



## The Ohio High School Athletic Association

August 19, 2014

The "Transfer Bylaw". It is not my position to approve or "Rule" on any transfers. But, here are a few simple facts regarding the "Transfer Bylaw" that may make it easier to deal with situations that arise for you. This is "short and sweet" and to the point. Hopefully you'll find an item or two that helps.

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### The "Transfer Bylaw" – The Basic Premise

When you get right down to it – the basic premise of this Bylaw is this: "Any player that goes from "School A" to "School B" is required to sit out 50% of any sport he/she played during the previous 12 months. Ok....I know what anyone would now say...."Well, yeah, but what about.....?" So, I often reply with: "You're right, there are actually 7 "Yeah Buts", but we call them **EXCEPTIONS**. So, learning the basic premise that all students are ineligible for 50% of any sport they played in the previous 12 months at a different school- we now expand by saying **unless they meet 1 of 7 exceptions**. And, what is the most common EXCEPTION? You guessed it – MOVING RESIDENCE from "School District A" to "School District B". There was a day when we all just took people for their word that they moved.....but now, they are all determined by their answers to an 'official' list of questions called an "Affidavit of Bonafide Residence".

#### Where Do I Obtain This "Affidavit"?

Though nearly everything is available on the "Eligibility" home page, you can directly access it at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/Affidavit-BonaFideResidence.pdf>

#### So, Does that Mean an "Affidavit" has to be submitted for EVERY student-athlete that transfers?

Only for a student-athlete that changes residence and you wish to secure eligibility for him/her instead of sitting out 50%.

#### Does an Affidavit Need to be Completed for a Student Coming from Out-of-State?

Yes, and keep in mind both parents (if they are married) must live in Ohio.

#### How Long Does it Take to get an Affidavit back and Eligibility Granted?

To date, there have been over 300 affidavits processed for fall athletes seeking approval for the exception. It takes time for staff to go through each and every one. Currently it takes approximately 5 days to process with correspondence coming back to you.

#### A Family Has Not Closed on their House yet.....Can They Still Get Approved?

They should wait until they have moved into the house. The questions/answers on the affidavit would not permit them to meet the exception until they have actually moved into the home. There is an exception to that (exception to the exception?) for homes under construction.

#### What Can the Athlete Do While He/She is waiting for the Approval (or Denial) to Come Back?

They may practice with your team (as long as your school permits it) but they cannot scrimmage or play in Previews, Jamborees or games.

#### If I Conclude a Player does NOT meet an Exception and Is Required to Sit Out 50% of a Season, Do I have to Submit Anything?

This is a tough one. No...you do not. This of course puts the burden on you to figure out which sports they played in the last 12 months.

### Ideas that Work..... Most of the Time!

**Transfers In To Your School:** Put the "Affidavit" in with all other school forms your Guidance Counselor provides to new students to your school. Have them complete them and turn them in whether they are an athlete or not. Why not? In case they decide down the road to participate in a sport, at least you will have them completed and approved ahead of time.

**Exchange Students:** Do the same with Exchange Students. Get them approved ahead of time and you'll at least have that off your plate if they decide to "try" a sport in your school. Just complete the form found at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/FEelig.pdf>

### A Few Common Questions.....and Answers!

#### We Have Coaches that Need to Obtain Their Pupil Activity Coaching Permit. May they take an online version of First Aid?

**Answer:** Yes and the most accepted is through [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)

#### We Have Coaches that Need to Obtain Their Pupil Activity Coaching Permit. May they take an online version of CPR?

**Answer:** Yes. This is a recent change but is acceptable IF your school district will accept it.

#### How Do I Know if We Are 'Registered' for the OHSAA Tournament?

**Answer:** Take a moment and make sure you check all the sports in myOHSAA that you sponsor. If you check that you are sponsoring a sport – you are **automatically registered** for the OHSAA Tournament in that sport. It's that simple. And, we actually give you a date (September 29) to add a sport or withdraw from a tournament (yes...some do that).

#### How Do I Know What the Official Start of Practice Is For A Sport?

**Answer:** In the OHSAA Handbook (or online) each sport has a set of "Sport Regulations". At the end of each sports' regulations is a calendar for the next 5 years that gives the Important Dates (including practice start dates) for that particular sport.

#### What Can Players and Coaches Do (and NOT do) During No-Contact Periods?

**Answer:** As you may now know, we are currently in a 'no-contact' period for winter/spring sports that ends the day after Labor Day. Though I put these Q and A's for Basketball, it explains for all sports by going to a document on the "Rebounders Reports" from the Basketball webpage. You can get the document (and share with coaches) at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bk/ReboundersReport/BasketballNo-ContactRule.pdf>

#### I am hearing a lot about "Fall Baseball". Any helpful answers for the Questions that come up?

**Answer:** I have a document on the baseball page under "This Week in Baseball". You can access it directly at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2014/TWIB14/2014TWIB3.pdf> and details all the answers. Please share with your baseball coach!