideration of all applications for the restoration of eligibility pursuant to this Exception, the Executive Director's Office shall give due consideration to all factors relating to the transfer and particularly the timing of the transfer in relation to the formal actions taken by the Board of Education in either the cessation and/or resumption of its sponsorship of these programs. For purposes of this Exception, "formal action" shall mean more than the mere threat of cessation of sponsorship, and resolutions that are contingent upon a future event or happening will not be regarded as "formal action" until such contingency has been met.

No student transferring under this provision shall be eligible until declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office.

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.

To request a ruling under exception 9, please complete the exception 9 form found here:

(<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/SchoolClosingForm.pdf>). Within the form, you will be required to provide proof of board action that resulted in the discontinuation of the high school's entire interscholastic athletic programs. A ruling cannot occur until the board action is final.

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