



Ohio High School Athletic Association
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Guidance for 2020-2021 High School Principals and Athletic Administrators

Bylaw 4-7-3 – Transfer Bylaw Review
Transfer During the Season After a Student Has Participated in a Regular Season Contest

The OHSAA receives more inquiries about the **transfer bylaw** than any other aspect of eligibility. Unfortunately, we perhaps should receive more, as invariably an administrator has made his/her own call that later results in forfeiture or worse. Reach out when in doubt!

[NOTE: Students who change high schools \(transfer\) are reminded that they must meet all eligibility standards found in Bylaw 4. This includes meeting the out of state residency bylaw 4-6-2, which requires a student to have a parent \(biological or adoptive\) residing in Ohio or to meet one of the exceptions to that residency bylaw.](#)

VIDEO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZ_Y0qb_T4A&list=PLFId40HlxWrS1GGLGP2w0z3GirL4DjHSs&index=3

This guidance will focus on Bylaw 4-7-3, Mid-Season Transfer.

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 is ineligible in that sport at any school for the remainder of that sport's season**. A student may not use any of the exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2 or 4-7-4 to circumvent this bylaw except if one of the following circumstances occurs:

1. If 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 in which Children's Services or a similar government agency is involved, the student may be approved for transfer eligibility provided 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.
- 3.

NOTE: Please refer to Bylaw 4-7-2, transfer, which discusses the pro-rating of the 50% period of ineligibility for the next school year.

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 date when the season ends.

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 Bylaw 4-7-2 or 4-7-4 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.

Guidance for Administrators

1. If a transfer takes place during a sports season, please ascertain the following in writing:
 - a. Do the student's parents live in Ohio?
 - b. Did the student participate in a **regular season** contest this school season in the sport in which continued participation is desired?
 - c. Contact the school or athletic administrator of the former school in writing to get verification of the student's playing status as stipulated in b. above.
 - d. Did the student transfer from a high school that is more 50 miles from your school due to his parents' bona fide move into a new public school district? Note that "**parents**" means biological, adoptive or step parents – not any other relative unless legal custody has been established and disclosed to the OHSAA AND the parents, if still alive, also reside in Ohio.
 - e. If the answer to d. is yes, then please submit the Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence in support of Exception one of Bylaw 4-7-2 – see guidance here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/Affidavit-BonaFideResidence.pdf> and wait for approval by the OHSAA.
 - f. **Did the student experience an emergency removal from the home, or a legal change of custody to either a parent or an agency based on the death or incarceration of the parent, intervention of child protective services or a similar agency?**
 - g. If the student participated in a regular season contest at the former school and the parents are not making a transfer between two schools that are more than 50 miles apart, then this condition, sometimes referred to as a "pro-rating" of the 50% sit out for the next season, will apply as expressed within Bylaw 4-7-2 and listed below:

Please refer to the passage, which is highlighted in yellow above and contained within transfer bylaw 4-7-2, to ascertain how the student's eligibility for the next school year is determined considering this during-the-season transfer.

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