



# OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

## Student Eligibility Guidance for High School Principals and Athletic Administrators

### Bylaw 4-7-3, Mid-Season Transfer

This document will focus on the language within Bylaw 4-7-3, Mid-Season Transfer. The bylaw reads as follows:

**4-7-3** *If a transfer, as defined in Bylaw 4-7-2, takes place during the sport season in which the student has participated in a regular season interscholastic contest in a sport, the student shall be ineligible in that sport for the remainder of all regular season contests, as well as the OHSAA tournament, in that sport at the school into which the student has transferred (or at the school where the student is now permitted a participation opportunity). Furthermore, the student shall finish fulfilling his/her transfer consequence, for ONLY that sport in which the mid-season transfer occurred, at the start of the sport season during the next school year, unless an exception can be met to restore eligibility for the next sport season. This consequence requires that the student shall remain ineligible for all preseason contests (scrimmages, preview/jamboree, Foundation games) and all regular season contests until the total number of varsity regular season contests missed (including those missed during the previous season) equals 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests in that sport.*

*An in-season transfer student who only participated in sub varsity events at the former school prior to his/her transfer may use any of the OHSAA Transfer Bylaws/exceptions to restore his/her full athletic eligibility for participation in ONLY sub-varsity regular season contests at the new school into which the student transferred. If the sport in question does not have varsity/sub-varsity classifications at either the former school or the new school, then this option shall not be available. Furthermore, any such approval for sub varsity participation would only extend for regular season participation (no OHSAA tournament competition).*

*An in-season transfer student may not use any of the exceptions to the transfer bylaw to restore full athletic eligibility EXCEPT if one of the following circumstances occurs:*

- 1) — The parents make a bona fide move into a new public school district, the student is approved for transfer eligibility under the requirements of Exception 1 of Bylaw 4-7-2 AND the school building into which the student transfers is more than 50 miles from the school building from which the student transfers as determined by mapquest.com, or such other navigational system as adopted by the Board of Directors at its August meeting, using the most direct route.*
- 2) — As a result of a legal change of custody or a change in placement which is a result of the death or incarceration of the student's parent(s) or the intervention of Children's Services or a similar government agency, the student may be approved for transfer eligibility regardless of the distance between the two schools.*
- 3) — The student transfers and their participation opportunity remains at the school from which they transferred. If so, the student is permitted to continue participation for the remainder of the season at that school ONLY IF they can meet the requirements of an exception to the transfer bylaw in order to restore their full athletic eligibility.*

*If none of the aforementioned situations transpire, or if the student's transfer no longer leads to a participation opportunity at the school from which they transferred, then the student shall become ineligible for the remainder of the season during which the transfer occurred.*



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*For purposes of this bylaw, "sport season" shall be determined by the sports regulations for that sport, beginning with the first date on which coaching may begin and concluding on the last date the school into which the student transferred (or at the school where the student is now permitted a participation opportunity) participates in a contest (regular season or postseason).*

*NOTE: In addition, if a student's participation opportunity changes during the sport season in which the student has already participated in a regular season interscholastic contest in a sport at a school where they are not enrolled (pursuant to O.R.C. §§ 3313.5311 or 3313.537), the student is ineligible in that sport for the remainder of that sport's season at the new school into which the student is now entitled a participation opportunity. A student may not use any of the exceptions to **the transfer bylaw** to circumvent this bylaw if the student is not transferring schools. If the student is transferring schools, then the same exceptions as outlined above apply.*

## Items to note within the language of Bylaw 4-7-3:

- Bylaw 4-7-3 is only triggered when a student transfers and has **participated in a regular season contest** in a sport during the current sport season. This bylaw has no application when the student has only practiced or participated in a scrimmage in a sport. Athletic administrators should gain confirmation in writing from the school from which the student transferred regarding the student's participation during the current sports season. Bylaw 4-7-3 will then lead to one of two (not both) outcomes for the student:
- Outcome #1: Consequence for student who competed in a **varsity** regular season contest at former school:
  - o When fulfilling the remainder of a transfer consequence during the next school year, the remainder of the transfer consequence is fulfilled only in the sport during which the student transferred at the **beginning of the next applicable sports season**. Example:
    - Student transfers from school A to school B after competing in 7 regular season varsity football contests at School A. **Student does not meet one of the two exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-3.**
    - At school B, student is ineligible for remaining 3 regular season football contests **and** the OHSAA tournament.
    - During **next football season**, student is ineligible for all scrimmages/jamborees/previews and regular season contests until regular season game 3 (in other words, student is ineligible until 2 regular season contests are competed).
    - Student regains eligibility, with regard to transfer, for remainder of regular season and OHSAA tournament in the sport of football.
    - **For all other sports in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding their transfer, the student is subject to the "normal" transfer consequence during the applicable sports season.**
    - **In this example, the student would fulfill the transfer consequence during the winter and spring sports season in the school year in which they transferred.**
- Outcome #2: Consequence for student who competed in **only sub-varsity contests** at former school:
  - o If granted one of the thirteen exceptions to OHSAA Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, **and** participating in regular season contests not concerning the varsity team at their former school, the student **will not** be subject to the consequence of OHSAA Bylaw 4-7-3, Mid-Season Transfer, for sub-varsity contests at their new school. Example:
    - Student transfers from school A to school B after competing in 7 sub-varsity regular season football contests at School A. **Student is provided an exception.**



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- At school B, student is eligible for remaining 3 sub-varsity regular season football contests. While eligible for the remaining 3 sub-varsity regular season football contests, student is ineligible for tournament participation.
  - **For all other sports in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding their transfer, the student is subject to the “normal” transfer consequence during the applicable sports season.**
  - **In this example, the student would fulfill the transfer consequence during the winter and spring sports season in the school year in which they transferred.**
  - If not granted one of the thirteen exceptions to OHSAA Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, student is responsible for OHSAA Bylaw 4-7-3, Mid-Season Transfer, consequence.
- Full eligibility with regard to Bylaw 4-7-3 may be restored at a school with which the student has not had a participation opportunity during the season in question **only** if one of the two following circumstances occur:
- The student is approved for transfer eligibility under the requirements of Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 1, **AND** the two schools involved are more than 50 miles apart.
  - The student’s transfer is a result of a legal change of custody or a change in place in which Children’s Services or a similar government agency is involved.
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- Full eligibility with regard to Bylaw 4-7-3 may be restored for a student whose participation opportunity remains at the school from which they transferred **only** if they meet the requirements of an exception codified within the transfer bylaw.
- The applicable exception form must be submitted to and approved by the Executive Director’s Office.
  - The student shall be ineligible for the remainder of the season until ruled eligible by the Executive Director’s Office.

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