



To: NJSIAA Executive Committee
From: Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officer
Date: September 18, 2024
RE: NJSIAA Bylaws and Handbook Changes Proposal

The NJSIAA Chief Compliance Officer is tasked with reviewing the NJSIAA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Guidelines, Rules and Procedures to ensure accuracy and consistency. There are areas that need to be amended in order to address new areas of need or to clarify our practices. In consultation with NJSIAA staff and counsel, the NJSIAA Chief Compliance Officer recommends the following changes to the NJSIAA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Guidelines, Rules and Procedures. Each recommended change is supported by a brief rationale statement.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

[Additions are underlined, and deletions are ~~struck through~~.]

Bylaws, Article V, Section 1 K (Transfers)

2. Definitions:

Transfer: A “transfer” occurs when a student who has previously enrolled in a secondary school leaves that school and enrolls in a new one. The date of transfer shall be the earlier of the first day of class or the first day of sports participation at the new school.

CL1: It is considered a transfer if a homeschooled student moves from homeschooling to a high school or from a high school to homeschooling. If the student’s home district has a Board of Education policy that permits homeschooled students to participate in sports, the student will be exempt from the penalty sit when transferring from homeschooling to the home district or from the home district to homeschooling.

CL 2: A transfer student is eligible to participate in sports at the new high school when (1) the student has enrolled at the new school and (2) the student has either withdrawn from the former school, or the school year has concluded at the former school. Acceptance or admission alone does not constitute enrollment. This clarification is applicable to the school year and summer recess period.

Participation: “Participation” means attending practice or playing in contests or scrimmages in a particular sport.

Senior Transfer: A “Senior Transfer” is a student-athlete whose first transfer occurs during or after their third season of eligibility in a particular sport in which they participated in during the 12 months preceding the transfer.

8. General application:

a. This Transfer Rule applies to all athletes at all levels of participation (not just varsity athletes) and is applicable to all NJSIAA-sanctioned sports in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer. Transferring students may participate in a new sport without penalty.

b. The period of ineligibility will begin on the Competition Start Date of each sport. For students who transfer after the Competition Start Date, the period of ineligibility will begin on the date of enrollment and will not include any days or games occurring after a school's last regular season game prior to the start of the playoffs.

Rationale: *This clarifies when competition ends in relationship to the number of games and/or games a student must sit after transferring after the competition start date. This has become an issue, particularly in football when a student transfers after their last game or with a week left in the season to a school that has a Thanksgiving Day game. The students try to circumvent the rule by utilizing the time from late October to Thanksgiving (during NJSIAA postseason) as part of their penalty period. I have consistently ruled that the penalty clock stops with the day of the last game of the regular season prior to the start of NJSIAA post season.*