



2024 REFERENDUM ISSUES

as of January 11, 2024



At the January Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved the first two referendum items that will go to the member schools for voting during the May referendum period. Additional items will be added at the February Board meeting, and a special meeting in March. Prior to the vote, all issues will be explained in a public platform at the upcoming Athletic Discussion Meetings in April 2024.

BYLAWS (2)

ISSUE 1B – MODIFY BYLAW 4-7-3, MIDSEASON TRANSFER RE: CHILDREN’S SERVICES INTERVENTION If passed, effective August 1, 2024.

Initial Review- 12/20/2023

Approved for Referendum- 1/11/2024

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 transferring 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 in 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 ~~is involved~~, the student may be approved for transfer eligibility **regardless of the distance between the two schools.** ~~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) – 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.

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.

COMMENTS:

1. The proposed change came about due to several Appeals Panel hearings where a student was forced to change schools midseason, but the schools were not more than 50 miles apart.
2. The proposed change would remove the 50-mile requirement between schools if there is a student who is forced to transfer midseason due to the death or incarceration of the student's parent(s) or the intervention of Children's Services or a similar government agency.
3. This new language DOES NOT allow for a waiver of 4-7-3 when there is a "standard" (i.e. agreed entry, parent-to-parent, etc.) custody change (Exception 2) outside of the purview of Chapter 2151 of the Ohio Revised Code. This option would only be reserved for situations involving foster children, etc.

ISSUE 2B – MODIFY BYLAW 9-2-1 and 9-2-2, CONTESTS WITH OUT OF STATE SCHOOLS

If passed, effective August 1, 2024.

Initial Review- 12/20/2023

Approved for Referendum- 1/11/2024

9-2-1 Schools may travel out of state to compete in contests in states or provinces in Canada that border Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states are Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province is Ontario. Additionally, schools may travel out of state one time per sport per interscholastic season to compete in contests **and/or practices** in any location that does not border Ohio subject to approval from the Executive Director's Office. (Visit ohsaa.org to obtain the required form to request this travel permission). **If such an approval is granted, it is the sole discretion of the school as to whether the team/individual is permitted to miss school time.**

Penalty for violation: A school which travels to a non-bordering location to compete in contests on more than one occasion shall be ineligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11. A school which travels to a non-bordering location without approval from the Executive Director's Office shall be subject to a fine and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11.

9-2-2 School-sponsored teams and individuals may not travel out of **to a bordering** state for practice purposes with no limitations. **School-sponsored teams and individuals may travel to a non-bordering state for practices purposes only as long as the trip is prospectively approved by the Executive Director's Office and counts as the one permitted non-bordering state trip per season in accordance with Bylaw 9-2-1.**

NOTE: Please reference the General Sports Regulations for additional explanation regarding the classification of a an event when another team is involved (i.e. scrimmage, practice, game, etc.).

~~EXCEPTION 1: If the school's normal practice and/or competitive facility is located out of state, the school shall be permitted to practice/compete at that facility. Note: In all other cases, the Executive Director may grant permission to practice out of state in rare or limited circumstances. The principal shall request this permission from the Executive Director's office in writing.~~

~~EXCEPTION 2: If the school is traveling outside the boundaries of the states/province that border Ohio for the one-time per season competition opportunity, the school squad may also practice during that trip. This provision is made provided the squad is engaged in allowable competition as stipulated in that sport's regulations.~~

COMMENTS:

1. The overall purpose of these proposed changes is to take away some of the regulations related to practices out of state.
2. The proposed change to Bylaw 9-2-2 will now allow schools to travel to bordering states for practice purposes only without any limitation or approval from the E.D. Office needed. If they want to travel to a non-bordering state for practice purposes only (i.e. spring break baseball/softball trip), they would be permitted to do so as long as that trip counts towards the one-time option per season to travel to a non-bordering state.
3. The proposed changes to Bylaw 9-2-1 reflects the changes in 9-2-2, and also provides clarification that schools are permitted to miss school time at their discretion when they exercise their one-time travel to a non-bordering state option.