*For J-1 or F-1 visa students enrolling for the first time in an MHSAA School

☐ To be immediately eligible an International Student, present in the US on either a J-1 or F-1 visa, including incoming 9th graders, must meet one of two conditions:

1. Meet a residency exception under the MHSAA transfer rule (1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12 or 13)

OR – the more common occurrence…

2. Be placed with a host family in a school district through an Approved International Student Program (AISP). AISP programs generally include those, which are CSIET approved, and a small number of schools who are also approved by the MHSAA after application is made. See MHSAA.com, >Schools, >Administrators. See In-services Education, Programming.

☐ An AISP student is eligible at the public school of their residence or the closest nonpublic or charter school for one year and then ineligible for a subsequent year (play one, wait one – no eligibility at any level). Incoming 9th grade international students do not have immediate eligibility unless they meet condition 1 or 2 above.

*Note: An international student who was in the US last year (2018-19) in a traditional school or a home school would not be eligible this year (2019-20) under “play one, wait one” – whether from an AISP program or not and whether or not the student participated in sports. After the year off under “play one, wait one” an AISP student could have eligibility remaining at any level in any sport if they do not change schools.

☐ An AISP student who changes schools would be subject to the Sport Specific Transfer Rule based upon their participation during the “play one year.” These transfer students would not be eligible in sports played during that year, but would, after the “wait one year” be eligible in sports not played in the “play one year.” An AISP student who does not change schools has eligibility in the years following the “wait one year” in any sport. Non AISP students have subvarsity eligibility for their entire tenure.

☐ An International Student, including an incoming 9th grade student, who did not meet condition 1 or 2 above – not from an Approved Program or not meeting an Exception - is not eligible for varsity competition for up to 4 years. A school may choose to allow an International Student eligibility at the sub-varsity level after having sat out until the 91st school day.

☐ General Conclusion: AISP students have immediate eligibility at any level for one year (play one, wait one) then no sports, any level for the next year. Non-AISP students may only have subvarsity eligibility for all their tenure once sitting out the first half year.

☐ International Students must be eligible in all other ways including the 8 semester maximum rule, being an undergraduate and having a sport physical dated after April 15 of the previous school year.

Note: International students who, when they first enroll in any secondary school in the U.S. and are not required by law to have a J-1 or F-1 visa are subject to the transfer rule just as are all other students (Interpretation 85). If an International Student’s status changes in a subsequent year, their eligibility is based upon their status when they first enroll.

This is a summary; see the exact Handbook regulation and interpretations and consult school athletic director or MHSAA Staff.

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