

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Following are frequently asked questions that may assist you in your day-to-day responsibilities. Questions and answers were taken from the Case Situations section of the Handbook. Please refer to the entire Case Situations section to further assist you.

May students have more than four years (eight (8) semesters) of eligibility in order to participate in interscholastic competition after being promoted from grade eight(8)?

No, a student is eligible only for the first four years (eight (8) semesters) after initial promotion from grade eight (8), even if they do not participate in athletics.

May a student who is repeating a grade (below grade nine) play interscholastic sports for the middle school / junior high school?

That determination is left to the discretion of the local site based decision-making body for the school in accordance with adopted SBDM policies. It has been determined and reaffirmed by the Department of Education that the Association's jurisdiction is presently limited to the member high schools of the Association and not the related middle or junior high schools. However, those students who are repeating a grade at any level are prevented in all situations from representing a KHSAA member school in a contest at any level (grades 9-12) during the year being repeated whether or not that student played interscholastic sports at any level during the first year in the grade.

How are credit hours and credits computed when a student changes from a traditional format to an alternative format school (i.e. 6 hour day to block schedule day) or vice-versa?

A student's eligibility status must be determined by converting either to or from the traditional system when dealing with transfer students. This must be done in accordance with accepted policy for computing graduation progress, and no special consideration can be given to student athletic participants.

Further details on credit conversion and determination are contained in Case BL-5-3 in Case Situations related to the Bylaws.

Whatever policy or conversion is adopted must be approved by the School Based Decision Making organization at the school and must be in place for all students and not restricted to athletes.

What is the transfer rule (Bylaw 6)?

Bylaw 6, Transfer Rule, states that any student who changes schools after enrolling in grade 9 and after participating in a varsity contest in any sport, shall be ineligible for one year from the date of enrollment. The Commissioner has very limited authority to waive the period of ineligibility under the circumstances outlined in Bylaw 6 and in the Due Process Procedure.

What is the responsibility of a coach who has been ejected from a contest or is serving the mandatory suspension for being ejected?

When a coach is ejected from a contest or suspended following a previous ejection, that person is to leave the vicinity of the playing area. In football and soccer for example, this means to leave the field and stadium area; in basketball, this implies leaving the gym altogether; in other sports, completely leaving the venue. This is important so as to discourage potential conflict during the remainder of the game. During a suspension from coaching, the coach is not to be at the game site for any contest.

How shall requests for rulings be made?

They shall be made in writing to the Commissioner, with all pertinent information given. Rulings will not be made on hypothetical cases, nor will they be made by telephone or through electronic mail. Official rulings will only be made in writing. While the staff will strive to interpret the bylaws to aid schools in the administration of the athletic programs, any written ruling shall supersede and take precedence over any verbal interpretation.

Are cheer coaches required to meet the sports safety course, medical symposium and coaching education requirements?

Yes, the head coach in cheer (or both coaches if co-coaches are chosen) shall meet the same requirement as all sports coaches as outlined in Bylaw 27 including coaching education completion and biennial attendance at the medical symposium.

Can student athletes from the same school participate together in the summer?

Yes. As long as the participation is not in conflict with KHSAA Bylaws concerning Recruitment (10), Limitation of Seasons (25), Dead Period (26), etc. Schools are reminded that KHSAA catastrophic insurance is not in effect during summer and/or out-of-season play. Note: July 15 is the first official in season practice date for a fall sport (see Bylaw 25 for other official practice dates.).

How are students transferring from out of state schools treated under Bylaw 6, Sec. 1?

Students transferring from out of state schools are subject to the provisions of Bylaw 6, Sec. 1 if they participated in any varsity game in any sport at any out of state school following enrollment in grade nine (9).

Do parents have options relative to holding students back in grade eight?

Kentucky Department of Education regulations place the responsibility for promotion or retention of a student on school personnel and not parents. Once "promoted" from the eighth grade, a student's four consecutive calendar years (8 semesters) of athletic eligibility begins.

A student repeating the eighth grade may not represent a high school team at any level. In addition, if parents make the choice to retain a student in the eighth grade after the student has been promoted by school personnel, then that student will lose his or her senior year of eligibility.

Will the KHSAA recognize the "direct placement" of a student into a Kentucky school by a foreign exchange agency for the purpose of granting athletic eligibility?

No, if a student is "direct placed" into a Kentucky school, that student will not be allowed to have the one year ineligibility period waived under Bylaw 7. The intent and spirit of the foreign exchange exception to the ineligibility period is to have students placed into schools on a random basis. This is further evidenced by the requirement that agencies must place students in Kentucky schools on a random basis in order to appear on the approved agency listing.

For purposes of this bylaw, Direct Placements are those placements in which either the student or the sending organization in the foreign country is party to an arrangement with any other person, including school personnel, for the student to attend a particular school or live with a particular host family. Exchange agency representatives cannot serve as a host family for a student-athlete.

It should be noted that foreign exchange students should be randomly placed at a variety of schools. Excessive or multiple student placements at one school will be scrutinized.

Where are the rules on playing out of state schools?

Bylaw 23 details the requirements for sanctioning and rules for KHSAA opponents with specific procedures detailed in CS BL 23-1.

Can a student practice or play before being ruled eligible?

No. Bylaw 9 states that unless a student is eligible to participate in the team's next contest, that student may not practice. This includes any time frame during the limitation of seasons and includes any participation in the two allowable scrimmages.