



Ohio High School Athletic Association
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TO: Superintendents and Superintendent Designees of Multiple-High School Public School Districts
FROM: Jerry Snodgrass, Executive Director and Dr. Deborah B. Moore, Senior Director of Compliance and Sports Medicine
RE: "Involuntary" Transfers and Business Rules Re. Participation Opportunities for the Non-Enrolled Student
DATE: Summer 2020

We hope this finds you well and ready for a new school year. The purpose of this communication is to advise you of two issues. The first issue involves a practice about which we have become aware concerning what has been labeled as "involuntary" transfers of students between high schools in our multiple-high school public school districts. Please be advised that any transfer of a student to a new high school, whether voluntary or involuntary, must meet a codified exception to a transfer bylaw unless the student involved has not participated in an OHSAA-sponsored sport in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. In cases involving transfers between high schools in your district, the student must be approved by this office under the provisions of either **Bylaw 4-7-4 or 4-7-6**. Here are links to the guidance on both of these bylaws: https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/Bylaw4-7-4_Exc1-2.pdf, https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/Bylaw4-7-4_Exc3456.pdf, and https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/4-7-6Guidance_IntradistrictTransfer.pdf. Please note also that if a transfer takes place during the season of a sport in which the student has participated in a regular season contest in that sport, **Bylaw 4-7-3** denies the student a participation opportunity at the new school in that sport for the remainder of that season. Please refer to the guidance here <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/4-7-3TransferDuringSeason.pdf> for more information about 4-7-3.

The second issue involves a revision to and reorganization of the business rules for the assignment of athletic participation opportunities for what we refer to as the "Non-Enrolled" Student. These students are those who attend community, STEM, non-public or non-traditional/specialty schools or are home-educated. The non-traditional/specialty school label is used to describe schools that are within the jurisdiction of your school district but which do not sponsor sports. Examples of these types of schools include digital or virtual schools, alternative schools, magnet or fine arts schools. **The designation does not refer to comprehensive high schools which are simply non-member schools.** The other types of schools (STEM, community and non-public) as well as those who are home educated refer to schools or education that are not within the scope of your jurisdiction other than to excuse the home educated student from compulsory attendance. The guidance has been reorganized to make it easier to understand, and the Board of Directors has recently approved another option for superintendents to change the placement for a non-enrolled student which is highlighted in Item D within the following document: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/BusinessRulesMultiHSPublic.pdf>

Please feel free to direct questions on these issues to a member of the compliance staff: Dr. Debbie Moore, Ms. Roxanne Price or Ms. Kristin Ronai.