



To: NJSIAA Executive Committee

From: Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officer

Date: October 15, 2025

RE: NJSIAA Bylaws Clarification Proposal: Host Families

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of student-athletes living with host families, playing for club athletic teams and enrolling in our public schools to play NJSIAA sports. NJSIAA has received numerous complaints regarding the competitive advantage that these schools have when enrolling students whose parents may be living in other parts of the state or country. Additionally, there have been safety concerns regarding the lack of oversight of these host families. This proposal is consistent with the practices of other state organizations in NFHS Section 1 and clarifies, in writing, our practice.

In an effort to ensure a level playing field, mitigate recruitment and ensure the safety of our student-athletes, I propose the following update to Bylaws Article V, Section 1 (additions are underlined):

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).

CL 2: Students who are residing with a host family while their parents/guardians are domiciled elsewhere in the United States are not eligible for interscholastic competition at NJSIAA member schools unless the host family has obtained full, court appointed guardianship.