

# Why OSSAA will survey schools about 'one free transfer' idea for athletic eligibility

A new exception to the [Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association](#)'s athletic eligibility rule could arise in the near future.

The OSSAA Board of Directors discussed this topic during its regularly scheduled Wednesday meeting. Currently, the [OSSAA's Rule 8](#) states that the association may grant a hardship waiver to a student, but in most cases, a student who transfers to a member school will have to wait one year from the date of initial attendance to gain athletic eligibility there.

However, the Board of Directors is considering an exception. In this case, every student would be allotted one free transfer after establishing eligibility at their initial school, meaning the student would not have to sit out a year. The Board has not voted to approve or reject this idea, but the OSSAA plans to send a survey to member schools to take their pulse on the possibility.

The survey will include two possible annual deadlines for transfers. The other option is to have no deadline but ensure that no student can participate in the same sport at two different schools in one year. For example, a football player couldn't start the season at Jenks and compete for Bixby football by the end of the season.

The Board's lengthy brainstorming session about the transfer rule stemmed from [executive director David Jackson](#)'s presentation from

recent area meetings, where member schools discussed the idea of one free transfer. Jackson said this potential exception is not intended to “encourage” transfers. Instead, the OSSAA intends to be proactive because transfer talk has been circulating among lawmakers.

“We wanted to see if the membership had any appetite to do something different than what we’ve done,” Jackson said. “It seems that the climate suggests that, by just listening to different people – different administrators, (and) of course, patrons – but more importantly, (because of) what we’re hearing down at the (state) Capitol and what we’ve seen over the last few years.”

HB 2249 passed through Oklahoma’s House of Representatives in March but failed in the Senate’s education committee. The bill, authored by Rep. Ty Burns, R-Pawnee, stated that a student shall be eligible for a sport on the first day of attendance at a new school if the student did not letter in that sport at their previous school.

Although this bill did not pass, it shows the topic is on the minds of legislators. Gov. Kevin Stitt signed legislation in March 2021 allowing students to transfer to any school year-round if there is capacity, but the OSSAA’s rules still apply for athletic eligibility.

**More:** [National Signing Day: Bethany's Zya Vann, Dale's Dayton Forsythe sign with OU basketball](#)

## **Veterans to receive free first-round playoff entry**

Since the first round of football playoffs falls on the week of Veterans Day, the OSSAA is continuing a recent tradition to show gratitude.

All military veterans, along with one guest per veteran, will receive free entry to any first-round playoff game Friday night.

"The OSSAA member schools, staff and Board of Directors appreciates the sacrifices of all veterans and hopes you will take advantage of this opportunity," the OSSAA said in a news release. "Simply show your Military ID card, or driver's license that shows your military status at the gate Friday, and you and a guest will be admitted free of charge. Thank you for your service!"

**More:**[Where are Oklahoma high school athletes going to college?](#)  
[Here's the 2024 signing list](#)

## **Extra points**

- OSSAA assistant director Trinity Johnson announced during Wednesday's meeting that Southern Nazarene University will host this year's 8-man football championships.
- The OSSAA is nominating Oklahoma officiating legend [David Gore](#) for the National Federation of State High School Associations Hall of Fame.