



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

September 23, 2021

TO: Member High Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators

FR: Doug Ute, OHSAA Executive Director

Modifications to Bylaws Per Constitution Article 6-1-9

With the ongoing pandemic and the concern about students changing schools for pandemic related reasons, the Executive Director's Office has elected to utilize Constitution Article 6-1-9 and waive strict compliance with the following OHSAA Bylaws:

Bylaw 4-7-2 for Sub Varsity Transfers

This bylaw traditionally requires all transfer students to become ineligible after the first 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests have been competed, regardless of the participation level of the student. However, due to the continued cancellations and the possibility for sub varsity games to not be rescheduled, the Executive Director's Office has elected to waive strict compliance with this bylaw for athletes at the sub varsity level using the following conditions:

- If an athlete participates in ANY varsity contest, then he/she is subject to the traditional transfer consequence of becoming ineligible once the varsity team completes the first 50% of the maximum allowable number of regular season contests.
- **If an athlete only plays sub varsity, then he/she will become ineligible after his/her respective team completes the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests at that level.** For example, if an athlete only plays JV basketball, then he/she can play the first 11 JV basketball contests, regardless of where the varsity team is in its season. Then, the student will become ineligible for JV contest #12.
- If an athlete only dresses varsity but does not participate in a varsity contest, then he/she can still benefit from this modification at the sub varsity level. Once an athlete plays in a varsity contest, however, the varsity schedule takes precedence.
- This modification is being utilized through the end of the 2021-22 school year and no paperwork needs to be submitted to the OHSAA.

Bylaw 4-7-2 for Students Who Transfer but Keep Playing for Same School in Accordance With State Law

For the remainder of the 2021-22 school year, the Executive Director's Office has elected to modify the definition of "transfer" to exclude students who transfer because of pandemic related reasons to/from home education or to/from a community school, charter school, STEM school, or online school (as defined in Sec. 3302.42) as long as that new school does not offer any sports **and so long as the resulting transfer does not result in a change of participation opportunity from the school at which the student was originally participating.** This permission to continue playing back at the former school also waives Bylaw 4-7-3 (mid-season transfer) as long as the participation is still occurring at the same school at which the student was previously participating.

Example: Student started 2021-22 school year at public school High School X. Transferred to Ohio Virtual Academy (an Ohio community school) but parents continue to live in District X. State law and Bylaw 4-3-1 #6 permits the student to have a continued participation opportunity at High School X. The above decision allows the student's participation to continue uninterrupted, pending approval on below form.

NOTE: This rule does NOT apply to students who transfer to a non-Ohio online school, as those students continued participation at a school is NOT permitted in accordance with state law or OHSAA bylaws. In order to determine whether or not a school is an Ohio-based community, STEM, charter or online school, please utilize the following link:

<https://oeds.ode.state.oh.us/SearchOrg>

To assist schools in determining if a situation is compliant with this ruling, a form has been developed and is required to be submitted to the E.D. Office prior to allowing the student's continued, uninterrupted participation. Here is a link to the form:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/6-1-9Waiver.pdf>



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Bylaw 4-7-2 for Students Who Transfer but Come Back to Same School Without Playing for Any Other School

For the remainder of the 2021-22, the Executive Director's Office has elected to modify the definition of "transfer" to exclude students who transfer to home education or to an Ohio community school, charter school, STEM school, or online school (as defined in Sec. 3302.42) for an interim period of time but then come back to the same school **without participating at any other school**. Such students are permitted to restore their full eligibility back at the school which they were initially attending as long as there has been no participation at any other school.

Example: Student started 2021-22 school year at High School X (can be public or non-public). Transferred to home education or to a community school, charter school, STEM school, or online school (as defined in Sec. 3302.42) for an interim period of time and DID NOT PLAY SPORTS FOR ANY OTHER SCHOOL. They then decide to come back to the same school at which they were initially enrolled. The above decision allows the student to come back to the school which they formerly attended and not be subject to any transfer consequence, pending approval on below form.

To assist schools in determining if a situation is compliant with this ruling, a form has been developed and is required to be submitted to the E.D. Office prior to allowing the student's return with uninterrupted participation. Here is a link to the form: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/6-1-9Waiver.pdf>

Please contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) or Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) if you have any questions about the above modifications.