

## **ARTICLE VI TRANSFERS, RESIDENCE, AND RECRUITING**

### **Preamble**

The purpose of this ARTICLE is to deter transfers and/or recruiting which are materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose.

PIAA and its member schools believe that interscholastic athletics has a valuable role in the overall development of students and is a useful character building tool. PIAA and its member schools believe further that, despite increasing societal pressures to elevate the role of competitive athletics in society and in the educational process, athletics should remain subservient to academics. Students who make decisions as to what school to attend based upon factors relating to athletics defeat this objective. Further, such decisions are detrimental to efforts to maintain competitive integrity and equity, to prevent athletic recruiting, and to instill school loyalty.

PIAA recognizes the difficulty in preventing transfers which are materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose. Experience has shown that students can often disguise athletically motivated transfers and, in almost every situation, show at least some legitimate purposes for such transfers. PIAA further recognizes that Regional Panels and District Committees, without subpoena powers or investigatory staffs, may not be able to consistently and effectively police athletically motivated transfers. Further, efforts to measure how much of a factor athletics must play in a decision before it is considered improper is, while possible, also extremely difficult.

In light of the above stated important educational and organizational objectives, and the challenges presented in attempting to prevent athletically motivated transfers, PIAA has adopted an approach that is intended to strongly discourage and deter students from transferring for athletic purposes. The Board of Directors recognizes that this approach may, on occasion, result in a presumption of ineligibility for students who may not have actually considered athletics as a factor in transferring, and may conversely not catch all students who actually considered athletics as a factor. Consequently, the following ARTICLE includes a provision which provides the Regional Panels and District Committees, within their respective jurisdictions, with the power, under appropriate circumstances, to change eligibility status to meet the objectives of this ARTICLE.

### **Section 1. Definition of Transfer.**

A transfer occurs in any situation in which a student seeks eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at a school other than the one at which the student was either enrolled or otherwise eligible.

A student who either enrolls at or otherwise seeks eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at a PIAA member school, other than the one at which the student was either enrolled or otherwise eligible, between the end of a school year and the first Practice day of fall sports for the next school year, as established under ARTICLE XVI, SEASON AND OUT-OF-SEASON RULES AND REGULATIONS, of the PIAA By-Laws, but who neither Practices with nor attends that member school, shall, unless a request for determination of eligibility relating to that enrollment has first been ruled upon by a Regional Panels or District Committee, within their respective jurisdictions, be deemed for purposes of this ARTICLE VI not to have transferred to that member school.

### **Section 2. Presumptive Eligibility.**

Subject to Section 4C of this ARTICLE, a transferring student is presumed to be eligible if the student meets one of the following provisions:

#### **A. Promotion.**

Promotion from a junior high/middle school to a senior high school is considered a transfer between schools. A student, who has not previously participated on a different senior high school Team in any sport, is eligible immediately for interscholastic athletics if the student:

1. has completed the highest grade of a public junior high/middle school and is thereupon promoted by the public school district to a public senior high school in the same public school district;
2. has completed the highest grade of a public or Private junior high/middle School and has enrolled in a Private senior high School;
3. has enrolled in the lowest grade of a public senior high school, after having completed the previous grade at a Private junior high/middle School; and/or
4. has enrolled in the lowest grade of a Private senior high School, after having completed the previous grade at a public junior high/middle school.

#### **B. Administrative Transfer.**

For administrative, non-disciplinary purposes, the student has been transferred by executive action initiated by school administrative personnel to a PIAA member school within the same public school district or, if previously enrolled at a Catholic school, within the same Archdiocese or Diocese. An expulsion does not constitute an administrative transfer under this subsection.

#### **C. Change of Residence of Parent(s).**

The student (1) has moved with and resides with the student's natural or, if legally adopted, the student's adoptive parents, or with either parent and (2) has transferred to a PIAA member school in the public school district in which the student now resides, or to a Private School.

Upon the separation of the student's natural or adoptive parents, the student has accompanied the parent departing from the family residence and resides with the departing parent in the public school district in which that parent establishes residence; and the student has transferred to a PIAA member school in the public school district in which the student now resides, or to a Private School.

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A student whose natural or adoptive parents are separated, and who has more than one transfer from a public school district where one parent resides to a public school district where the other parent resides, shall have the student's eligibility determined under Section 4 herein.

#### **D. Change of Residence of Legal Guardian(s).**

The student (1) has moved with and resides with legal guardian(s), appointed by order of a Court of Common Pleas; (2) has transferred to a PIAA member school in the public school district in which the student now resides, or to a Private School; and (3) the student's eligibility is approved by the Regional Panel or District Committee, within their respective jurisdictions. If the appointment of a legal guardian is pending, the student will be eligible when such eligibility is approved by the Regional Panel or District Committee.

### **E. Change of Residence of Foster Parent(s).**

The student (1) has moved with and resides with foster parents, with the approval of the local child welfare organization; and (2) has transferred to a PIAA member school in the public school district in which the student now resides, or to a Private School.

### **F. School Closing.**

The school where the student has attended is abolished.

### **G. Boarding School Student.**

The student has enrolled at, and resides on the campus of, a boarding school. **NOTE:** This relates only to transfers. Students who are placed by court order or as a result of disability must still meet the applicable requirements of ARTICLE III, ATTENDANCE, Section 1, Where Enrolled for Attendance, and Section 9, Students Placed by Court Order or as a Result of Disability, of the PIAA By-Laws.

### **Section 3. Ineligible Students.**

A student not presumptively eligible under Section 2 of this ARTICLE shall be presumptively ineligible to participate in each sport in which the student participated within one year immediately preceding the date of the student's transfer.

### **Section 4. Regional Panel or District Committee Review.**

#### **A. Certification of Principals.**

Notwithstanding Section 3 of this ARTICLE, a Regional Panel or District Committee, within their respective jurisdictions, may grant eligibility where the Principal of the PIAA member school at which the student enrolls submits to the Regional Panel or District Committee a completed and properly executed PIAA Athletic Transfer Waiver Request Form, which includes:

1. A certification from the Principal of the PIAA member school to which the student transferred that (a) that school's Principal has interviewed the transferring student and the Director of Athletics for that Principal's school; (b) none of the eleven illustrations set forth in Section 4E or the thirteen illustrations set forth in Section 6B of this ARTICLE are applicable; (c) the information from the PIAA member school to which the student transferred, as set forth on the PIAA Athletic Transfer Waiver Request form, is true and correct; and (d) upon completion of the investigation, the PIAA member school's Principal believes that the transfer was not materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose.
2. A certification from the Principal of the school from which the student transferred that (a) that school's Principal has interviewed the Director of Athletics for that Principal's school and, if possible, the transferring student; (b) none of the eleven illustrations set forth in Section 4E or the thirteen illustrations set forth in Section 6B of this ARTICLE are applicable; (c) the information from the school from which the student transferred, as set forth on the PIAA Athletic Transfer Waiver Request form, is true and correct; and (d) upon completion of the investigation, the school's Principal believes that the transfer was not materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose.

#### **B. Waiver of Ineligibility.**

**1. General Waiver.** A student who is not otherwise eligible under Section 2 of this ARTICLE may, through the Principal of the school at which the student seeks eligibility, request that the Regional Panel or District Committee, within their respective jurisdictions, waive the period of ineligibility in all sports. Said waiver shall not be granted if the Regional Panel or

District Committee finds that there exists a reasonable likelihood that the transfer was materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose relating to all sports or if such determination would otherwise circumvent the purpose of this ARTICLE of deterring transfers which are materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose. If granted, eligibility shall be effective as of the date of transfer.

**2. Partial Waiver.** A student who is not otherwise presumptively eligible under Section 2 of this ARTICLE may, through the Principal of the school at which the student seeks eligibility, also request that the Regional Panel or District Committee, within their respective jurisdictions, waive the period of ineligibility in those specific sports where the transfer was not materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose. Said waiver shall not be granted if the Regional Panel or District Committee finds that there exists a reasonable likelihood that the transfer was materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose relating to those sports or if such determination would otherwise circumvent the purpose of this ARTICLE of deterring transfers which are materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose. If granted, eligibility shall be effective as of the date of transfer.

#### **C. Review and Rescission of Presumptive Eligibility.**

Notwithstanding Section 2 of this ARTICLE, a Regional Panel or District Committee, within their respective jurisdictions, may, following a student's transfer and upon request of the Principal of a PIAA member school, or on its own initiative, after giving notice to the student's school and an opportunity to be heard to the student and the student's school, (1) declare any transferring student ineligible to participate in each sport in which that student participated within a period of one year immediately preceding the date of transfer, if the Committee finds that there exists a reasonable likelihood that the transfer was materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose or would otherwise circumvent the purpose of the ARTICLE of deterring transfers which are materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose; and/or (2) if a finding is specifically made that there exists a reasonable likelihood that the transfer was materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose relating to specific sports, declare that the student shall be ineligible to participate in those sports for one year from the date of transfer, regardless of whether the student actually participated in those sports for the year preceding the date of transfer.

A student who transfers again during the one-year period of ineligibility shall remain ineligible, in the applicable sports, until the conclusion of that year, unless the student is declared eligible under this Section.

**D. Transfers which are motivated in some material way by an athletic purpose** are those transfers which would not have occurred but for a desire of the student or the student's family (1) to gain additional playing time; (2) to play for a particular school, Coach, or Team; (3) to avoid either playing for, or athletic sanctions imposed by, a particular school, Coach, or Team; and/or (4) to gain increased media or college exposure. The following is an illustrative, but not exhaustive, list of situations which may indicate athletic purpose:

1. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, is dissatisfied with the 2009-2010 BY-LAWS student's position or the amount of playing time which the student receives.

2. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, has a problem with a Coach or school athletic administration at either a personal or professional level.

3. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks relief from conflict with the philosophy or action of an administrator or teacher relating to sports.

4. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks to avoid or nullify the effect of actions or anticipated actions by the previous school relating to sports eligibility.

5. There is no Team in the particular sport at the school from which the student has transferred.

6. The student follows the student's Coach or other student-athletes to another school to which the Coach or athletes have transferred or seeks to play for a particular Coach or with a particular athlete due to a prior relationship with the Coach or athlete (such as through club or AAU participation) or because of the reputation of the Coach.

7. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, desires that the student play on a less successful, smaller enrollment classification and/or lower profile Team in order to be ranked higher among the students on that Team.

8. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, desires that the student play on a more successful, larger enrollment classification and/or higher profile Team to gain a higher level of competition and/or more exposure to college scouts.

9. The student moves with one parent, one guardian, or one or more siblings, into a residence in the new public school district, especially where the student and/or the parent, guardian, or sibling returns to the family home in the evening and/or on weekends.

10. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks out Athletic Personnel and/or student-athletes at the transferee school.

11. The student transfers in the middle of a marking period and/or immediately before or after a sports season.

12. The student transfers immediately after being cut from a Team in a particular sport.

#### **Section 5. Feeder Schools for Private Schools.**

Any member Private senior high School may submit to PIAA a list designating its Feeder Schools. Such submission is necessary for the schools to be recognized as Feeder Schools for a particular school. The list of designated Feeder Schools shall be signed and submitted by the Principal and shall be certified as correct (a) in the case of Catholic schools under either Archdiocesan or Diocesan jurisdiction, by the Archdiocesan or Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, or (b) in the case of other member Private senior high Schools, by the Superintendent or by the President of the Board having jurisdiction over the member Private senior high School. Upon any change in its list of Feeder Schools, that member Private senior high School shall submit to PIAA a list of those changes, signed and certified in the same manner as is required for the original identification of its Feeder Schools. Upon submission, for purposes of the PIAA Constitution and By-Laws, this list shall constitute the schools in the member Private senior high School's "school district."

Where a Catholic junior high/middle School under either Archdiocesan or Diocesan jurisdiction disagrees with its being designated as a Feeder School for a particular member Private senior high School, or where such a school is designated as a Feeder School by multiple member Private senior high Schools, the designation(s) by the Archdiocesan or Diocesan Superintendent of Schools shall control. If any other Private junior high/middle School disagrees with it being designated as a Feeder School for a particular member Private senior high School, the Private junior high/middle School shall so designate the member Private senior high School(s) for which it is a Feeder School and such designation shall control.

For the purpose of providing for participation at a member Private senior high School of seventh and eighth grade students enrolled at Feeder Schools of that member Private senior high School, such Feeder Schools may collectively apply for membership as a single Private junior high/middle School. In such instance, PIAA shall recognize the Principal of that member Private senior high School as the Principal of the collective member Private junior high/middle School created for this purpose.

#### **Section 6. Recruiting.**

One of the purposes of this ARTICLE is to deter recruiting which is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose. Recruiting for athletic purposes is directly contrary to fundamental interests of PIAA and its member schools and any school engaged in such conduct should do so with the expectation that it will be treated harshly upon proof of such conduct. Recruiting which is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose is contrary to the fundamental objectives of (1) keeping athletics in their proper place and subordinate to academics; (2) protecting student-athletes from "exploitation" by adults and those having interests which might not be consistent with those of the student; and (3) maintaining competitive equity and a level playing field among PIAA member schools.

Recruiting which is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose is defined as efforts by a school, or any of its employees, agents, or representatives, to engage in, support, or condone conduct whereby a motivating factor is to seek out one or more athletes to attend a particular school; to promote a school's athletic program or personnel other than as part of the overall program at the school; and/or, to provide preferential treatment or attention to prospective enrollees who are athletes.

**A.** Upon a Regional Panel's or District Committee's, within their respective jurisdictions, receipt of: either (1) a signed complaint from the Principal of a PIAA member school, or (2) otherwise credible information that (a) a representative of a school's Athletic Personnel, or any other person affiliated with the school, influenced, persuaded, or attempted to influence or persuade one or more students, or one or more parents or guardians of such student(s), or an adult with whom the student(s) reside, to transfer to, or otherwise obtain athletic eligibility at, that school for the purpose of participating in athletics at that school, or (b) the school, its Athletic Personnel and/or individuals affiliated with the school in other ways engaged in recruiting of students for an athletic purpose, the Regional Panel or District Committee shall give notice to the school of such complaint or credible information and shall convene a hearing to consider whether any such individuals or the school, by itself or through its Athletic Personnel or other

persons affiliated with the school, has engaged in recruiting of students for the purpose of participating in athletics.

**B.** The following is an illustrative, but not exhaustive, list of situations which may indicate recruiting which is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose:

1. Placing an advertisement in a newspaper or other literature directed toward prospective recruits touting the athletic successes of a school's Teams and/or students.

**NOTE:** A comprehensive brochure or comparable piece of literature discussing all or most aspects of the school, BY-LAWS 2009-2010

including, but not focusing on, the athletic program, will not be deemed to constitute recruiting for an athletic purpose.

2. Providing a student-athlete of another school, including a lower level school, other than a Feeder School of that senior high school, with free transportation, tickets, or admissions to a Contest, unless such free transportation, tickets, or admissions are made available to all students, or to all students at the same school, or to all students in the same grade level at the same school. To promote interest in youth sports programs, member senior high schools may also provide free, or reduced-price, admission to Contests for all members of youth sports Teams, provided that public senior high schools make such offer only to Teams based within the geographic boundaries of their public school district and member Private senior high Schools make such offer only to Teams affiliated with that school's sponsoring entities or organization(s) or where at least 50% of the Team members attend a Feeder School for that member Private senior high School.

3. Using AAU or other amateur athletic Coaches to steer students to a particular school.

4. Offering, to an athlete, scholarships or financial aid that is not available to other students at the school.

5. Encouraging the parents or relatives of an athlete attending a school, other than a Feeder School of that senior high school, to influence the student to enroll at that school to play sports there.

6. Promising playing time or a position on a Team to a student.

7. Meeting with athletes of a school, other than a Feeder School of that member senior high school, individually or as a group, to encourage them to enroll at a particular school.

**NOTE:** This does not prohibit meeting with students who attend a school open house, which is open to all potential enrollees of that school. This also does not prohibit school personnel from visiting non-Feeder Schools of that member senior high school and speaking with entire classes, which may include athletes. The use of Athletic Personnel to engage in visits to non-Feeder Schools of a member senior high school is not prohibited but may be determined, following a hearing, to be recruiting for an athletic purpose if a focus of the appearance was on athletics, athletes, or promotion of the Athletic Personnel's role as a Coach or member or representative of the athletic department.

8. Providing transportation or other inducements to any prospective student-athlete to take a qualifying examination at a school or to meet with school officials, unless such opportunities are provided to all students at a particular school or grade level.

9. Athletic Personnel of a member senior high school directly, or through another person, encouraging a student or the parents of a student attending a school, other than a Feeder School of that member senior high school, to have the student enroll at the school of the Athletic Personnel.

**NOTE:** This restriction does not prohibit school personnel from responding to purely student - or student family - initiated inquiries to the personnel about athletic programs at the school.

10. Providing any item with school advertisement (such as shirts, pennants, caps, jackets, etc.) unless such offer is made to all students of a particular school or class.

11. Athletic Personnel of a member senior high school attending a lower level school Contest and, immediately before, during, or after the Contest, speaking to or with the players from one or both Teams. The Athletic Personnel are, however, permitted to speak to or with players from a Feeder School of the Athletic Personnel's school. **NOTE:** This restriction does not prohibit Athletic Personnel from simply attending and observing any Contest nor does it prohibit Athletic Personnel from having contact with students on a Team, if the Athletic Personnel's son(s) and/or daughter(s) is (are) on that Team.

12. Participation by a student in non-school athletics (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club settings, etc.) on a Team that is affiliated with any school other than the school which the student attends, or attended the prior year, followed by a transfer by that student to the affiliated school. A Team affiliated with a school is one that is organized by and/or coached by any member of the Coaching staff at, or any other person affiliated with, that school; and/or on which the majority of the members of the Team (participants in Practice and/or competition) are students who attend that school.

13. Organizing, leading, or participating in a sports camp or clinic or speaking at a sports banquet or function are not, by themselves, considered to be recruiting for an athletic purpose. However, if the Athletic Personnel involved in the camp, clinic, or speech use the opportunity to promote their own school, such effort may be deemed to constitute recruiting for an athletic purpose.

**C.** If the Regional Panel or District Committee, within their respective jurisdictions, finds that the school, a representative of the school's Athletic Personnel, or any other person, affiliated with the school, approached a student, or a parent or guardian of that student, or an adult with whom that student resides, and attempted to influence and/or influenced that student to transfer to that school for the purpose of participating in athletics at that school, or otherwise engaged in recruiting which is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose, the offending school will be subject to any of the penalties described in ARTICLE XIII, PENALTIES, of the PIAA By-Laws.

**D.** Any person determined to have engaged in recruiting which is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose shall be disqualified from Coaching any athletic Teams of PIAA members for a period of at least one year.

**Section 7. Students who Remain in Present School Following Change of Residence of Student, Parent(s), or Guardian(s).**

A student who remains in the student's present school after the student, the student's parent(s), legal guardian(s), or foster parent(s), as applicable, has changed residence to another public school district shall retain eligibility at that school until the end of the school year in which such change of residence occurs.

**INTERPRETATIONS**

**October 22, 1960; as amended January 31, 2004.**

A student who, upon release from a correctional institution to which the student was assigned by the court, returns to the school of the student's home public school district, is eligible immediately.

**December 2, 1983.**

A student who transfers to and attends a school upon the affidavit of a resident of the public school district is subject to ARTICLE VI to the same extent as any other student.

**Section 1. April 1, 1950; as amended January 31, 2004.**

A student who takes summer school courses is not considered to have transferred.

**Section 1. December 28, 1966; as amended July 25, 2008.**

A student enrolled on a full-time basis in a high school, who takes college courses on a part-time basis, is not considered to have transferred because of taking the college courses.

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**ARTICLE VII**

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, AND FOREIGN STUDENTS**

**Section 1. Foreign Exchange Student.**

A Foreign Exchange Student is a student who:

1. is in the United States (US) on a US Department of State-issued J-1 visa;
2. is a participant in a program that has been recognized by the US Department of State, and has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET);
3. is assigned to a host family by a method that ensures that no student, or the student's parents, school, or other interested party materially influences that assignment in some way for an athletic purpose;
4. is not selected or placed on any basis relating to the student's athletic abilities or interests;
5. does not reside with any member of the school's paid or voluntary Coaching staff, who Coaches a sport or sports in which the student will participate;
6. meets the requirements of ARTICLE I (the Age Rule) and ARTICLE V (the Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation [CIPPE] Rule) of the PIAA By-Laws; and
7. is in full-time attendance at a PIAA member school.

**INTERPRETATION**

**Section 1. October 4, 2003.**

A US Department of State-issued Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status (DS-2019) is deemed to be the equivalent of a J-1 visa for Canadian nationals.

**Section 2. International Student.**

An International Student is a student who:

1. is in the United States (US) on a US Immigration

- and Naturalization Service-issued F-1 visa;
2. enters the US for reasons that are not materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose;
3. does not reside with any member of the school's paid or voluntary Coaching staff, who Coaches a sport or sports in which the student will participate;
4. meets the requirements of ARTICLE I (the Age Rule) and ARTICLE V (the Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation [CIPPE] Rule) of the PIAA By-Laws; and
5. is in full-time attendance at a PIAA member school.

**Section 3. Foreign Exchange Student/International Student Eligibility Agreement.**

A Foreign Exchange Student or International Student becomes eligible for a period of one year at the PIAA member school which the student attends upon the determination of the PIAA District Committee having jurisdiction over that school that:

1. the student is a Foreign Exchange Student or International Student as defined above; and
2. the student and the host parents, on behalf of the student, have executed and submitted to the District Committee the official "PIAA Foreign Exchange Student/International Student Eligibility Agreement", and required accompanying documents (applicable visa and completed PIAA CIPPE Form), by which the student and the host parents, on behalf of the student, each agrees that the student's eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at any PIAA member school shall end at the conclusion of the student's one-year of eligibility.

**Section 4. Ineligible Students.**

Notwithstanding any provision of ARTICLE VI, a student who receives one-year of eligibility under this ARTICLE VII shall thereafter be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at that or any other PIAA member school.

**Section 5. American Dependencies and Foreign Students.**

**A. American Dependencies.**

Students from American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and other dependencies of the United States, are neither Foreign Exchange Students nor International Students. Said students must meet all PIAA eligibility provisions.

**B. Foreign Students.**

A resident of a foreign country who transfers to a PIAA member school but who does not meet the requirements in Section 1 or Section 2 above is considered a Foreign Student. Foreign Students must meet all PIAA eligibility provisions.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**PERIOD OF PARTICIPATION**

**Preamble**

Generally, students are provided the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics for a four-year period which begins at the conclusion of their eighth grade year and ends four years later, regardless of whether the student advances academically or actually participates in interscholastic athletics during this period. The purposes of this limitation are as follows: (1) to provide basic equality of potential eligibility among athletes as each student is afforded the same basic number of semesters of potential athletic eligibility without regard to the number of years it takes the student to complete the high school curriculum; (2) to permit a greater number of students the opportunity to start and play interscholastic athletics; and (3) to discourage athletic

red-shirting, the practice of holding students back in grades so that they will gain more experience, size, and ability before graduating from high school.

In light of the important purposes of this ARTICLE, and the fact that granting additional eligibility to students will almost always result in denial of playing opportunities for other students, waivers of the Semester Rule are very sparingly granted and permitted only under the most exceptional of circumstances. Illnesses and injuries sustained which only affect a student's ability to participate in athletics will not be considered. This ARTICLE is not intended to authorize athletic red-shirts simply because a student is unable to participate in a season due to injury or illness, nor are waivers intended to reward illegal or improper conduct.

#### **Section 1. Period of Participation.**

A student shall not represent the student's school in interscholastic athletics if the student has:

- A.** Reached the end of the student's fourth consecutive year (8th consecutive semester or the equivalent) beyond the 8th grade year, without regard to the student's period of attendance;
- B.** Participated in six seasons beyond the sixth grade or four seasons beyond the eighth grade in any sport; or
- C.** Completed the work of grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve, inclusive.

#### **INTERPRETATION**

##### **Section 1C. February 8, 1991.**

An individual who has received a G.E.D., who enrolls in school for the purpose of obtaining a high school diploma, and who returns that individual's G.E.D. to the G.E.D. Office, is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics provided the student is eligible in all other respects.

##### **Section 2. When a Student Participates in a Season.**

A student is considered as representing the student's school during a particular season in a sport only if the student has participated in a Regular Season or Postseason Contest in that sport.

##### **Section 3. Student Entering at Mid-Year.**

A student who enters school in the second semester and plays two part seasons in the same sport in separate school

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**20** years, shall be considered as playing the equivalent of one season.

##### **Section 4. What Constitutes a Semester.**

The first half of the total number of school days in a school term shall constitute the first semester; the second half shall constitute the second semester. Athletically, the first semester shall continue until such time as the second semester actually begins.

##### **Section 5. Continuing Eligibility.**

A student who has used all remaining eligibility may retain eligibility for any portion of that athletic schedule not completed by the end of the semester in which the student was eligible, provided the student is eligible in all other respects.

#### **INTERPRETATION**

##### **Section 5. May 21, 1981.**

A student who graduates from high school prior to completion of the athletic season of a sport in which the student is participating remains eligible in that sport for any portion of its athletic season not completed by the time of the student's graduation, provided the student is eligible in all other respects.

#### **Section 6. Waiver of Sections 1A and/or 1B.**

**A. Illness or Injury:** The District Committee may waive Sections 1A and/or 1B in cases of illness or injury which meet all of the following requirements: (1) causes at least 60 days of absence from school during the school year which is to be repeated, or 45 school days of the semester which is to be repeated; (2) causes the student to be confined to an institution and/or at home for at least 60 school days during the school year which is to be repeated, or 45 school days of the semester which is to be repeated, (3) necessitates repeating a school year or semester, and, for a waiver of Section 1B, (4) the student participated in fewer than 25% of the maximum number of Regular Season Contests in the sport during the repeated school year or semester. No more than two semesters may be waived by the District Committee.

**B. Severe and Unusual Personal Hardship:** The District Committee may waive Sections 1A and/or 1B in cases where a student demonstrates that the student repeated a school year or semester for a reason beyond the student's control, which produced severe and unusual environmental, social, and/or emotional conditions which, in turn created a debilitating personal non-athletic hardship which would have prevented a reasonable student under similar circumstances from satisfactorily completing a school year or semester. No more than two semesters may be waived by the District Committee. In considering a request pursuant to this provision, the District Committee shall apply the following:

1. A waiver may not be granted under this provision for any semester in which the student actually participated in more than 25% of the maximum number of Regular Season Contests in the sport during the repeated school year or semester.
2. A waiver of Section 1B may not be granted under this provision unless the student participated in fewer than 25% of the maximum number of Regular Season Contests in the sport during the repeated school year or semester.
3. A repeat of a semester or grade to remedy academic difficulties or failures is not, by itself, considered grounds for a waiver under this provision. However, severe and unusual debilitating external circumstances beyond the student's control which can be demonstrated to have caused the academic failure may be considered if the student demonstrates that he or she, and the student's family, exercised objectively reasonable efforts during the year or semester repeated to address the academic deficiencies.
4. A medical, emotional, or psychological condition diagnosed based on observations and information obtained subsequent to the repeated year or semester will not be considered as a basis for waiver unless the student and/or the student's family, during the repeated year or semester, took reasonable steps based on the knowledge possessed by them during that period to seek out appropriate diagnosis and medical treatment for the condition.
5. A waiver may not be granted if there is any evidence of athletic red-shirting, as defined in the Preamble to this ARTICLE.
6. A waiver may not be granted where the repeat of a year or semester is the result of a voluntary action by a family, even if the decision is for otherwise sound personal or academic reasons, such as to allow the student to mature

or improve academically.

7. In situations where a student asserts that a repeated year or semester was the result of a psychological or emotional condition, the District Committee may consider the severity of the condition in relation to the student population in general to assess whether the condition is severe, unusual, and debilitating.

8. Economic difficulty and/or residence in a single parent home are, by themselves, unfortunate but not of such an unusual nature in today's society as to support a waiver of this provision.

**C.** A waiver may not be granted under this ARTICLE if the repeat of the school year or semester results from illegal conduct on the part of the student, or conduct that resulted in expulsion. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, a District Committee may grant a waiver to a student who repeats a semester or year due to the student's admission to and confinement in a substance abuse treatment facility, provided that such admission was voluntary and without the student having been so admitted pursuant to a criminal conviction, adjudication, or court order. This exception is intended to encourage recognition of serious substance abuse problems and voluntary efforts to address those problems.

**D.** The District Committee may waive Section 1A in cases where a student, as part of a recognized foreign student program, attended a school in a foreign country which did not offer an interscholastic athletic program.

**NOTE:** So that the District Committee may make a timely and informed decision, it is requested that the Principal notify the District Committee whenever a situation dictates a possible request for additional eligibility.

#### **Section 7. Yearly Season Limitation.**

To promote participation by a broader number of students and to encourage participation by a student in a variety of sports, a student may participate only in one (1) season in each sport during each school year.

#### **INTERPRETATIONS**

**April 1, 1950; as amended January 31, 2004; and July 25, 2008.**

A student who takes summer school courses is not considered to have used a semester of eligibility.

**March 20, 1965; as amended July 24, 2009.**

Except as provided in ARTICLE XII, ATHLETIC RELATIONS, Section 1B and ARTICLE XIV, COACHES, Section 2, What Constitutes Coaching, of the PIAA By-Laws, no person who has graduated or withdrawn from high school is eligible to participate in Practices, Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests.

**Section 5. May 21, 1981.**

A student who graduates from high school prior to completion of the athletic season of a sport in which the student is participating remains eligible in that sport for any portion of its 2009-2010 BY-LAWS

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athletic season not completed by the time of the student's graduation, provided the student is eligible in all other respects.

**NOTE:** This modifies the Interpretation of March 20, 1965.

**Sections 1A and 6A. April 14, 1984.**

Pregnancy shall be treated as an illness if a physician certifies, in writing, that the student was unable to attend school as a result of pregnancy.

## **ARTICLE IX REPRESENTATION**

### **Section 1. Eligibility of Students who Participated in a Collegiate Scrimmage or Contest.**

No person who has participated in an athletic competition with or against a team sponsored by a college shall be eligible to participate in an interscholastic Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, and/or Contest in that sport. Students do not lose eligibility to participate in an interscholastic Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, and/or Contest in a sport if they, on an individual basis and as a private citizen, enter and participate in an athletic competition which is open to all persons, including collegiate athletes.

### **Section 2. All-Star Contests .**

All-star Contests are those Contests in which students participate as individuals and not as members of their school Teams, and (1) the Contests are advertised or promoted as allstar Contests, and/or (2) the students selected to participate are chosen based upon reputation of the athletes or recommendation and/or referral by other persons. Such all-star Contests are not viewed with favor by PIAA as they promote certain participants to the detriment of others and they tend to arbitrarily and subjectively reward students for performance, both of which are contrary to the objectives of cultivating good sportsmanship and preventing unfair competitive advantages to participants. Therefore, students participating in Contests which are advertised or promoted as all-star Contests and/or in which students are selected based upon reputation of the athletes and/or recommendation or referral by other persons shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics in the involved sport(s) for a period of one year from the date of such participation.

Contests are not considered to be all-star Contests, and participation will not result in a loss of eligibility, if (1) the Contest is not advertised or promoted as an all-star Contest; (2) the Contest is open to all students or to all students in the same grade level or students are selected to participate based upon try-outs or a uniform standard of qualification (such as certified minimum times for a swimming or track event); and (3) students participating in such Contests do not represent their school in the Contests and do not wear any school-affiliated uniform and/or apparel in the Contests.

#### **INTERPRETATION**

**Section 2. May 12, 2001.**

The loss of eligibility in a sport provided under ARTICLE IX, Section 2, does not affect those students who have exhausted their eligibility in that sport at the time the loss provided in ARTICLE IX, Section 2 would otherwise occur. This relates almost exclusively to seniors.

### **Section 3. Multiple Teams at Same Level of Competition.**

If a PIAA member school sponsors more than one Team in a sport at the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition, a student is eligible to participate on only one of those Teams in any season. A student may transfer from a Team at one level of competition to a Team at another level of competition but, after the first Regular Season Contest in that sport, shall not be transferred, either directly or by means of an intermediate transfer between levels of competition, from one Team to another at the same level of competition.

A PIAA member school is not prohibited from temporarily dividing one or more of its Teams into parts, such as (1) to

permit participation of members of the Team in a Regular Season Contest or Tournament while the remainder of the Team participates in another Regular Season Contest or Tournament on the same day, or (2) to enter two Teams in the same Regular Season Tournament. Such participation by the temporarily divided Team shall constitute two separate Regular Season Contests or Tournaments and shall count against the maximum permitted number of Regular Season Contests for that Team.

**Section 4. Eligibility of Teams and Multiple Individuals for Championship Contests.**

A PIAA member school which does not sponsor during the Regular Season a Team which participates in at least 50% of the maximum permitted number of Regular Season Contests in a sport shall be ineligible to enter a Team in that sport in the District or Inter-District Championship Contests, to receive a Team score in that sport in District or Inter-District Championship Contests, and to enter in that sport in the District or Inter-District Championship Contests any Athletic Event which requires the participation of more than one individual, including but not limited to relay Teams and doubles tennis Teams.

This provision is waived if (1) the school scheduled at least 50% of the maximum permitted number of Regular Season Contests in a sport; and (2) the Team ultimately participated in at least 33.3% of the maximum permitted number of Regular Season Contests in a sport.

**Section 5. Eligibility of Students for Championship Contests.**

A student who participates as an individual or as a member of a Team in a sport in an athletic program other than that of the student's school, who is enrolled at a school having a Team in that sport, shall be ineligible to participate in the District or Inter-District Championship Contests in that sport unless the student has been in uniform and available to participate as a member of the student's school Team in that sport for at least 75% of the Contests occurring within the period of time beginning with that Team's first Regular Season Contest and ending with its last Regular Season Contest. Where the failure to meet the 75% requirement results, in part, from reasons other than participation on the non-school Team, the Principal may waive such absences, provided that the student was otherwise in uniform and available to participate in at least 50% of the total number of the Team's Regular Season Contests.

With regard to Practices for the period of time beginning with the Team's first Contest and ending with its last Contest of the Regular Season, the Principal of each school shall determine whether Practice in the athletic program other than that of the student's school meets the Practice requirements of that school. If it does not, the student shall be ineligible to participate in the District or Inter-District Championship Contests in that sport.