

Article V
ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES*

Section 1

A student, to be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a member school, must be enrolled in that school and must meet all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations, of the NJSIAA.

CL 1: Students being home-schooled (by parents or other parties) may be eligible if the local Board of Education has approved their participation and the requirements of the Homeschool Guidelines have been satisfied. Properly enrolled students on Home Instruction provided by the Board of Education are eligible if the student satisfies Section 4E. (Refer to NJSIAA Guidelines, Policies and Procedures).

Section 2

Amateur-Athlete – An amateur-athlete is one who participates in athletics solely for the physical, mental, social and educational benefits derived from such participation. The amateur-athlete treats all athletic activities in which he/she participates as an avocational endeavor. One who takes or has taken pay, or has accepted the promise of pay, in any form, for participation in athletics or has directly or indirectly used his/her athletic skill for pay in any form shall not be considered an amateur and will not be eligible for high school interscholastic athletics in the State of New Jersey.

The following are the basic interpretations of the principles' involved in the amateur code which may lead to the loss of an athlete's eligibility:

- A. Participation in any athletic activity under an assumed name. Being guilty of any act of fraud, subterfuge, or, other sharp practice relative to this principal.
- B. Accepting pay or material remuneration for a display of athletic ability.

- C. Any student who signs or has ever signed a contract to play professional athletics (whether for a money consideration or not); plays or has ever played on any professional team in any sport; receives or has ever received directly or indirectly, a salary or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization or any of his/her expenses for reporting to or visiting a professional team is no longer an amateur as defined by this code.
- D. A Student-Athlete may participate as an individual, or as a member of a team against professional athletes, or as a member of a team on which there are some professionals who are not currently under contract with a professional team and are not receiving payment for their participation; but he/she may not participate on a professional team.
- E. A Student-Athlete may work as a counselor in a summer camp, lifeguard, swimming pool attendant and swimming instructor for children without affecting his/her eligibility under the terms of this principle; he/she may work in a tennis or golf shop provided he/she does not give instruction for compensation, and he/she may obtain employment with a recreation department, his/her duties to include some officiating and coaching responsibilities; however, he/she may not be employed as an athletic coach.
- F. If a Student-Athlete's appearance on radio or television is related in any way to his/her athletic ability or prestige, the athlete may not under any circumstances receive remuneration for his/her appearance. Under such circumstances, however, an athlete may appear on a sponsored radio or television program or have his/her name appear in newsprint ads or in player of the week, month or year advertisement promoting products provided he/she does not endorse or imply endorsement of any commercial product.
- G. Individual interscholastic awards and similar mementos to Student- Athletes should be limited to those approved by the local Board of Education, in keeping with traditional high school requirements which are basically symbolical in nature, i.e., letters, sweaters, jackets, pins, trophies, other similar type awards, and rings or watches which are properly inscribed. No other award of any monetary value may be granted to any athletes without prior approval by the Board of Education and NJSIAA.
- H. No awards shall be given to an athlete by anyone other than his/her own Board of Education, unless prior approval of the NJSIAA and the Board of Education is obtained.
- I. A student-athlete may accept a monetary award under the United States Olympic Committee's "Operation Gold" program without compromising his/her eligibility for NJSIAA competition. Operation Gold awards athletes for top-place finishes in a sport's most competitive international competition of the year.
- J. A student-athlete who participates in non-NJSIAA sponsored events may receive reasonable travel, meal, and lodging expenses. A student-athlete may accept items with a monetary value not to exceed \$250.00.

Section 3

Reinstatement of Amateur Eligibility – The Executive Committee of the NJSIAA is the only body that may reinstate a Student-Athlete of a member school to eligibility status under the provisions of the organization's Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations. In cases where the Executive Committee has determined that a Student-Athlete inadvertently participated in an activity that has caused his/her loss of eligibility, the Executive Committee may reinstate said athlete after a period of not less than one year. An application for reinstatement must be made in writing by the high school Principal to the Executive Committee and shall include all data pertinent to the case.

Section 4

Eligibility Requirements – Eligibility rules herewith stated shall apply to all freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity teams involved in interscholastic athletic competition.

Ineligibility Lists – Member schools must submit an affidavit of ineligible students to the Executive Director of the NJSIAA annually for each of the three seasons prior to the beginning of those seasons. This form, signed by the Principal, will certify that any and all students listed do not meet the eligibility requirements of the NJSIAA. This affidavit should be based on carefully compiled lists of ineligible student/athletes for all sports in that season which are on file in each member school and in the event of any questions, are available upon request by other member schools and/or appropriate NJSIAA officials. Schools may use their own form as long as all the information is provided on that form.

CL: This record must be compiled prior to the student's participation in the first interschool scrimmage or game in that sport and kept on file in the Principal's office. Schools are reminded that determining eligibility or ineligibility must be based on the following: (a) name of the student/athletes, (b) date of birth, (c) documentary proof of age (birth certificate, baptismal certificate, insurance policy or school record), (d) date of first enrollment in 9th grade, and (e) school from which student transferred, if such transfer was effected during the current or just past school year, (f) credits passed previous year (first semester eligibility) or previous semester (second semester eligibility), and (g) participation prior to entry into the 9th grade.

- A. **Eligibility Certification** – Upon the request of the Executive Director, schools must furnish him/her with lists of ineligible student/athletes for their various teams, containing such information as he may deem necessary.
- B. **Eligibility Responsibility** – The Principal of a school is responsible for the observance of the eligibility rules contained in this Article and for the entire program of his/her member school.

CL: It is local option for schools to permit ineligible students to practice or compete in interscholastic scrimmages while ineligible for regular or post-season games. [Scrimmages refer to pre-season scrimmages only and not scrimmages during the regular season or post-season for those sports that allow such.] Such practices will count to satisfy the six (6) days practice rule. The above is applicable provided the school meets the medical examination and parental permission as required by the State Board of Education.

- C. **Age** – An athlete becomes ineligible for high school athletics if he/she attains the age of nineteen prior to September 1. However, any athlete attaining age nineteen (19) on or after September 1 shall be eligible for the ensuing school year. A birth certificate, issued at the time of birth, is the normal proof of age; in the absence of this, other proofs may be used. The records used will be baptismal records or the earliest school records.

CL 1: Junior High/9th Grade regulations provide that a student becomes ineligible for 9th grade athletics if they reach age sixteen (16) prior to September 1 of that school year. However, said students may participate above the 9th grade athletic level based upon a waiver as set forth in CL 4 noted below.

CL 2: The following evidence of proof of age can be used when the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state of birth reports no records exist:

- a. Birth certificate.*
- b. Affidavit of attending physician.*
- c. Documentary evidence, such as family record of birth in Bible, certificate of arrival in the United States, or a passport.*
- d. Public school records, school, state or national census records.*
- e. Baptismal certificate.*

CL 3: This requirement will not be waived for the sole reason that a student was born day(s), week(s), or month(s) just prior to September 1.

CL 4: In order to assure the opportunity for eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility, member schools may request waivers to permit students who are enrolled in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades and who are otherwise academically eligible, to participate on the junior varsity or varsity teams where such students will be sixteen (16) years of age or older upon entrance into the 9th grade prior to September 1st. Guidance Departments/School Administrators of elementary schools should provide the Athletic Director with ages of all students so they can be assured of four (4) years of eligibility prior to becoming ineligible at age nineteen.

D. Athletic Recruitment – Athletic recruitment is prohibited.

1. Athletic recruitment is contrary to the purposes and objectives of high school sports. Prohibiting athletic recruitment helps to keep athletics in its proper place and subordinate to academics; protects student-athletes from those having interests that might not be consistent with the interests of the student-athletes; and maintains competitive equity on a level playing field among member schools.
2. Athletic recruitment is defined as any effort to, proselytize, pressure, urge or entice a student to enroll in or transfer to a school for athletic purposes. It is a violation for a member school to engage in athletic recruitment or for a student-athlete to enroll in or transfer to a school as a result of athletic recruitment. Athletic recruitment includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Using mail, letters, brochures, or news media to compare high schools and to solely point out the athletic assets of the sender;
 - b. Engaging in proselytizing interviews, initiated by school personnel or associates;
 - c. Offering athletic scholarships, free tuition or other monetary assistance, either from the school directly or indirectly through some affiliated body or individual, to induce a student to attend the school for athletic reasons.
3. A member school shall be responsible for athletic recruitment by anyone associated with the school or acting at the direction of the school, including but not limited to administration, staff, coaches, students, parents, booster clubs, or any organization having a connection with the school.
4. Any evidence of recruiting by a member school shall subject the school to a hearing before the Controversies Committee. A school that is found to have violated the athletic recruitment rule shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Art. X

5. Any evidence of a student-athlete enrolling in or transferring to a school as a result of athletic recruitment shall subject the student-athlete to a prompt determination of eligibility by the Eligibility Appeals Committee. A student-athlete who is found to have violated the athletic recruitment rule shall be subject to a one year period of ineligibility in all sports, except that the student-athlete may return to his/her original school without penalty.

E. Credits

1. To be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester (September 1 to January 31) a pupil must have passed 25% of the credits (30) required by the State of New Jersey for graduation (120), during the immediately preceding academic year.
2. To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester (Feb. 1 to June 30), a pupil must have passed the equivalent of 12¹/₂% of the credits (15) required by New Jersey for graduation (120) at the close of the preceding semester (Jan. 31). Full-year courses shall be equated as one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.

CL 1: The NJSIAA does not establish grading policies or standards for granting credits. The local school's Board of Education has the exclusive authority to address such matters within the parameters of the State Board of Education guidelines. Therefore, the NJSIAA will not waive, either the standards set by a member school or the minimum standards set forth in Article V, Section 4.E except as provided in Section 4.F (1).

CL 2: The credit status of a transferred student, determined by the previous school, may not be changed by the present school.

CL 3: There is no provision for make-up work for credits for second semester.

CL 4: Waivers will not be considered for a senior who does not attain 15 credits and who fails a subject in his/her first semester, unless that senior is passing all subjects in the subsequent marking period. The student must be on track for graduation and passing all classes during the third marking period.

CL 5: An athlete who is ineligible under Article V, Section 4.E(2) may become eligible for the remainder of the spring sports season on May 1, if he/she meets the requirements of Article V, Section 4E(2) as of that date.

Note: In order for a 9th, 10th, or 11th grader to become eligible per CL 5, the student must be passing all courses taken during the 3rd marking period and accumulated 22.50 credits when grades are averaged for marking periods 1, 2, and 3. 22.50 credits after three (3) marking periods puts the student-athlete on track to obtain the required 30 credits at the end of the school year.

3. The above paragraph 1 shall not apply to incoming students from grammar school (8th grade).
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph 1 and 2 above, a pupil who is eligible at the beginning of a sports season shall be allowed to finish that season.

CL 1: According to regulations of the New Jersey State Board of Education, credit must be assigned equally to all secondary school courses. Thus, courses which at one time were considered "minor,"

e.g. Physical education, art, music, industrial arts, etc., must be included in the determination of academic requirements.

CL 2: Graduation Requirements – The provisions of Article V, Section 4.E (1) and (2) of the Bylaws will not be waived even though a school allows a student to carry only those courses necessary to meet minimal graduation diploma credit requirements.

- a. If a student has received a diploma, he/she is ineligible. However, he/she may continue to represent his/her school until the official end of that semester—either January 31 or June 30.*
- b. If a student has left school, but re-enrolls, he/she will be eligible thirty (30) calendar days from the date of re-enrollment.*
- c. If a student has continued enrollment while absent from school, he/she will be eligible provided he/she is enrolled in and attends at least one course.*

CL 3: It is recognized that students may accelerate their academic programs during their first three years of secondary schooling. Consequently, such students may be eligible in the second semester of their senior year even when they carry less than 12½% of the State minimum (15 credits) during the first semester provided they are meeting their school district's graduation requirements and are passing all courses in which they are enrolled at the start of the first semester. Seniors who withdraw from courses with a passing grade (WP) will be eligible provided they are carrying sufficient credits for graduation purposes.

CL 4: When a student does not fail a course and/or withdraws passing and is unable to pass the required credits for reasons not under the control of the student, or the school, a waiver shall be granted. A student who enters from an out-of-state school or a foreign country that has passed all courses in which the student is enrolled, meets the requirements of this Section.

CL 5: Students receiving credits for courses at their previous school may use those credits to satisfy the credit requirements for athletic eligibility even though the present school does not grant credit for same. Such a situation is acceptable only on an immediate basis at the time of the transfer. The student subsequently becomes subject to the requirements of the present school.

CL 6: An athlete, whose education is interrupted after his/her entrance into the 9th grade (4 or 6 yr. high school) or 10th grade (3 yr. high school) and who does not pass the required courses as provided for in Article V, Section 4.E (1) and (2) of the Bylaws at the end of the semester, upon being readmitted at the beginning of the next semester, is ineligible for failure to meet the requirements of this section.

Exceptions to this rule are returned servicemen/servicewomen who have been honorably discharged and cases of unavoidable absence due to illness. Substance abuse is not considered as unavoidable absence due to illness; when illegal substance is the reason for not passing the required credits, a waiver will not be granted.

CL 7: An athlete who is ineligible under Article V, Section 4.E (1), may become eligible for the remainder of the winter sports season on February 1 if he/she meets the requirements of Article V, Section 4.E (2).

CL 8: Any summer work for makeup purposes for failed courses, completed and approved by the school before the sixth school day, in the Fall semester, may be used for eligibility purposes.

CL 9: A student eligible to represent his/her school in Winter Sports may continue to do so until the end of that season.

CL 10: A passing grade for a semester can only be used once for eligibility purposes. A student who has a semester's passing grade in a subject may not repeat that subject during a later semester and use it for eligibility purposes.

F. Handicapped/Classified Students

1. Course Waiver – All handicapped/classified students, as defined by the New Jersey State Department of Education, defined as Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-(IDEA), shall comply with the athletic eligibility rules and regulations of the NJSIAA (with the exception of Section 4.E of this Article V re: Credits), and in addition the student must have evidence of the following:
 - a. Parents, or guardians, must give consent for such competitive experience.
 - b. The Child Study Team must certify that the student successfully completed the I.E.P. in the previous year/semester commensurate with the student's ability. Final approval for participation must be given by the Principal.

CL 1: A student who is initially classified after failing to have satisfied the provisions of Section 4.E Credits (30 or 15) cannot regain eligibility until the Child Study Team has monitored that classified student for a semester/90 school days.

CL 2: Courses cannot be waived for ADA or 504 students.

- c. The medical inspector of the school district must certify that the youth has physical ability to compete equally with other participants.
2. Definition – Since handicapped or “disabled” children (as defined in this section) are not subject to Section 4.E of this Article V, the academic credit rule, it is important that schools understand what children may be eligible.
 - a. Any handicapped child must be in a program approved by the State Department of Education for handicapped children.
 - b. Any handicapped child must be classified as such by an examiner approved by the State Department of Education.
 - c. Any handicapped child must be approved by the local Child Study Team to attend regular high school classes, home instruction, or he/she must be a member of a class in which he/she spends the greater part of each school day with other children under a teacher holding a certificate to teach.
 - d. All handicapped students, assigned to another school by the Board of Education, Division of Child Protection and Permanency and the courts and classified by the Child Study Team, will be eligible to compete on the interscholastic athletic teams of the school district in which the student resides, providing such receiving school does not sponsor an interscholastic athletic program in that sport, and so long as such students meet all other applicable NJSIAA eligibility requirements.

CL 1: Exception: In County Special Services School Districts, e.g., Bergen County where the district is not an adjunct school of the local public school district and where all schools are under the authority of the same Superintendent of Schools, all students are eligible to participate in the

interscholastic athletic programs of that County's vocational high school(s) unless they are approved to participate at the public high school where they reside and are processed as provided for in Section 4.F (2)e. and 4.G–CL 3.

- e. A handicapped student is permitted to participate in the interscholastic program of the school where the student is enrolled or the school where the student resides, when extenuating circumstances are present. A waiver shall be granted, upon review by the NJSIAA Executive Director or designee when agreed to by the principals of the involved schools.

G. Enrollment

1. Late Enrollment – A student who enters school after the first Monday in October shall not be eligible to represent that school until after the lapse of thirty (30) calendar days from date of his/her first entrance.

Note: The term “entrance” as used in this section and elsewhere in these Bylaws, means registration plus actual attendance at a school.

CL 1: Late enrollment refers to a student who does not enroll at any school at the beginning of the school year.

CL 2: A short period enrollment at any school will not be treated as entrance to that school and/or subsequent transfer will be recognized as uninterrupted enrollment at the original school absent any appeal from the previous school.

2. Initial Enrollment – At the beginning of his/her secondary school career a student is free to choose any secondary school he/she may legally attend, (9th grade in a 4- or 6-year high school or 10th grade in a 3-year high school).

Note: After this initial enrollment a student is subject to the transfer provision as provided for in Section 4.K (2) of this Article.

CL 1: A high school student is a regularly enrolled student as defined by the Department of Education.

CL 2: Vo-Tech/Public Academy Shared Time – When a student is carried on the Official Register and attends some classes at a school, but also attends additional classes at another school, he/she is eligible for interscholastic athletics at the school where he/she is carried on the Official Register. If a student is carried on both Official Registers, the student may choose the school at which he/she wishes to participate in all sports on a full school-year basis.

CL 3: Vo-Tech/Public Academy Full Time – If a Vocational/Technical High School/Public Academy does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students desires to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her sending school upon agreement of both Principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Vocational/Technical High School/Public Academy.

CL 4: Vo-Tech/Public Academy – When a student-athlete transfers to or from a Vocational/Technical High School to or from the district school where the student resides the

student is eligible immediately provided such assignment is by the Board of Education of the district where the student resides and the student satisfies all other eligibility regulations.

CL 5: Charter School – If a secondary Charter School does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students wishes to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her school of residence upon agreement of both principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Charter School.

CL 6: Choice School – A choice student who attends a Choice School, pursuant to regulations adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education, shall be subject to the transfer restrictions contained in Article V, Section 4.K (1) and (2).

CL 7: Disabled Students: A pupil who is disabled and who is placed by the parents or guardians at their own expense in a non-public school for treatment of the disability shall be eligible to participate in the interscholastic athletic program of the student's resident school district, provided the student otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of the program and the student's participation has written approval of the board of education of the school district where the program is located.

- H. **Post-Graduates** – No post-graduate student shall be eligible for high school competition. When a student graduates from a school (days or weeks) before the official end of the semester that student may continue to represent his/her school until the official end of that semester – either January 31 or June 30. A student becomes ineligible for high school athletics when the class in which he/she originally enrolled is graduated.

CL: A League/Conference or County may grant a waiver (as provided for in the Rules & Regulations, Rule 2, Specific Sport Regulations, Note 3) to permit teams or individuals from the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools to participate if such Student-Athletes are in the first year of post-high school matriculation.

- I. **Pre-High School Students** – Students in any 9th grade are eligible for teams in the Senior High School in that district at the discretion of the administrators and the Board of Education in that district. Students in any 6th, 7th, or 8th grades of any school (Jr. High or Sr. High) who play on 9th grade or so-called freshman or sophomore, junior varsity and varsity teams will be ineligible at the conclusion of eight consecutive semesters of such participation. Junior High School 9th grade teams may play against 9th grade teams from 4-year or 6-year high schools.

CL 1: Article V, Section 4.I is applicable to all 9th grades including those which are under the supervision and control of an administrative head (Principal) separate and apart from the administrative head (Principal) of the Senior High School. All 9th grade students in an 8-4, 6-6 or 6-3-3, or other administrative plan may participate on a junior varsity or varsity team without jeopardizing their eligibility to participate on a 9th grade team in that sport; however, when 9th grade students are under a separate administrative head than that of the Senior High School such agreement must be affirmed, in writing, to the NJSIAA over the signature of both administrative heads.

Any 9th grade Student-Athlete who participates on a junior varsity or varsity team or any team at the high school level will be subject to the eligibility provisions of the Bylaws, Article V, 4.G (2). This means that such 9th grade students will be subject to the transfer provisions of Article V, Section 4.K.

CL 2: Students below the 9th grade are not permitted to practice with students of grade nine (9) through twelve (12), neither may they “suit up” with those teams for games or scrimmages involving grades nine (9) through twelve (12) unless a waiver has been granted (to ensure eight (8) consecutive semesters of participation). Student will be considered to have begun his/her eight semesters of eligibility on a sport specific basis pursuant to Article V, Section 4.I.

CL 3: All games in which 6th, 7th and 8th grade students participate will cause forfeiture of said games under this Section unless a waiver has been granted.

CL 4: Students in 6th, 7th or 8th grades who will reach age sixteen (16) prior to September 1 while properly enrolled in a member school may request a waiver of the Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.I, Pre-High School Student, to have an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics for four (4) years prior to becoming ineligible.

J. Semester of Eligibility:

1. No student shall be eligible for high school athletics after the expiration of eight consecutive semesters following his/her entrance into the 9th grade. A student becomes ineligible for high school athletics when the class in which he/she was originally enrolled has graduated.
2. This rule shall not apply to classified students who are ungraded. Classified students who are ungraded will have eight consecutive semesters of eligibility beginning with the first semester of participation in interscholastic athletics at the freshman, junior varsity, or varsity level.
3. This rule shall not apply to an honorably discharged serviceman/servicewoman, in which case the Executive Committee may make any adjustments of this rule as it may deem equitable.
4. Students below the 9th grade who participate on a high school team will be ineligible at the conclusion of eight consecutive semesters, beginning with the student’s initial pre-9th grade participation. If a student’s pre-high school participation in high school sports occurred in a state other than New Jersey, the student’s eight consecutive semesters of eligibility shall begin when the student enters high school, provided that (a) the student has transferred into New Jersey with a *bona fide* change of residence; (b) a Transfer Form has been completed; and (c) the student meets all other eligibility requirements, including academic requirements.

CL 1: In order to assure the opportunity for eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility, member schools may request waivers to permit students who are enrolled in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades and who are otherwise academically eligible, to participate on the junior varsity or varsity teams where such students will be sixteen (16) years of age or older upon entrance into the 9th grade prior to September 1st. Guidance Departments/School Administrators of elementary schools should provide the Athletic Director with ages of all students that qualify under this Clarification so they can be assured of four (4) years of eligibility prior to becoming ineligible at age nineteen.

CL 2: Guidance Departments should provide the Athletic Director with ages of all classified students so they can be assured of four (4) years of eligibility prior to becoming ineligible at age nineteen.

K. **Transfers** – After his/her initial enrollment in a secondary school, as provided for in Article V, Section 4.G (2) of the Bylaws, a student-athlete is subject to the following transfer rules:

1. A student-athlete who transfers from one secondary school to another because of a bona fide change of residence by his/her parents or guardians, or through assignment by the Board of Education, becomes eligible to represent his/her new school immediately upon entrance unless recruitment or transfer for athletic advantage is alleged and provided all other eligibility regulations are satisfied.

Both the former and new school must complete a transfer form affirmatively stating that the transfer is a bona fide change of residence and that there was no athletic recruitment or a transfer for athletic advantage.

A bona fide change of residence takes place when:

- a. The parent/guardian moves with the student from one public high school district to another public high school district;
- b. The parent/guardian completes an affidavit or certification with proof of the new residence;
- c. The change of residence must have occurred on or before the following dates: August 1 to be immediately eligible to participate during the Fall sports season; November 1, to be immediately eligible to participate in the Winter sports season; and March 1, to be immediately eligible to participate in the Spring sports season; and
- d. The new residence may not be associated with, leased, or provided by anyone associated with the school or acting at the direction of the school, including but not limited to administration, staff, coaches, students, parents, booster clubs, or any organization having a connection with the school.

The form of the affidavit or certification shall be approved annually by the Executive Committee. The affidavit or certification must be filed with the new school and be available to the NJSIAA upon request. Any school official with actual knowledge that the affidavit or certification is false may be subject to punishment as set forth in Article X

The affidavit or certification must be accompanied by proof of the new residence. Such proof shall include at least two of the following: (i) a New Jersey driver's license or non-driver's identification showing change of address; (ii) mortgage or lease documents; (iii) utility bills; (iv) voter registration; (v) bank statement; (vi) homeowner's insurance or renter's insurance; or (vii) any business record or document issued by a governmental entity.

The term "guardian" refers to that person who has control over the person and property of a child as established by the order of a court of competent jurisdiction. A student who becomes emancipated shall be deemed not to have made a bona fide change of residence.

CL 1: Residential placement by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency or by the Courts is treated as a change of residence by the parents except in cases involving juvenile or criminal court proceedings.

CL 2 : In cases where a student resides with one parent and elects to change residence for transfer to another secondary school where the other parent reside, said student will be declared eligible immediately since this is considered a parental change of residence provided the parents do not reside in the same public high school district. However, subsequent retransfers to the school previously attended may be considered a transfer for athletic advantage, which may result in a loss of eligibility.

CL 3: Immediate eligibility will be granted when a Board of Education or a non-public school has a non-tuition policy for students whose parents/guardians are employees of the District or non-public school provided a Transfer Form is filed and such a transfer takes place at the first opportunity to do so with the provision that a subsequent transfer or a transfer after the initial opportunity for enrollment has passed will be subject to Section 4.K (2) i.e., the 30-day transfer sit rule, or 2 When the previous school terminates their secondary school academic program.

CL 4: When a previous school brings forth a complaint as provided for in 4.D or K (5) recruitment or (6) transfer for athletic advantage, eligibility will not commence under K (1) until the Eligibility Appeals Committee reaches a decision.

CL5: Military Transfer: If the student's transfer is due to a move necessitated by military orders issued to the student's parent or legal guardian, the student shall be immediately eligible. The student transfer information still must be processed.

2. Transfers:

- a. A student-athlete transferring from one secondary school to another, without a bona fide change of residence by that student's parent or guardian, shall be ineligible to participate for a period of thirty (30) calendar days or one half of the maximum number of games allowed in the sport by NJSIAA rules (the ineligibility period) from the beginning of the regular schedule, whichever is less, in any sport in which the student has previously participated at the varsity level.
- b. To prevent possible recruitment or transfer for athletic advantage, a Transfer Form must be executed by the two involved schools and filed with the NJSIAA before any interscholastic participation.
- c. A student who transfers during the second half of a sports season, regardless of whether the transfer was the result of a bona fide change of residence, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school. The Executive Director of the NJSIAA will annually publish the dates that will define the halfway point of each sports season.
- d. Any student who is subject to the 30-day period of ineligibility set forth in subsection (2)(a) may nevertheless participate in interscholastic scrimmages. It is local option for schools to permit ineligible students to practice or compete in interscholastic scrimmages.

CL 1: Since the minimal thirty (30) days or one half the maximum number of games allowed in a sport by NJSIAA rules ineligibility period (whichever is less) is intended to serve as a deterrent for students transferring from one school to another without a bona fide parental/guardian change of residence and is recognized as one of the most lenient penalties in the United States, appeals will not be heard, regardless of reason. For sports which have a maximum participation limitation, the NJSIAA maximum (half the maximum) will be used to determine the sit out period. For sports that do not have a maximum number of contests allowed by rule, the sit out period will be 30 days from the beginning of the regular varsity season or half of the games/meets/matches/events scheduled at the beginning of that school's sport season. Only games played may be counted.

CL 2: For purposes of this section, a school's regular schedule shall begin with the first interscholastic varsity contest played in that respective sport by the involved school (other than scrimmages).

CL 3: Student-athletes subject to the transfer sit may not participate at any level of interscholastic competition (freshmen, junior varsity or varsity.)

CL 4: Notwithstanding the provisions of (1) and (2) of Section 4.K, a student may be declared ineligible for violations of the recruiting or transfer for athletic advantage regulation.

CL 5: The Transfer Form must be processed whenever a student-athlete transfers from one secondary school to another with or without a bona fide change of residence having been made by his/her parents/guardians unless the transfer is by Board of Education assignments or by other conditions of 4.K.(1). In addition, the Student-Athlete Residency Affidavit must be processed and kept on file by the school.

In cases where a student-athlete resides with one parent and elects to change residence for transfer to another secondary school where the other parent resides, said student will be declared eligible immediately since this is considered a parental change of residence provided the parents do not reside in the same public high school district. However, subsequent retransfers to the school previously attended may be considered a transfer for athletic advantage, which may result in a loss of eligibility.

CL 6: Date of entrance means registration plus actual class attendance.

CL 7: For purposes of this section, participation in a sport is defined as playing any interscholastic contest at any level. Playing in practices or pre-season scrimmages does not constitute participation.

CL 8: Vo-Tech/Public Academy Shared Time – When a student-athlete is carried on the Official Register and attends some classes at a school, but also attends additional classes at another school, the student is eligible for interscholastic athletics at the school where he/she is carried on the Official Register. If a student is carried on both Official Registers, the student may choose the school at which he/she wishes to participate in all sports on a full school year basis. However, if the chosen school does not offer a particular sport then that student may participate in that sport at the other school upon agreement of both Principals. If the student wishes to change the school where he/she participates during his/her eight semesters of athletic eligibility, the student will be subject to the transfer restrictions contained in Art. V, Section 4.K (1) and (2).

CL 9: Vo-Tech/Public Academy – Full-Time – When a student-athlete elects to transfer to or from a Vocational-Technical High School to or from the district school where the student resides the student is subject to the transfer restrictions contained in Article V, Section 4.K (1) and (2). If a Vocational-Technical High School Public Academy does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students desires to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her sending school upon agreement of both Principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Vocational-Technical High School Public Academy.

CL 10: Charter School – Transfers to and from Charter Schools will be subject to the restrictions contained in Article V, Section 4.K (1) and (2). If a secondary Charter School does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students wishes to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her school of residence upon agreement of both Principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Charter School.

CL 11: Choice School – A choice student who attends a Choice School, pursuant to regulations adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education, shall be subject to the transfer restrictions contained in Article V, Section 4.K (1) and (2).

CL 12: We understand that there may be rare instances when a student is forced to transfer as a result of bullying at the previous school. Under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, a state law that public schools are required to follow and non-public schools are encouraged to follow, bullying is a matter that is investigated and addressed by the school. The NJSIAA does not hold hearings to determine whether a student was bullied. However, if a school, after investigation of a complaint of bullying, determines that the proper action to remediate the complaint is an alternative placement or a school transfer, then the NJSIAA will consider the school's action to be a new assignment by the board of education, and the 30-Day Transfer Rule will not apply.

3. A student whose parents move to another school district maintaining a secondary school of equal grade or higher shall remain eligible to represent his/her present school provided he/she remains properly enrolled; any subsequent transfer will be subject to Article V, Section 4.K(2).

4. The fact that a student is expelled from one high school because of academic or disciplinary reasons may not exempt him/her from any of the transfer provisions of this section.

5. Any evidence of a transfer for athletic advantage shall subject the athlete to a prompt determination of eligibility by the Eligibility Appeals Committee and may subject the school and the athlete to appropriate disciplinary proceedings as set forth in Article X herein. A transfer for athletic advantage is defined as, but not limited to:

- a. Seeking a superior athletic team;
- b. Seeking relief due to a conflict with the philosophy or action of an administrator, teacher or coach relating to sports;
- c. Seeking a team consistent with the student's athletic abilities; or
- d. Seeking a means to nullify punitive action by the previous school;
- e. Seeking to be coached by the coach at the new school.

The NJSIAA 30-Day Transfer Rule applies to students who have participated at the varsity level and who have transferred from one school to another without a bona fide change of residence or without a new assignment by the board of education. Because the sit-out period is among the shortest in the country, there are no waivers permitted from this rule.

- L. Administrative Responsibility – The Association must rely upon the voluntary compliance by its member schools in enforcing the eligibility standards set forth in this article. Toward that end, the Principal in each member school has the affirmative obligation to report to the NJSIAA any violations of these standards. The fact that a school has disclosed that there has been an eligibility violation will not relieve the affected school of sanctions that may be imposed against it, pursuant to Article X of these By-Laws, including the forfeiture of games or events. However, the failure to disclose an eligibility violation may be grounds for imposing additional sanctions upon the offending school.

CL 1: Although the penalty of forfeiture for the use of an ineligible player is mandatory and not appealable to the Executive Committee, the school may appeal the determination of eligibility provided such request for waiver occurs prior to the participation by the Student-Athlete.

CL 2: Participation by an ineligible player in any game during the regular season results in forfeiture of said game. If such forfeit(s) would have caused the school's failure to qualify for the

tournament or if an ineligible player participates in a tournament game, said SCHOOL will be disqualified from the tournament immediately, unless the championship has been concluded, and their last opponent will advance in their place. Schools eliminated prior to the last opponent will not re-enter tournament competition.