

## SUMMARY OF SPORT-SPECIFIC TRANSFER RULE

May 11, 2018

A “sport-specific” transfer rule proposal has been adopted by the MHSAA Representative Council for 2019-20. It has two major components:

1. More Lenient –

Students in grades 9 through 12 who have not participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere in an MHSAA sport one season may transfer from one school to another with no delay in eligibility at any level in that sport the next season. No MHSAA action is required.

2. More Restrictive –

Unless one of the 15 stated Exceptions applies, students in grades 9 through 12 who have participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in an MHSAA sport on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere during the previous season for a sport, and then transfer to an MHSAA member school, are ineligible at all levels of that sport at that school through the next complete season in that sport, including the MHSAA tournament.

Students who transfer during a season in which they are participating, and do not meet one of the 15 stated Exceptions, are ineligible at all levels of that sport for the remainder of that season, including the MHSAA tournament; and they remain ineligible at all levels of that sport through the next complete season in that sport, including the MHSAA tournament.

The revised rule means a transfer student has . . .

- **immediate eligibility** in a sport **not played** the previous season for that sport  
and (unless one of the 15 Exceptions applies)
- **no eligibility** for the upcoming season in a sport actually **played** the previous season in that sport (participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest).

If the administration of the student’s new school requests in writing on a timely basis, the MHSAA Executive Committee **may** approve a waiver that reduces the period of ineligibility to 90 scheduled school days at the new school. The Executive Committee also has authority to approve immediate eligibility.

The effective date is Aug. 1, 2018, with implementation felt during the 2019-20 school year. **That is, what students do during the 2018-19 school year will determine their eligibility for 2019-20 should they transfer schools and not meet one of the 15 stated exceptions.**



## DETAIL OF SPORT-SPECIFIC TRANSFER RULE

May 11, 2018

### PRINCIPLES

1. Students enrolling for the first time anywhere in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible without delay at all levels of all sports, provided they have not already practiced or competed for a different high school. (No change; and, as in the past, the transfer rule does not apply to middle schools.)
2. Students in grades 9 through 12 who have never participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere in an MHSAA sport may transfer from one school to another with no delay in eligibility at any level in that sport. No MHSAA action is required.
3. Unless one of the 15 stated exceptions applies, students in grades 9 through 12 who have participated in an interscholastic **scrimmage** or **contest** in an MHSAA sport(s) on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere during the previous season for a sport(s), and then transfer to an MHSAA member school, are ineligible at all levels of that sport(s) at that school through the next complete season in that sport(s), including the MHSAA tournament(s).

Students who transfer **during** a season in which they are participating are ineligible at all levels of that sport for the remainder of that season, including the MHSAA tournament; and they remain ineligible at all levels of that sport through the next complete season in that sport, including the MHSAA tournament.

4. If there are compelling circumstances for changing schools having nothing to do with athletics, discipline or family finances and would not require Executive Committee evaluation or comparison of school demographics, environment or curriculum, schools may request that the Executive Committee waive the regulation to the extent that the period of ineligibility in the sport involved is reduced to 90 scheduled school days of enrollment in the new school.
5. Under conditions described in the MHSAA Constitution, the Executive Committee (or Representative Council) may waive any aspect of the Transfer regulation. (No change.)

### **APPLICATIONS**

#### **A. Situation**

A student enrolled at Canton High School in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, participated in non-school ice hockey and school-sponsored lacrosse, completing his high school season June 1, 2019. He enrolled without a change of residence or any other applicable exception at Brighton High School at the start of the 2019-20 school year.

Ruling: The student is ineligible for lacrosse at Brighton High School for the complete lacrosse season in 2020. The student is eligible for all other sports at Brighton High School, including ice hockey, without delay.

#### **B. Situation**

A student attended Haslett High School for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades where he participated in football and basketball. At the semester break of 10<sup>th</sup> grade, the student enrolled at DeWitt High School, and no exception to the transfer regulation was applicable.

Ruling: The student is ineligible at any level for the remainder of the current basketball season and is ineligible for the next school year's entire football and basketball seasons at DeWitt High School. He is eligible immediately at any level for every other sport at DeWitt.

#### **C. Situation**

A student participated in cross country at East Lansing High School as a 9<sup>th</sup>-grader and transferred to Okemos High School on March 1, 2019. It is alleged and well documented that the student was bullied at East Lansing. The parents are separated, but not divorced, and the student is changing residence from one parent in East Lansing to the other parent in Okemos.

Ruling: The student is ineligible for cross country at Okemos High School for the 2019 season. He is immediately eligible at Okemos at any level for all other sports, including track & field.

(OVER)

Appeal: Okemos High School requests waiver, citing significant and well documented bullying. The Executive Committee approves the request for waiver to participate in cross country after the student's 90<sup>th</sup> scheduled school day at Okemos High School beginning March 1, 2019.

**D. Situation**

A 12<sup>th</sup>-grade female student who plays soccer year-round and participated in girls soccer at Mason High School during the spring 2019 season, transferred to Holt High School in July where she seeks to participate on the boys soccer team. She enrolled at Holt without a change of residence and no other exception to the transfer regulation applies. At no time did she participate in any other sports at Mason or any other high school.

Ruling: The student is ineligible for both the boys and girls soccer seasons at Holt High School. She is eligible without delay at any level for any other sport in which she may wish to participate.

**E. Situation**

A 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student played football and basketball at St. Johns High School in 9<sup>th</sup> grade but not in 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade before he transfers to Grand Ledge High School for the start of the 2019-20 school year. His residence has not changed.

Ruling: The student is eligible for both football and basketball at Grand Ledge High School during the 2019-20 school year.

**F. Situation**

An 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student transferred from Mason High School to St. Johns High School on Oct. 2, 2018. No Exceptions apply. Having just missed the fourth Friday after Labor Day, St. Johns High School administration requests a waiver under Regulation I, Section 9(D) 3, asking for eligibility on the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at St. Johns High School beginning Oct. 2.

Ruling: Pursuant to Interpretation 99, the Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of that student's enrollment at St. Johns beginning Oct. 2.

Note: Regulation I, Section 9(D) 3 may not be applied as it is currently written after Oct. 15, 2018.

**G. Situation**

An 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student played football at Okemos High School in the fall of the 2018-19 school year. He played no winter sport for his school. He transferred to East Lansing High School on March 1, 2019, missing the fourth Friday by a brief number of days. No Exceptions apply.

Ruling: The student is ineligible for football only at East Lansing High School during the 2019-20 school year.

Appeal: Prior to Aug. 1, 2019, East Lansing High School requests a waiver under Regulation I, Section 9(D) 3 that allows the Executive Committee to consider approving waiver after 90 school days of enrollment at the student's new school.

Result: The Executive Committee may not apply Regulation I, Section 9(D) 3 as it is currently written after Oct. 15, 2018.

**IMPLEMENTATION DATES**

This new rule will begin implementation on Aug. 1, 2018, with effects on eligibility beginning Aug. 1, 2019.

1. Students who have played a sport at any level in high school during the 2017-18 school year and who transfer during the 2018-19 school year have their eligibility for 2018-19 determined by the current rule in effect during 2017-18 ("4<sup>th</sup> Friday" rule).
2. Students who have not played a sport in high school during that sport's previous season may transfer with immediate eligibility in that sport, beginning with the 2019-20 school year.
3. Students who play a sport in high school during the 2018-19 school year and who transfer during that school year or later have their eligibility during the 2019-20 school year or later determined by the new sport-specific rule that takes full effect Aug. 1, 2019.