

# CONDENSED SUMMARY OF 2025 REFERENDUM ISSUES



## **ISSUE 1C Constitution Article 3, Membership Requirements (Modification)**

Would require at least one recognized sport per season, and a total of six throughout the school year. Shifts focus on the total number of sports offered during school year.

### Updated penalties:

--Not offering a total of 6 sports during a given year: Ineligible for all postseason participation the following school year (probation). Current penalty takes place during immediately ensuing sports season.

--Not offering at least one sport during a season: Ineligible for postseason participation during that season the following year.

## **ISSUE 2C- Constitution Article 7-4-3, District Athletic Board Voting, Same Classification (New)**

Would add language to cover the rare situation when one OHSAA district athletic board has an expiring board position and an unexpired position (interim) in the same classification at the same time. If this occurs, the recommendation is that the appropriate high school principals would vote for their top two candidates. The candidate with the most votes would choose which position he/she would serve (either the longer, expiring term or and shorter, unexpiring term). The candidate with the second-most votes would fill the other position.

## **ISSUE 1B- Bylaw 2-2-1, Tournaments, Exception 2 (New)**

Would allow schools that offer the sports of bowling, cross country, golf, swimming & diving, track & field and/or wrestling for both genders to choose to move to the higher division if the genders in both sports are not in the same division. *(Note: Schools may have the desire to do this if they have the same coach for both teams and/or to avoid site and date conflicts)*

## **ISSUE 2B- Bylaw 2-2-4, Tiering for Public Schools, Exception 1 (New)**

Would allow students who live outside a public school district where they attend high school to be counted as Tier 1 students if they attended a terminal nonpublic elementary school (i.e. ends after grade 8) that is physically located within the public school's district, and there was a Superintendent's Agreement in place which permitted these non-resident students to play 7/8 grade sports at the public school where the non-public school is physically located.

## **ISSUE 3B- Bylaw 2-2-5, Roster Counts for Non-Public Schools in Competitive Balance (Modification)**

Would remove the exception created for private school systems which use geographic boundaries to assign students to attend certain high schools. This exception was created to address the unique setup of the Columbus Diocese schools. With the 2019 change in the feeder school option (12.5 mile radius), this exception is no longer being utilized.

**ISSUE 4B Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, Exception 5, Partial Enrollment Obligations (Modification)**

Would remove and replace language to clarify how students receiving home instruction can be eligible for athletic participation at non-public member schools. Would permit any class taken by the home educated student to count toward this partial enrollment requirement as long as the class is taken at the school's physical location, and the class counts toward graduation.

**ISSUE 5B Bylaw 4-6-2, Residency, Exception 7 (New)**

Remove current Exception 7 (no longer applicable). Replace with new exception which would permit a non-relative to obtain custody of a student when their parents move outside of Ohio, the student has been enrolled in the district for at least three years, and for the student to regain eligibility once the custody arrangement has been in place for at least one year.

**ISSUE 6B Bylaw 4-6-2, Exception 6, Residency Exception Based on Continuous Enrollment in Same System of Education (Modification)**

Changes the enrollment requirement period within Exception 6 in a parochial school from 4th grade through 8th grade to **6th grade through 8th grade**. It also clarifies that such a student must matriculate directly into an Ohio parochial high school, and maintain enrollment in that system of education, to continue to utilize this exception to be eligible under the residency bylaw.

**ISSUE 7B Bylaw 4-7-3, Midseason Transfer Definition of Sports Season (Modification)**

Clarifies that once a student's former school team is eliminated from the OHSAA tournament, that student's "sports season" would be considered completed. Any transfer to a different school would result in a normal transfer consequence, unless an exception could be met for the following season.

**ISSUE 8B Bylaw 4-7-4, Exception 5, and Bylaw 4-7-5, Transfer (Modification of Language When Transferring from Poor Performing School)**

Would remove of all the "priority school" references and makes it more applicable to what is being used today (EdChoice). Such a change in reference would remove most of the online community schools (i.e. Ohio Virtual Academy) from the applicable poor performing school list the OHSAA would utilize moving forward.

**ISSUE 9B Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 5, Change of the "Look Back" Period When Transfer Back to a Non-Public School (Modification)**

Would change the "look back" period for a student who has been continuously enrolled in the same system of non-public education as the high school into which the student is transferring. If that student meets the exception and has shown a previous commitment to that system of education, the OHSAA would consider what system of education the student attended continuously between **sixth and eighth grade**, rather than the current regulation which looks at the fourth through eighth grades.

**ISSUE 10B Bylaw 4-7-2, Exceptions 5 and 9, and Move Bylaw 4-7-5 (Reorganize and Modify)**

--Would move current Exceptions 5 and 9 from Bylaw 4-7-2 to updated Bylaw 4-7-5, and move language from current Bylaw 4-7-5 to Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 5.

--Current Exceptions 5 and 9 language would be modified to ensure the exceptions are more consistent with one another. Changes would include: a. Removing the prohibition of either provision for seniors (currently only in Exception 5) b. Removing an athletic motivation assessment (currently only in Exception 5).

--Additionally, the current language within Bylaw 4-7-5, transfer from a poor performing school, does have a cause-effect analysis, so the proposed referendum issue shifts that language into a more appropriate location under Bylaw 4-7-2, new Exception 5.

**ISSUE 11B Bylaw 4-7-4, Transfers, Intradistrict Adult Criminal Behavior (New Exception, Renumber Current Exception 6)**

The proposed new exception would mirror current Exception 13 to Bylaw 4-7-2 regarding a student who is a victim of adult criminal behavior and, as a result of this documented action, the student is compelled to transfer to a different school within the same district (intra), if the requirements of this exception have been met.