



# 2026 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE OHSAA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



**815 OHSAA HIGH SCHOOLS – 803 HIGH SCHOOLS VOTED**  
 BALLOT FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE OHSAA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS (GRADES 9-12)  
 NOTE: ALL ISSUES HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR REFERENDUM BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## HIGH SCHOOL – RESULTS – As of 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 15, 2026

FAVOR	OPPOSE	ABSTAIN	ISSUE	
<u>741</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1 C</u>	<p><b>Modify Constitution Article 8, Amendments to the Constitution &amp; Bylaws</b>                      Allows the OHSAA Board of Directors to reinstate a bylaw or constitutional provision that was previously removed to comply with state law, if that law is later repealed. This eliminates the need for an emergency referendum and allows the rule to take effect immediately as it was last approved by the membership.</p> <p><b>Issue 1 C Passed, effective date August 1, 2026</b></p>
<u>711</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>1 B</u>	<p><b>Modify Bylaw 4-1-4, Member of an Interscholastic Team</b>                      Adds language to clarify that a school is considered to have “sponsored a sport” once its team participates in a regular-season contest (<i>not a preseason event</i>). This helps determine student eligibility to participate elsewhere, either under state law or Bylaw 4-3-1 Exception 8 (if approved), when their school of attendance cancels its season.</p> <p><b>Issue 1 B Passed, effective date August 1, 2026</b></p>
<u>358</u>	<u>416</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>2 B</u>	<p><b>New Exception to Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment &amp; Attendance</b>                      Would have allowed students at an OHSAA member public school that does not sponsor a particular <b>team</b> sport to participate in that sport at another OHSAA member public school, provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The other school is within 20 miles (by the most direct route), and</li> <li>2. The superintendents of both schools approve the arrangement.</li> </ol> <p><b>Issue 2 B Failed</b></p>
<u>611</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>3 B</u>	<p><b>Modify Bylaw 4-4-1 Exception 1, High School Academic Hardship Exception</b>                      Would remove the requirement that a student must have been withdrawn or removed from school during the immediately preceding grading period for the exception to apply. Instead, the student and/or family must provide documentation showing that a hardship existed at the time their ineligibility occurred.</p> <p><b>Issue 3 B Passed, effective date August 1, 2026</b></p>
<u>663</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>4 B</u>	<p><b>Modify Bylaw 4-6-2 Exceptions 4 &amp; 6, Residency</b>                      Modifications to Exception 4 permit a student whose parents live outside the state of Ohio, but who have been continuously enrolled within the same member <u>public</u> school/district since the start of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, to participate at the member high school in which they are enrolled.</p> <p>Parallel modifications to Exceptions 4 and 6 add language to permit students whose parents live outside the state of Ohio, but who have been continuously enrolled within the same member school district/system since the start of 4<sup>th</sup> grade, to participate within that district/system in 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Applicable for both public and non-public members.</p> <p><b>Issue 4 B Passed, effective date August 1, 2026</b></p>
<u>709</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5 B</u>	<p><b>Add New Note to Bylaw 4-7-2, Definition of Transfer</b>                      Exempts a student from being subject to the transfer bylaw when they change their enrollment to a different but return to the same school of attendance <b>without</b> participating in any sport(s) while enrolled at the other school.</p> <p><b>Issue 5 B Passed, effective date August 1, 2026</b></p>
<u>653</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>6 B</u>	<p><b>Modify Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 1, Bona Fide Change of Residence</b>                      Codifies a formal definition of a bona fide change of residence. The definition requires a student’s parents to fully relinquish all responsibility for their previous residence by selling it, leasing it to a non-family member, transferring it to an LLC for business purposes, or terminating the lease, in order for this exception to apply. The new language also gives the Executive Director’s Office discretion to review and address cases where this requirement has not been fully met.</p> <p><b>Issue 6 B Passed, effective date August 1, 2026</b></p>



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<u>573</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>7 B</u>	<p><b>New Transfer Bylaw 4-7-8, Superintendent’s Memorandum of Understanding</b> Allows a transfer student to have their eligibility fully restored upon a transfer if the Superintendents or Heads of School from both OHSAA member school systems enter into a memorandum of understanding confirming that the transfer is necessary to protect the student’s physical or mental well-being or to address other appropriate extenuating circumstances. This exception may be used up to two times during a student’s high school career.</p> <p><i>Bylaw 4-7-2 Exceptions 4 (Self-Support), 9 (Discontinues Entire interscholastic Athletics Program), and 10 (Death of Immediate Family Member) stricken.</i></p> <p><b>Issue 7 B Passed, effective date August 1, 2026</b></p>
<u>623</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>8 B</u>	<p><b>Modify and New Section to Bylaw 4-11, NIL</b> Adds clarifying language to Bylaws 4-11-2 (b) and (d), and 4-11-3 to ensure consistent application within NIL regulations. Also creates new Bylaw 4-11-8, which allows students to enter into agreements with athlete agents (<i>only as defined in ORC §§ 4471.01</i>) solely for marketing purposes. Any such agreement must also be disclosed to the Executive Director’s Office within 14 days.</p> <p><b>Issue 8 B Passed, effective date May 16, 2026</b></p>