

# 2022-23 MHSAA TRANSFER RULE ... FOR DUMMIES and DIRECTORS



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

**The Sport Specific Transfer Rule is in effect. ANY sport a student played in 2021-22 determines eligibility in 2022-23 should the student transfer and not meet one of the 15 stated Exceptions**

## THE SPORT SPECIFIC TRANSFER RULE

A student enrolled in grades 9 -12, who changes schools, is not immediately eligible in the new school in a sport played last year, **UNLESS** the student meets one of the **15 Exceptions** and falls within one or more of 40 **Interpretations**.

A student who enters a game, meet or scrimmage against another school is considered to have played that sport and if the student transfers, he or she is not eligible in that sport the next school year. Just practicing is not considered participation under this rule. Exchange the New Student Form with the former AD to verify past sport participation.

The student can play other sports not played in the previous school year.

If the student changes schools mid-season he or she is not eligible for the remainder of that season and all of the next season in that sport.

If a student enrolls later in the season and is otherwise eligible because they have met an exception or want to play a sport not played in the previous school year, that student is **NOT** eligible for MHSAA tournaments unless they are enrolled by Oct. 1 for fall sports, Feb. 1 for Winter Sports or May 1 for Spring Sports.

**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).

## 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) +

### 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."**

**+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 – MEETING AN EXCEPTION

**MUST BE FULL AND COMPLETE** – (As defined by Interpretations 65 & 77) - All the people the student lived with previously (The Family Unit) (Int. 65) change residences and the previous residence is disposed of as in Int. 77 (vacant, sold, rented to non-family). Note: Transfers who follow a newly hired HS coach are not eligible in that sport under the Links Rule even if a full residential change occurs. Athletic Motivated residential changes must be full and complete at the time of enrollment.

**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 Rule of 4**

1. The same school (they don't have to change schools) (Int. 62a. and 66)
2. The public school of their new district or attendance area (Int. 62b.)
3. The closest Non-Public School to their new residence (Int. 62d.)
4. The closest Charter School to their new residence (Int. 62c.)

### STUDENTS NOT ENROLLING AT THEIR SCHOOL OF RESIDENCE OR CLOSEST NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL

Even though a student may have a residential change their sport specific eligibility would only allow eligibility in a previous year's sport at one of the Rule of 4 Schools (school of residence or closest nonpublic or charter). A student would have eligibility in sports not played in the previous school year.



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

- 64, 81 90 A student from a **closed school** (who does not make a residential change) is eligible at any school; like an incoming 9th-grader. A student from a school closing and merging with another school with new boundaries is eligible only at the merged school as under Section 9B. 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 “**the Family Unit**” 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 in a sport played last year.
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 90 school days. 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. **Clarifies that sport specific ineligibility applies to sports sponsored twice in a school year.** e.g. A girl who plays boys soccer and then transfers is not eligible for either boys or girls soccer next year.

### BRIEF SUMMARY OF SECTIONS 9 A - F

- Section 9 (A) – Transfer Regulation and the 15 stated exceptions listed. (See Note at end of list for NON-exceptions)
- Section 9 (B) – Sport-Specific eligibility part of the transfer rule. Students who have not met one of the 15 Exceptions: If played last year, student is not eligible in those sports but is eligible for sports not played the previous year.
- 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) – An athletic **motivated** transfer which if alleged and proven can result in ineligibility in that sport.
- Section 9 (E) – Athletic **related** transfers sit that sport if “linked” in previous 12 months to staff or open gym at new school.
- Section 9 (F) – Late arriving transfers, even if they meet an exception or eligible in a sport not played last year, 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.