

2017-18 MHSAA TRANSFER RULE ... FOR DUMMIES and DIRECTORS



Consult the exact Handbook language of Regulation I, Section 9 and Interpretations (60-99)

THE RULE

A student enrolled in grades 9 -12, who changes schools, is not immediately eligible in the new school **UNLESS** they meet one of the **15 Exceptions** and fall within one or more of 40 **Interpretations**.

Except for Athletic Related Transfers, Undue Influence or International Students (see below), when a transfer student who does not meet one of the 15 exceptions **enrolls** determines **when** they become eligible.

- First part of the year: A transfer student who enrolls before the 4th Friday after Labor Day (Sept. 29, 2017) is eligible on Dr. Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 15, 2018) regardless of whether classes are held that day.
- Second part of the year: A transfer student who enrolls before the 4th Friday of February (Feb. 23, 2018) is eligible the following Aug. 1, 2018 – eligible for the start of the next school year.

If a student enrolls on Halloween, they are eligible Aug 1. A student enrolling on St. Patrick's Day would be eligible on the next Dr. Martin Luther King Day. **Enrolled** means on the books of the school **and** in a seat taking at least one class or participation in a scrimmage or contest (Int. 98).

ATHLETIC RELATED TRANSFERS (LINKS):

A high school student-athlete who played a high school sport and transfers without meeting one of the 15 exceptions below, would be ineligible for **180** scheduled school days in that sport if there is a **past link** in that sport to the new school.

In the past 12 months did the transfer student:

- Attend an open gym at our school and then transfer to our school.
- Play summer sports or non-school sports (AAU) on a team that one of our coaches, parents or administrators coached, directed or coordinated and then transferred.
- Played for a coach from another school that now coaches at our school.
- Was instructed by one of our coaches who was a personal trainer or strength/conditioning coach.

TWO SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

90 Days (Section 9 [D] and Int. 99) - For those who **just miss** the 4th Friday by a "brief number of days." With Executive Committee approval the period of ineligibility can be reduced to 90 scheduled school days of enrollment (not days when only practice is held, such as in August). Only for those who just miss the 4th Friday by a brief number of days.

Subvarsity - (Section 9 [B]) For 9th or 10 grade transfers who have never played in a high school game or scrimmage in an MHSAA tournament sport. **Only** for grades 9 and 10 with **no** prior high school sports, and only with Executive Committee advance approval. See *Handbook* page 40 for an expanded definition of subvarsity eligibility under a waiver. Consult the very end of published recent previous Executive Committee minutes for dates of upcoming Executive Committee meetings.

15 EXCEPTIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ELIGIBILITY

EIGHT RESIDENCY EXCEPTIONS

1. Student moves with the people he/she was living with previously (full & complete)
2. Not living with either parent moves back to them +
3. Ward of the Court, placed with foster parents
4. Students from an Approved International Student Program (AISP on F-1 or J-1 visa) placed with host family in district. Play 1 year, wait 1 year. Non-AISP may have subvarsity only for all years without waiver after sitting out (MLK or Aug 1)
5. Married student moves into school district
8. Student moves with or to **divorced** parent (ETF) +
12. An 18 year old moves without parents (ETF) +
13. A student resides in a boarding school (ETF) +

+Four Exceptions (2, 8, 12 & 13) are allowed **once in grades 9-12.**

(ETF) = Educational Transfer Form is only used for these 3 exceptions (8, 12 & 13). The current MHSAA form must be completed by both school principals and returned signed by the MHSAA **before** the student participates in a game or scrimmage. There is an allowance for students whose parents never married to use this form (See Int. 92).

CHANGES OF RESIDENCY

MUST BE FULL AND COMPLETE – (As defined by Interpretations 65 & 77) - All the people the student lived with previously (Int. 65) change residences and the previous residence is disposed of as in Int. 77 (vacant, sold, rented to non-family).

MUST BE FROM ONE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT INTO ANOTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT – Multi-high school districts such as Detroit, Grand Rapids and Lansing use each attendance area as a separate district (Int. 61).

WHEN A STUDENT CHANGES SCHOOLS UNDER A RESIDENCY EXCEPTION THEY ARE ELIGIBLE AT:

- The same school (they don't have to change schools) (Int. 66)
- The public school of their new district or attendance area (Int. 62)
- The closest Non-Public School or Charter School to their new residence (Int. 62)

—OVER—

FIVE SCHOOL STATUS EXCEPTIONS

6. School ceases to operate, not merged (Int. 64, 81 & 90)
7. School is reorganized or consolidated
9. School Board orders safety or enrollment shift transfer
11. Achieved highest grade available in former school
15. New school established; enrolled on first day

TWO STUDENT STATUS EXCEPTIONS

10. Incoming 9th-grader not here on an F-1 or J-1 visa
14. Expelled student returns under pre-existing criteria

See Note on Handbook page 40 under the 15 Exceptions for "Non-Exceptions."

FREQUENTLY USED TRANSFER RULE INTERPRETATIONS (Check exact *Handbook* language)

- 64, 81 A student from a **closed school** (who does not make a residential change) is eligible at any school; like an
90 incoming 9th-grader. A student from a school closing and merging with another school with new boundaries is eligible only at the merged school. The multi-school district closing its school will determine this.
65. Defines the “parent/parents” same as step parent(s) and defines “**persons with whom a student had been living**” as mentioned throughout the regulation.
66. A student whose family changes residence **does not have to change schools**. They may do this at any time and be eligible immediately provided the residential change occurred after the student began the 9th grade.
69. For a student to claim a legitimate change of residence under Exception 1 (moving with the persons they were living with previously) they must **live at least 30 days in the previous term** with “that one parent or parents or persons.”
70. Residential change with “school of choice” enrollment does not make a student eligible.
74. An incoming **9th-grade student who practices with one team in August** before school begins is not eligible at another school in that sport should he/she change and enroll at a school different from the one he/she practiced with. Only applies to 9th graders.
75. If a transfer student changes residency and schools, plays in a game or scrimmage **and then returns to reside in their original school district before the completion of 90 school days**, that student is ineligible anywhere until approved by both schools and the MHSAA.
77. Defines what is considered a **full and complete residential change**. Note three often quoted sentences:
1. **Before being deemed eligible** all personal belongings are moved from prior residence; attest to facts and produce documents (changed driver’s license), mail received, etc.
2. **A former residence** must be either vacant of people and possessions or sold, or rented to persons other than family members.
3. **A former residence may not be occupied** at any time by the student or his/her parents or siblings for any residential purpose.
78. A **home school student** may transfer under Exception 6, 11 or 12 and be eligible immediately, provided they have been home schooled for 270 consecutive calendar days. 6-school closes, 11-highest grade available, 12-18 year old moving out.
81. **An incoming 9th-grade student** is eligible at any high school (Exception 10) that they choose that will enroll them; this does not apply to International Students.
82. A student who moves between **separated parents** becomes eligible when the **divorce decree is final** and an ETF is completed.
- 83-88. **International Students** (F-1 or J-1 visa) including incoming 9th graders are only eligible if they meet a residency exception or if they are placed by an Approved International Student Program (AISP). AISP students are eligible immediately for one year and then wait one year (play one, wait one - no eligibility at any level). International students who are not AISP may be eligible at the subvarsity level only for their entire tenure without waiver after sitting out (MLK or Aug 1). Otherwise, international students are not eligible for varsity sports at any time.
92. A student who moves between **parents who never married** may use an ETF with birth/parentage documents.
98. **Defines “enrolled”** under the transfer rule as on the books of the school and attending one or more classes or participation in a scrimmage or contest.
99. **Defines Executive Committee 90 school day waiver** for a student who just missed a 4th Friday by a “brief number of days.” See Section 9 D.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF SECTIONS 9A - F

Section 9 (A) – Transfer Regulation and the 15 stated exceptions listed. (See Note at end of list for NON-exceptions)

Section 9 (B) – The Sub varsity eligibility allowance for 9th and 10th graders who played no sports previously.

Section 9 (C) – For students changing schools who played in a cooperative agreement previously. Former school must approve. Submitted to the Executive Committee.

Section 9 (D) – Details when a student who does not meet an exception becomes eligible (Aug 1 or MLK Day).

Section 9 (E) – An athletic **motivated** transfer which if alleged and proven can result in 180 school days of ineligibility.

Section 9 (F) – Athletic **related** transfers sit 180 school days if “linked” in previous 12 months to staff or open gym at new school.

Section 9 (G) – Late arriving transfers, even if they meet an exception are not eligible for MHSAA Tournaments.

To be eligible for MHSAA tournaments, transfer students must be enrolled for fall sports by Oct. 1, winter sports by Feb. 1 and spring sports by May 1.