



Transfer and Recruiting Scenarios and FAQs (Updated March 2026)

Transfer Scenarios:

Ex. 1: Jane transfers from School A to School B in July following her freshmen year. This is her first transfer.
Result: Jane is immediately eligible without penalty.

Ex. 2: Jane transfers from School A to School B in January of her sophomore year. This is her first transfer.
Result: Jane is subject to the 30-day sit for any winter sport which she participated in during the past 12 months and is ineligible for the NJSIAA post season tournament for the winter season. No restrictions on other seasons.

Ex. 3: Jane transfers from School B to School C in July following her junior year. This is her second transfer.
Result: Jane is subject to the 30-day sit for any sport which she participated in during the past 12 months.

Ex. 4: Jane, a rising senior, transfers from School A to School B in July of her senior year. This is her first transfer.
Result: Jane is subject to the 22-day sit for any sport which she participated in during the past 12 months.

Ex. 5: Jane transfers from School B to School C in January of her junior year. This is her second transfer. She transferred because her father was issued a military transfer.
Result: Jane is immediately eligible without penalty.

Ex 6: Jane transfers from School A to School B on December 1st of her junior year. This is her first transfer.
Result: Jane is subject to the 22-day sit for any fall sport which she participated in during the past 12 months. No restrictions on other seasons

Ex 7: Jane disenrolls from School A, is homeschooled, and later transfers back to School B.
Result: Jane is subject to the 30-day sit (as a second transfer) for any sport which she participated in during the past 12 months, including sports played at School A. Homeschool is looked at as a transfer to another school. However, if school A allows home schooled students to participate as per their policy, the student will be immediately eligible without penalty.

Ex 8: Jane transfers from School A to School B on December 1st of her sophomore year. She then transfers back to School B on December 20th.
Result: Jane is subject to the 30-day sit (as a second transfer) for any sport which she participated in during the past 12 months, is ineligible for the NJSIAA winter post season tournament. This includes any sports played at School A even if she didn't participate in them at School B.

Transfer FAQs:

Question: Is an out-of-state move treated any different from a move within New Jersey?
Answer: No. NJSIAA applies the same rules to out-of-state transfers. They must follow NJSIAA residency and guardianship requirements.

Question: Are there exceptions to the rule if a parent transfers a student to another school because their child was being bullied?
Answer: NJSIAA only enacts the HIB exception when there was a confirmed and documented HIB case at the former school AND the former school documents to NJSIAA that their (the school's) documented remedy was that the student should be educated at another school due to the HIB that occurred at their school.

- Question:** Are there waivers granted for transferring due to hardship cases?
Answer: No. Because the periods of ineligibility set forth in this rule are among the shortest in the nation, and the purpose of the rule is designed to deter inappropriate transfers, there shall be no waivers of this rule.
- Question:** Does the transfer penalty apply to a student who has not participated in the sport?
Answer: No. The penalty only applies to a student if he/she participated in that sport at any high school level in the past 12 months prior to the transfer.
- Question:** When does the penalty period start/end and can the transfer penalty carry over to the following year?
Answer: Yes. If a student has not served the full penalty due to the end of the season, the remainder of the penalty will carry over to the next year. The first day of the penalty to start a season is the day of the first regular season contest in that sport. For students who transfer after the start of the season, the period of ineligibility will begin on the date of transfer (first day of class) and will not include any days or games occurring after the school's last regular season contest prior to the start of the NJSIAA tournament.

Recruiting FAQs:

- Question:** Can a coach discuss his/her program with student-athletes, or their parents, from another high school?
Answer: No. A coach can do this only with student-athletes prior to high school.
- Question:** Can a coach speak to student-athletes from another high school, or their parents, about their school if the student or parent initiates the contact?
Answer: No. The coach should refer the student/parent to their admissions office/administration.
- Question:** Is the coach responsible for the actions of his/her assistants, boosters, parents and other school personnel regarding the recruitment of student-athletes from other high schools?
Answer: Yes. The coach is responsible for his/her entire program and should meet with all members of the program to ensure that no violations take place. Claiming ignorance to the actions of others in the program is not a valid excuse for recruiting allegations.
- Question:** Can a coach speak to student-athletes from another high school, or their parents, about their school during a school-run open house?
Answer: Yes, in a group during the open house the coach may discuss the program strengths but cannot not have private or personal recruiting types of conversations.
- Question:** When can a student-athlete who is transferring to a new school participate in that school's summer athletic programs?
Answer: As soon as the student is enrolled at the new school AND disenrolled (withdrawn) from the former school, or the school year has ended at the former school. Acceptance or admission alone does not constitute enrollment. This is applicable to the school year and summer recess period.
- Question:** Can a student-athlete live with someone from the high school they are transferring to?
Answer: No. Any evidence that a student has moved to a residence 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, shall be considered prima facie evidence of recruiting.
- Question:** Can a student-athlete receive a reduced tuition rate for attending a high school?
Answer: A student may not receive any type of athletic scholarship, including a reduced tuition rate.