

### **Rule 51. Student Eligibility: Baseline Eligibility Requirements**

For a student to practice with, or to represent a MIAA member school in athletic competition, the student must be duly enrolled in that school. Additionally, the student must be a candidate for that school's diploma, subject to the jurisdiction of that school's principal (i.e. the principal must have the authority to suspend the student from classes), and under the supervision of that school principal (i.e. the principal must have control and knowledge of the student's daily attendance and achievement).

Prior to any interschool participation, every student must be certified as eligible under the following rules. Ultimately the interpretation and application of Association rules rests with the MIAA executive director/staff and the Board of Directors. Principals (or athletic directors) must contact the Association executive staff to resolve any possible eligibility issues before permitting a student to represent your school. This rule complements Rule 52, 53, 54 and 55.

### **Rule 55. Student Eligibility: Membership in School**

55.1 A student shall have been a member of the MIAA member secondary school for a minimum of two months (exclusive of the Summer vacation) and have been issued a report card preceding the contest, unless entering from an elementary or junior high school at the start of the school year. A pupil's attendance at school does not start when he/she registers in that school, but rather when he/she begins attending classes.

55.2 When a student drops out of school and then decides later to return to the same school, he/she cannot become eligible for athletics until a report card has been issued and until the expiration of a minimum of two calendar months from the date of his/her return to the same school.

55.3 Except as may be otherwise specified by statute or state regulation, a student must be a resident of and domiciled in a municipality which normally contributes student population to the school.

### **Rule 57. Student Eligibility: Transfer Students**

57.1 A student who transfers from any school to an MIAA member high school is ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest at any level for a period of one year in all sports in which that student participated at the varsity level or its equivalent during the one year period immediately preceding the transfer. (see exemptions listed in Rule 57.7) For the purpose of this rule, no transfer will be deemed to have taken place if a student returns to his/her former school on or before the eleventh school day from the date of last attendance there.

57.2 "Varsity participation" is defined as any appearance, as a competitor, in a varsity inter-school contest other than a scrimmage. The "equivalent" will be judged by the MIAA executive staff on the basis of the quality of non-school sport program participation.

57.3 Before a transfer student can be certified as eligible in a specific sport within the year of his/her transfer, the sending school principal, athletic director, and head varsity coach(es) of the sport(s) in which the student desires to participate must certify on Form 100 by signature that the student did not participate at the varsity level during the year prior to the actual transfer.

57.3.1 If it is later determined that the sending school falsely or erroneously certified eligibility, then the sending school will be subject to minimally a letter of censure, copies of which will be mailed to the school committee, superintendent, principal, athletic director, and reported on the MIAA website.

57.3.2 The MIAA certification Form 100 must be dated and filed at the receiving school before the student is declared eligible (as to the transfer rule only) by the receiving school principal.

57.4 The receiving High School Principal may utilize Form 200 to declare a transfer student eligible, if the sending school Principal certifies the following:

- Recruitment was not involved in any way.
- At the time of transfer, the student was in good standing.
- The student would be academically eligible at the sending school.
- The transfer was in no way motivated by athletics.
- The student would have been eligible by MIAA and local rules at the sending school.

57.5 A student who transfers after the start of the practice season is ineligible in all sports during that sport season.

## 57.6 Foreign Students

57.6.1 A student who transfers from a foreign country without parental change of residence accompanying the transfer will be ineligible unless such transfer is sponsored by a CSIET (Council on Standards for International Education Travel) approved foreign exchange program. Students who enter a member school under a CSIET approved program may be declared immediately eligible for athletic participation by the building principal as long as all other MIAA eligibility standards are met. A CSIET student who has

graduated from a secondary school in his/her own country will be exempt from the MIAA graduation rule (#61) if that student has not completed thirteen (13) years (including kindergarten) – or twelve (12) years (not including kindergarten) – of formal education.

57.6.2 Foreign athletes who are not in this country under the auspices of a CSIET approved program or attending a MIAA member school as the direct result of the change in residence of the parents, shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics regardless of the length of stay in this Country.

57.7 Exemptions to the transfer rule -- a transfer student may be eligible immediately provided all other eligibility requirements are met:

57.7.1 Change of residence of a student's parents: A student's transfer is necessitated by a change of residence of his/her parent(s) to the area served by the school to which he/she transfers. (This exception does not apply to a change in custody, guardianship, or to a student's change in residence from one parent to another, nor does it apply when the student could continue to attend the former school.)

57.7.2 Middle school transfer: A student who enters the ninth grade of a four-year high school and who has not been enrolled previously in the ninth grade.

57.7.3 Elementary/Middle School graduate: A student who has completed the last grade available in the school previously attended.

57.7.4 Closed school: If a school no longer exists, a student may be eligible at the school of his/her choice immediately after the closing of that school.