



# OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING BYLAW 4-8-1 EXCEPTION 1 J-1 VISA STUDENT REQUEST- 2026-27

Exception 1 to Bylaw 4-8-1 permits students who possess a **J-1 Visa** issued by the Federal Government's Visitor's Exchange Program to be eligible for athletics for a maximum of one school year (two semesters) provided they meet the scholarship requirement and have not graduated from their home school or attended **high school** more than eight semesters.

It is the expectation of the OHSAA that all request for eligibility for international exchange students preceded by a thorough review of the international exchange student's academic records and educational history. **No** student who would be considered a "graduate" in his or her home country will be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics at a member school pursuant to Bylaw 4-3-7. Please be advised that students in South America may have graduated at the end of their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year. The OHSAA will only grant eligibility, under exception 1, to those students who possess a J-1 Visa. Please review Bylaw 4-8-1 for additional exceptions for International Students. Please submit completed form to Lizzy Wilson (lwilson@ohsaa.org)

### To be completed by the SCHOOL PRINCIPAL/DESIGNEE (not the host parent):

1. Name of Member School: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address/City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Student's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Date First Enrolled at Member School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level for Current School Year: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Student's Home Country: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Exchange Student Program: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Has student previously graduated from his/her home **high school**? YES NO  
(Refer to Bylaw 4-3-7, OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws) For further clarification (Circle)
9. Has student previously completed eight semesters of **high school**? YES NO  
(Refer to Bylaw 4-3-3, OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws) (Circle)
10. Is student scholastically eligible? For initial eligibility (e.g. fall) you will need to review students "home" high school transcript. YES NO  
(Circle)
11. In regard to eligibility for the first grading period, has the student's sponsor/placement coordinator provided the school with a complete written English language transcript or summary of the student's complete academic coursework? YES NO NA  
(Circle)
12. Have you verified that the student possesses a J-1 Visa? YES NO  
(Circle)
13. Have you requested eligibility for more than five students from the same program during the 2025-26 school year under this exception? YES NO  
(Circle)

I hereby acknowledge that the responses on the above are accurate and correct, to the best of my knowledge.

Administrator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Doug Ute, Executive Director

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING BYLAW 4-8-1 EXCEPTION 1  
J-1 VISA STUDENT REQUEST- 2026-27  
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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member School: \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by the INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENT:**

- 1. Are you considered a **high school** graduate in your home country? YES (Circle) NO
- 2. Have you completed what would be considered eight semesters of **high school** as of the date of this request? YES (Circle) NO
- 3. Have you previously participated in an academic year or semester secondary student exchange program in the United States **at a different high school**? YES (Circle) NO
- 4. Have you received money or remuneration for competing in the sport for which you are requesting eligibility? YES (Circle) NO
- 5. Have you ever been a member of a junior or senior national development team in any sport in your home country? YES (Circle) NO
- 6. Were you recruited to come to the United States and to this school for athletic purposes? YES (Circle) NO
- 7. Have you previously been contacted by a representative of an American University or College as it relates to the sport in which you are seeking participation? YES (Circle) NO

I hereby acknowledge that the responses on the above are accurate and correct, to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please email completed form to Lizzy Wilson (lwilson@ohsaa.org).**

**FOR OHSAA OFFICE USE ONLY: Date of Decision - \_\_\_\_\_**

**Approved by Executive Director's Office**

**Denied by Executive Director's Office**

\_\_\_\_\_  
For School Year/Semesters: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_