

MHSAA Athletic **Motivated** Transfer Regulation – As of 2014-15

REGULATION I

SECTION 9(E) — When the administration of the school from which a student who is ineligible under 9 (A) has transferred, alleges that the motivation for the transfer is primarily for athletic reasons, the granting of eligibility as in Section 9(D) is not automatic. The burden of proof will be for the administration of the accusing school to demonstrate to the MHSAA Executive Director or designee that the transfer has more to do with inter scholastic athletics than with other compelling factors. A transfer for athletic reasons is defined as, but not limited to:

1. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, is dissatisfied with the student's position or the amount of playing time which he/she receives;
2. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, has a problem with a coach at either a personal or professional level;
3. The student, or parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks relief from conflict with the philosophy or action of an administrator, teacher or coach relating to sports;
4. The student, or parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks to nullify punitive action by the previous school, relating to sports eligibility;
5. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, desires that the student play on a less successful or lower profile team in order to be ranked higher among the players on that team;
6. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, desires that the student play on a more successful or higher profile team to gain a higher level of competition and/or more exposure to college scouts;
7. The student seeks to participate with teammates or coaches with whom he/she participated in non-school competition during the preceding 12 months.

A challenge that a transfer is athletically motivated must be received by the MHSAA Executive Director in writing with initial proofs within 40 consecutive calendar days of the student's new enrollment (See Interpretation 3). Notification of the challenge will be made to the school that the student is currently attending so the receiving school has the opportunity to respond and to have input into the determination by the Executive Director.

An ineligible transfer student who is confirmed to have transferred for athletic reasons is ineligible for 180 scheduled school days to participate in an interscholastic contest for the school to which the student transfers. Even if the student's circumstances subsequently satisfy one of the exceptions of Section 9(A) that would normally allow a transfer student immediate eligibility, the student shall remain ineligible for 180 scheduled school days at this or any other MHSAA member school. If undue influence is alleged, Section 10 applies. (See Interpretation 2d.)

Note: The MHSAA will not be involved in investigating or mediating athletic motivated transfer issues between member schools of the same school district or when one school releases the student to another district.

MHSAA Athletic Related Transfer Regulation – As Adopted for 2014-15**REGULATION I**

SECTION 9 (F) — A student who changes schools and is ineligible under Section 9(A) is ineligible for 180 scheduled school days to participate in an interscholastic contest for the high school to which that student transferred if any one of the following circumstances existed during the previous 12 months:

- 1. That student participated at an open gym at that high school to which the student has transferred.**
- 2. That student participated as an individual or on a non-school team or activity coached by any of that high school's coaches in the sport involved for either gender, including contact permitted under Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2 b (summer days of competition) or at camps or clinics. A transfer student's participation in otherwise allowed out-of-season or summer activity prior to being on the written or electronic records of the school that the student transfers into would cause the student to be ineligible for 180 school days. A new student's enrollment information must be on file in the offices of the superintendent or principal or athletic director prior to participation in otherwise allowed out-of-season or summer activity.**
- 3. One of that high school's coaches served as a personal sport trainer, conditioner or instructor (paid or volunteer) for that student. Note: The 180 days of ineligibility will apply to all sports a student previously participated in when transferring into a school where a non-sport specific instructor (strength and conditioning coach) is on staff.**
- 4. That student transfers to a school where the coach of his/her previous high school is employed (any level, paid or volunteer).**

This applies only to students who have participated in a game or scrimmage on any interscholastic team of the previous high school of enrollment and only in the sport or sports in Items 1 through 4 above. Even if the student's circumstances subsequently satisfy one of the exceptions of Section 9 (A) that would normally allow a transfer student immediate eligibility, the student shall remain ineligible for 180 scheduled school days at this MHSAA member school.

A student's new school may petition the MHSAA Executive Director for eligibility as under Section 9 (D) when an adult described in No. 2, 3 or 4 becomes a school coach at the new school AFTER a student has enrolled or under compelling circumstances. The school must provide the basis for the request with sufficient documentation to make a decision. The Executive Director will make eligibility determinations on a case-by-case basis as to the student's period of ineligibility and possible forfeitures. The student's period of ineligibility could be as under Section 9(D) or 180 scheduled school days from the point of discovery or 180 scheduled school days from the date of enrollment.



CHANGES TO MHSAA TRANSFER RULE FOR 2014-15

ATHLETIC RELATED TRANSFERS (Links)

This is a summary. Please see the 2014-15 *Handbook* for actual language

A high school student who changes schools and would be ineligible for about half the year would be ineligible for 180 scheduled school days in that sport if there is a **past link** in that sport to the new school. The 180 days of ineligibility applies to transfer students who are enrolling (attendance in class) in the new school after Aug. 1, 2014.

In the past 12 months did the transfer student:

1. Attend an open gym at our school and then transfer into our school.
2. Play summer sports or non-school sports (AAU) on a team that one of our coaches coached (either gender, paid or volunteer) and then transferred.
3. Played sports for a coach from another school that now coaches at our school.
4. Receive instruction by one of our coaches who was or is a personal trainer or strength/conditioning coach.

The Athletic Related Transfer Rule:

- A. Is activated after a student enters the 9th grade and plays in an MHSAA contest or scrimmage.
- B. Is sport specific: Except for contact with a strength or conditioning coach (# 4 above), only that sport involved in the link impacts eligibility in that sport at the new school. Boys and girls sports and varsity and sub varsity levels are the same for the purpose of this rule (basketball, soccer, track & field, cross country, swimming & diving, bowling, lacrosse, tennis, golf).
- C. Does not apply to students who meet an exception to the sit out period, for example: full and complete residential changes, moving between divorced parents and completing an ETF, former school closed, etc. Unless there is recruiting, these students would be eligible immediately even if a link is present.

Implementation of the Athletic Related Transfer Rule:

1. **ADs are to complete a New Student Transfer Information Form for each new student-athlete and exchange with the former school AD to check for the existence of past links.**
2. New students who plan to change schools over the summer and participate in summer activities with players and coaches from the new school must be registered to enroll at the new school prior to these activities or will be considered to have a past link to the new school z(# 2 above). These students would be ineligible for 180 scheduled school days. **Only allow students who are officially signed up to attend your school to be involved with players and coaches from your school in summer activities.**

If a coach with a past link to a transfer student is hired after a student has transferred or the discovery of a past link is made after a student participates in a scrimmage or game or if other compelling circumstances exist the new school may petition the MHSAA Executive Director for eligibility and the determination of forfeiture. It could be the same period as the transfer rule, half a year, the full 180 days or 180 days from discovery of the past link.

MHSAA Athletic Related Transfer Regulation – Possible Edits for 2015-16

REGULATION I

SECTION 9(F) — A student who changes schools and is ineligible under Section 9(A) is ineligible for 180 scheduled school days to participate in an interscholastic contest for the high school to which that student transferred if any one of the following circumstances existed during the previous 12 months:

1. That student participated at an open gym at that high school to which the student has transferred.
- 2a. That student participated as an individual or on a non-school team or activity coached, coordinated or directed by any of that high school's coaches or administrators in the sport involved for either gender, including contact permitted under Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2 b (summer days of competition) or at camps or clinics.
- 2b. A transfer student's participation in otherwise allowed out-of-season or summer activity with students and staff of the new school, prior to being on the written or electronic records of the school that the student transfers into would cause the student to be ineligible for 180 school days in that sport. A new student's enrollment information must be on file in the offices of the superintendent or principal or athletic director prior to participation in otherwise allowed out-of-season or summer activity.
3. One of that high school's coaches served as a personal sport trainer, conditioner or instructor (paid or volunteer) for that student. Note: The 180 days of ineligibility will apply to all sports a student previously participated in when transferring into a school where a non-sport-specific instructor (strength and conditioning coach) is on staff.
4. That student transfers to a school where the coach of his/her previous high school is employed (any level, paid or volunteer).

This Section 9(F) applies only to students who have participated in a game or scrimmage on any interscholastic team of the previous high school of enrollment and only in the sport or sports in Items 1 through 4 above. Even if the student's circumstances subsequently satisfy one of the exceptions of Section 9(A) that would normally allow a transfer student immediate eligibility, the student shall remain ineligible for 180 scheduled school days at this MHSAA member school in the sport(s) involved.

A student's new school may petition the MHSAA executive director for eligibility as under Section 9(D) when an adult described in No. 2, 3 or 4 becomes a school coach at the new school AFTER a student has enrolled or under compelling circumstances. The school must provide the basis for the request with sufficient documentation to make a decision. The executive director will make eligibility determinations on a case-by-case basis as to the student's period of ineligibility and possible forfeitures. The student's period of ineligibility could be as under Section 9(D) or 180 scheduled school days from the point of discovery or 180 scheduled school days from the date of enrollment.



michigan high school athletic association
1661 ramblewood drive, east lansing, michigan 48823-7392

2014-15 EDUCATIONAL TRANSFER FORM

To be used **only** for Exceptions (8) (12) or (13) of Regulation I, Section 9 (A) and when a student does not move with persons with whom he/she had previously lived. **LEAVE NO LINES BLANK.**

STEP 1 -- TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS OR GUARDIAN (Print or Type)

Name of Transferring Student: _____ Entering Grade: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Enrollment (i.e., **first day in class**) _____

Students Previous Address: _____
Street City, State Zip

Last School Attended: _____
School Street City, State Zip Phone

Reason for Transfer: _____

History of High School Athletic Participation: _____

Signature (Parent or Guardian or 18 year old): _____ Date: _____

STEP 2 -- TO BE COMPLETED BY NEW PRINCIPAL

The new (receiving) school principal is to complete the information on both sides of this form before submitting the form to the former (sending) principal.

Eligibility Regulation I, Section 9 (A) in part states:

"A student enrolled in grades 9-12 who transfers from one high school or junior high/middle school to another high school is not immediately eligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest or scrimmage in the school to which the student transfers, except that the following students may be declared eligible."

Check (✓) the HANDBOOK statement appropriate for this request on behalf of this student and the one which you certify is correct.

8 A student of parents who are divorced moves from one public high school district into a new school district (changes his or her residence) with or to one of those parents, and the principal of each of the two schools involved signs the Educational Transfer Form which certifies the reason for the move as it relates to the divorced parents **and the transfer is not significantly related to or motivated by athletics.** Eligibility is permitted under this exception one time and must be approved by the Executive Director before the student competes in interscholastic athletic competition. **See applicable Handbook Interpretations if the student's parents never married, check here and submit a birth certificate or other documents as specified in the Handbook to the MHSAA with the signed form.**

Yes No Were legally documented papers submitted to you confirming a final divorce has been decreed by a court of law? (If **no**, the student is not eligible.)

Full date of court decree (**REQUIRED-or form will be returned**): _____ - _____ - _____

12 A student eighteen (18) years or older who moves from one public school district or attendance area to another without being accompanied by a parent or parents and resides only within that new school district and both principals sign the Educational Transfer Form certifying the transfer is in the best educational interest of the student **and the transfer is not significantly related to or motivated by athletics.**

Date Student becomes 18: _____ (**Student may not participate before this date**)

13 Bona fide boarding student of a boarding school, as outlined in Regulation I, Section 9 **which is not significantly related to or motivated by athletics.**

CHECK (✓) YES NO Is this the first time this student has opted to transfer under the checked (✓) provision of the transfer rule above? (If **no**, the student is not eligible.) **REQUIRED-or form will be returned.**

IMPORTANT: COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS FORM BEFORE EMAILING OR FAXING TO

THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

(OVER)

STEP 3 -- TO BE COMPLETED BY NEW PRINCIPAL-LEAVE NO LINES BLANK

ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED OR FORM WILL BE RETURNED

Name of Transferring Student: _____

Student is entering grade [____]. Number of semesters **completed** [____] or trimesters **completed** [____] grades 9-12 enrollment to date at any high school since first enrolling in the 9th grade. (Consult school records.)

Is student residing in your school district? Yes [____] No [____] (If no, student is not eligible by rule, consult MHSAA staff)

Current Address _____

If **new school** is a non-public or charter school, indicate if new residence is closest to your school (drivable highway miles).

[____] Yes, our school is the closest [____] No we are not the closest (Student is not eligible by rule, consult MHSAA staff)

Has student repeated any grades 9-12? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, which grade(s)? _____

I have completed the reverse side of this form (STEP 2) and certify that the submitted information is correct.

(Signed) _____ Date: _____
Principal (Not a designee or assistant)

School City State

NEW PRINCIPAL: Upon your completion of this form, please forward this form to the former principal.

(Also complete Return Address and Email Section at bottom of this page.)

STEP 4 -- TO BE COMPLETED BY FORMER PRINCIPAL

I certify that, in my judgment, the information submitted on both sides of this form is correct and the change of schools is not significantly related to or motivated by athletics.

(Signed) _____ Date _____
Principal (Not a designee or assistant)

School City State

FORMER PRINCIPAL: When completed, return to new school or email or fax (517) 332-4071 this form to the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., 1661 Ramblewood Drive, East Lansing, Michigan 48823-7392, where determination of eligibility status will be made. Completion of this form indicates eligibility status with reference to the Transfer Rule only. The student must be eligible in all other aspects.

STEP 5 -- if any information provided on this form is incorrect or Undue Influence (athletic recruiting) is discovered, the signature of the Executive Director is null and void.

Date _____ MHSAA Executive Director _____

ATTENTION NEW SCHOOL: A copy of this request form will be returned to the new athletic director via email. Please print or type LEGIBLY below all the requested information of the new, receiving school.

New Athletic Director _____
Name and City of School _____
Phone number to contact AD _____
FAX Number to Return Form _____
ADs EMAIL Address to Return Form _____