



To: NJSIAA Executive Committee

From: Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officer

Date: April 15, 2026

RE: NJSIAA Bylaws Clarification Proposal: Transfer Ineligibility Period

The transfer ineligibility period is currently 22 days or $\frac{1}{3}$ of the maximum contests, whichever is less or 30 days or $\frac{1}{2}$ of the maximum contests, whichever is less. However, in football the transfer ineligibility period relies on the number of games while in wrestling the period relies on the number of days due to the specificity of each sport – these sports do not have the “whichever is less” option. Due to the flexibility around competition start dates, schools were able to manipulate the transfer ineligibility period during this past basketball season. Some schools decided to play on the first date possible (no scrimmage), then not play for a week to 10 days. This resulted in some student athletes who should have sat 11 or 12 games only sitting 5 games. In order to restore consistency, integrity and equity to the transfer ineligibility period in the sport of basketball, the following updates are proposed to Bylaws Article V, Section 4 K. (additions are italicized, deletions are struck through):

2. Definitions:

Maximum Number of Contests: The “Maximum Number of Contests” for each sport are as set forth in the Program Regulations, Section 15. ~~For football, the sit-out period will be three (3) games for a 22-day period of ineligibility and four (4) games for a 30-day period of ineligibility regardless of the maximum number of contests. For wrestling, and other sports without a maximum number of contests listed in the Program Regulations, the period of ineligibility shall be the number of days specified in each section below.~~

CL1: To ensure that the transfer ineligibility periods in the sports of basketball, wrestling and football are applied predictably, consistently, and equitably, it is necessary to have fixed standards. Therefore,

- (a) the basketball ineligibility periods are eight games (for first transfer in the senior year) and 12 games (for second or subsequent transfer and transfer after start of practice);*
- (b) the wrestling ineligibility periods are 22 days (for first transfer in the senior year) and 30 days (for second or subsequent transfer and transfer after start of practice); and*
- (c) the football ineligibility periods are three games (for first transfer in the senior year) and four games (for second or subsequent transfer and transfer after start of practice).*

4. Transfers occurring after the Start of Practice:

Students who transfer after the Start of Practice Date will be subject to a 30-day period of ineligibility or $\frac{1}{2}$ the Maximum Number of Contests in that sport, whichever is less. (*See Maximum Number of Contests Clarification 1 for specific penalties*)

6. A student’s second or subsequent transfer:

Students who transfer a second or subsequent time will be subject to a 30-day period of ineligibility or $\frac{1}{2}$ the Maximum Number of Contests, whichever is less for all NJSIAA sanctioned sports in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer. (*See Maximum Number of Contests Clarification 1 for specific penalties*)

7. Senior transfers:

Senior transfers, as defined above, are subject to a 22-day period of ineligibility or $\frac{1}{3}$ the Maximum Number of Contests, whichever is less in each sport in which they participated during or after their third season of eligibility, during the 12 months preceding the transfer. (*See Maximum Number of Contests Clarification 1 for specific penalties*)