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## Column: OHSAA transfer proposal could stop game of athletic musical chairs

[Scott Springer, sspringer@enquirer.com](mailto:sspringer@enquirer.com) Published 6:00 a.m. ET Feb. 17, 2018 | Updated 10:46 a.m. ET Feb. 17, 2018



(Photo: Sara Paulson/FLORIDA TODAY)

*Back in my Chuck Taylor days of playing school basketball (which met its untimely demise sometime before I was 16), there would occasionally be a new player. Somebody would move in and you would wonder if they could play. Or, somebody would move out and you would wonder if your chances were better since they left. They were transfers. They either came or left your district via moving van or U-Haul. There was no open enrollment and rarely did you see someone attending another school without the family loading up boxes. Suffice it to say, things have changed.*

### A possible workaround

Prior to 2013, transfer student-athletes who didn't meet any of 11 exceptions that allow them to participate immediately, had to sit out one calendar year of any sport they had played the previous 12 months at another school. In 2013, it was changed to the current system of the first half of each sport's season. [A new proposal to be voted on in May \(https://www.cincinnati.com/story/sports/high-school/ohio-high-school/2018/02/15/proposed-ohsaa-transfer-bylaw-could-affect-teams-postseason-chances/341587002/\)](https://www.cincinnati.com/story/sports/high-school/ohio-high-school/2018/02/15/proposed-ohsaa-transfer-bylaw-could-affect-teams-postseason-chances/341587002/), would make transfers sit out the second half of the season, including the postseason.

Translated, a transfer could play at the beginning of the season, but a team would not be rewarded if a group of transfers joined the team as they would be ineligible for any championship run.

The OHSAA would not come up with this idea if such strategies weren't in effect here and throughout Ohio. It basically prevents sandbagging and loading up a virtual all-star team for a tournament run.





emailed handout photo for SPORTS - SAVED FEBRUARY 18, 2011: PHOTO CREDIT: PROVIDED PHOTO Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) commissioner Dr. Dan Ross. provided photo (Photo: Provided)

### **It's preps, not pros**

Sadly we live in an X-Box/PlayStation society where if you don't like your team, you jump ship. Many of today's student-athletes can remember "The Decision" where LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh joined the Miami Heat to form a super team years ago. LeBron's current team, the Cavaliers, just reshuffled the deck. In big league baseball, teams in contention can make a deal for a good player on a bad team to load up for a stretch run. It's called rent-a-player. In college sports, contracts are as worthless as the paper on which they're drawn, as coaches can leave on a whim. At big-time schools, players come to an institution for a tune-up, then try to leave for greener pastures. Meantime, the fans are left trying to figure out a new roster each year.

### **However...**

This is high school, four of the quickest but often memorable years of one's life. Every parent or guardian has the right to put their children in the best situation, but it's probably not the best long-term decision to be switching unis every year. Coaches shouldn't be texting players and coaxing them to switch schools. You should go for the school, the education and your friends. The rest of it is extracurriculars. A slight handful will be judged at higher

levels for athletic endeavors. Roughly less than 2 percent make Division I (in basketball it's 1 percent).

(<http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/research/estimated-probability-competing-college-athletics>)

### **Having a grand ol' time**

Yep, more players hit 1,000 points since our last post including Joey Edmonds from Wyoming, who is but a junior and has a bucket or three left in the tank for his senior run. Peyton Fisher of Williamsburg also joined the group, as well as Addie Brown from Talawanda.