

Section 9 - Transfer/Residency Rule

The Association has established the following rules to govern the eligibility of students who transfer to Alaska, or from one school to another within Alaska, or who are simultaneously enrolled at more than one school, or who are enrolled in a member school district's non-member charter school, alternative school or program (including district correspondence), and who wish to transfer interscholastic participation eligibility from one school to another, and who participate in the activities listed under Section 10 A of this Article with the exception of Student Government, All-State Music Festival, World Language, All-State Art and Solo & Ensemble Festival.

A school district may establish its own policy regarding intra-district student transfer, so long as it is at least as stringent as Association transfer rules. This will allow students to be transferred within the district by the Superintendent for reasons that are to the benefit of the student and district, but are not related to activities' participation.

A. For transfer purposes, a student establishes their "school of eligibility" by participating* in an interscholastic competition.

*Participating is further defined as:

Having met the minimum eligibility requirements to participate in competition.

And at least one of the following:

1. Being entered in a score/record book
2. Recording an official time or score for the participant in an interscholastic competition
3. Dressing in uniform during an interscholastic competition

NOTE: Once established a student is not required to change their "school of eligibility" unless they wish to do so.

B. A transfer from a school outside or within Alaska to an alternative education program constitutes a transfer subject to the rules established in this section for transfer of eligibility to another school. Students attending alternative education programs who establish interscholastic activity eligibility residency at a member public, private or religious school are subject to the rules established in this section for transfer of eligibility to another member school.

C. Types of Transfers

NOTE: These transfer types 1-9 **do not** cause the student to become ineligible at the varsity level. However, the student's parents and the receiving school must complete the applicable form and evidence as required by ASAA.

1. Transfer as a Result of a Move of Parents: A student who transfers from one school's attendance area to another's with a bona fide change of residence of the parents, legal guardians (or other persons with whom the student has resided for a period of time to be determined by the Association) shall be eligible for interscholastic competition at the new school as soon as properly certified.

Note: Students may continue to attend and/or participate at their existing "school of eligibility" regardless of the move of parents.

Bona Fide Change of Residence: For the purposes of this section, a bona fide change of residence means the moving of the permanent residence of the entire family of the student and his/her parents or guardians (or other person with whom the student has resided for a period of time approved by the Association) from one school's attendance area into another school's attendance area prior to a change in enrollment of the student.

Additional Requirements:

- The student must transfer to the receiving school within twelve months of the parent's change of residence.
- If the receiving and sending school are connected by a road, the distance between the schools must be 30 miles or greater.

For the purposes of this section, a student's transfer to or from a private school shall be treated the same as a transfer to or from the public-school attendance area in which the private school is located. Schools must verify that a bona fide change of residence has occurred and must report this to the Association on the Bona Fide Change of Residence form before the student is allowed to participate.

2. Transfer for Emancipated Student: A student who is legally emancipated as supported by court documents and who is not dependent upon parents or guardians for a home and who transfers from one school to another (except in Section 9, C3) is eligible for interscholastic competition as under Section 9, C2. Transfer with a Move of Parents.

3. Transfer Due to Parental Divorce or Legal Separation: A student whose parents are divorced or legally separated may establish eligibility in the school or school district of either parent but not both parents. After establishing initial residency with one parent, all subsequent transfers without a change of residence of that parent will be subject to the rules for Transfer Without a Move of Parents.

4. Married Student: A married student whose transfer to another school is specifically related to the marriage is eligible in the new school as soon as properly certified. Otherwise, married students must conform to all other transfer rules.

5. Student Under Court Order or Ward of the State: A student who transfers under a “court order” or is a “ward of the state” is eligible at the new school as soon as properly certified.

6. Homeless Student: A student who is homeless as defined in the McKinney-Vento Act, 42 U.S.C. 11434 a (2), shall be immediately eligible to participate at the public school in which he or she is enrolled, notwithstanding the Transfer/Residency Rule, as soon as the student becomes enrolled in a school. The public school district in which the student is enrolled shall determine whether or not the student meets the definition of homeless under the Act, and shall provide ASAA with its basis for such determination. Such determination may be reviewed by ASAA.

The definition of homeless students in the Act reads as follows:

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103 (a)(1)) [43 USCS § 11302 (a)(1)]; and

(B) includes-

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelter; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;

(ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103 (a)(2)(C) [42 USCS § 11302 (a)(2)(C)];

(iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 [20 USCS § 6399]) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle [42 USCS §§11431 et seq.] because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

7. Transfer Due to Elimination of Activity: A student enrolled in a school which eliminates an interscholastic activity may transfer to another school and be eligible as soon as properly certified, provided the student had participated in the eliminated

activity the prior school year. Elimination of an activity” occurs when a school drops an interscholastic activity that it sponsored during the previous school year, for whatever reason. A transfer under this rule must be approved by the principal of both the sending and receiving schools.

8. Start of the Year/End of the Year Boarding School Transfer Rule: Students who transfer to a boarding school at the beginning of a school year, or from a boarding school at the end of a school year, will be eligible for interscholastic participation at the new school as soon as properly certified.

9. Foreign Exchange Student Transfer Rule: A foreign exchange student is an international student who attends high school in Alaska. The foreign exchange student must possess a current J-1 visa, issued by the U.S. State Department. To be eligible for interscholastic competition, such a student must be under the auspices of, and be placed with a host family by an international student exchange program that has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), or other programs approved by the Association; and be recognized by the U.S. State Department. The foreign exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures that no student, or his/her parents, school or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes. The foreign exchange student may not be selected or placed on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities. In order to obtain to be eligible, a foreign exchange student must meet all other eligibility rules required of other students in Alaska.

Foreign exchange must also:

1. attend the school for no less than a complete semester; and
2. not have participated in the same sport (for which eligibility is being sought) at another school earlier in the same school year; and
3. not have graduated from (the home country’s equivalent of) a secondary school; and
4. must affirm that there is no evidence of athletic recruitment resulting in the student’s attendance at the school either by the school or any other outside entity.
5. A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and his/her parents, and to the host family.
 - a. Neither the school the student attends nor any person associated with the school shall have input into selection of the student.

b. No member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, shall serve as a host family for a foreign student athlete; nor may a coaching staff member arrange for housing.

c. Notwithstanding the provisions in parts 5 a and b, a school may request a waiver of the transfer rule for a foreign exchange student whose host family includes a member of the school's coaching staff when it can be verified that the student was not recruited by either the school, coach or host family

Noncompliance with one or more of the foregoing provisions shall render the foreign exchange student ineligible for interscholastic competition.

NOTE: Students wishing to change their school of eligibility for transfer types 10-12 will lose varsity level eligibility for a specific period of time.

10. Transfer Without a Bona Fide Change of Residence of Parents: A student who transfers their "school of eligibility" without a bona fide change of residence of parents or guardians, is ineligible for Varsity, State Qualifying and State Championship interscholastic competition for one calendar year, from the date of first attendance in the new school in team sports. Students participating in individual sports may compete on varsity during regular season, but are ineligible for State Qualifying and State Championship interscholastic competition for one calendar year, from the date of first attendance in the new school.

Students who live with coaches are ineligible (see Section 5, E). At schools with no sub-varsity team sports, the student could ask for a waiver to participate on the varsity team during the regular season, but would not be able to participate at either conference or state tournaments.

Note: Students who transfer schools are not required to also transfer their "school of eligibility" and may continue to participate at their former school at the varsity level, provided they meet all other ASAA eligibility requirements.

11. During the School Year Boarding Student Transfer Rule: Students who transfer to or from a boarding school during the school year shall be ineligible for Varsity, State Qualifying and State Championship interscholastic participation the remainder of the school year in team sports. Students participating in individual sports may compete on varsity during regular season, but are ineligible for State Qualifying and State Championship interscholastic competition for the remainder of the school year.

12. Foreign Student Transfer Rule: A foreign student who has been granted an F-1 visa will be ineligible for interscholastic competition for Varsity, State Qualifying and State Championship interscholastic competition for one calendar year, from the date of first attendance in the new school, unless there has been a bona fide move of parents.

Students who live with coaches are ineligible (see Section 5, C). At schools with no sub-varsity teams, the student could ask for a waiver to participate on the varsity team during the regular season, but would not be able to participate at either conference or state tournaments from the date of enrollment.

Note: Other Transfer Related Issues

13. Seasons of Participation for Transfer Student: A student who transfers to Alaska from another state who has competed in an interscholastic sport including a tournament where qualified, in the current school year shall not be eligible for the same sport during the remainder of the school year at the receiving school in Alaska. A transfer student subject to this paragraph, who has not completed a full season (through the culminating tournament) in a sport may complete the season in Alaska, but may not exceed the maximum number of contests or weeks as established by the Board of Directors.

14. Alaska Students Involved in Exchange/Travel Programs: Alaska students involved in exchange/ travel programs, including but not limited to the American Field Study Service, Rotary International and Youth for Understanding, are exempted from the Semester Credit Rule (Bylaw Article 12, Section 7) upon return to their home schools provided they would have been otherwise academically eligible for the semester they began the exchange/travel program. Alaska students involved in exchange/travel programs must be otherwise eligible by all other rules, including Article 12, Section 3, Maximum Participation.

Participation in interscholastic competition while involved in an exchange travel program will count toward the maximum years or seasons of participation in that specific competition as defined in Bylaw Article 12, Section 3.

15. Changing Schools During a Sport Season: A student who participates in a sport at one school, and who subsequently transfers to another school, will not be eligible in that sport at the Varsity, State Qualifying and State Championship interscholastic competition level. At schools with no sub-varsity teams, the student could ask for a waiver to participate on the varsity team during the regular season, but would not be able to participate at either conference or state tournaments.