

~ CHANGING SCHOOLS FOR ATHLETIC PURPOSES ~

Excerpt from the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules

- (a) **DETERMINATION BY DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** The District Executive Committee is to determine whether or not a student changed schools for athletic purposes, when considering each student who changed schools and has completed the eighth grade, whether or not the student has represented a school in grades nine through twelve.
- (b) **COMMON INDICATORS.** District Executive Committees should look closely to determine if a student is changing schools for any athletic purpose. Some common indicators committees should include in their considerations include, but are not limited to: checking to see if a student was recruited; ascertaining whether a student was in good standing in the previous school, either academically or in a sports program; determining if a student was unhappy with a coach in the previous school; determining if a student played on a non-school team and is transferring to the school where members of the non-school team attend; determining if a student played on a non-school team and is transferring to the school where the non-school team coach or a relative of the non-school team coach, is the school coach; and determining if a student received individual or team instruction from a school coach and is transferring to the school of that coach.
- (c) **INELIGIBLE.** A student who changes schools for athletic purposes is not eligible to compete in varsity UIL athletic contest(s) at the school to which he or she moves for at least one calendar year, even if both parents move to the new school district attendance zone. See (e) below.
- (1) Exception:
- (A) One time only, intra-district transfer students are eligible for one varsity athletic activity that was not offered at their previous school. The student must wait one calendar year before gaining eligibility for any other varsity athletic contest. If a student who has been granted participation under this section returns to the school in the attendance zone where the parents reside, a Previous Athletic Participation Form shall be furnished to the District Executive Committee, who will rule on the student's eligibility at that school.
- (d) **LENGTH OF INELIGIBILITY.** The District Executive Committee for the district into which the student moves shall determine when or if a student who moves for athletic purposes becomes eligible. See (c) above and (f) (3) below.
- (e) **PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM (PAPF).** An individual is presumed to have changed schools for athletic purposes if he or she participated with his or her former school in any UIL athletic contest or practice in grades eight through twelve during any previous school year until:
- (1) the student's parents change their residence to the new school or attendance zone; (See Section 442(g) for a student who changes residence with a separated parent);
 - (2) the superintendent (or designated administrator) and principal and/or coach of the previous school sign a PAPF stating that the student was not recruited to the new school and did not change schools or attendance zones for athletic purposes;
 - (3) the superintendent (or designated administrator) of the new school signs a PAPF stating that the student was not recruited and is not changing schools for athletic purposes;
 - (4) the District Executive Committee approves the completed PAPF.
- NOTE: The District Executive Committee is not bound to determining only the status of students who participated at another school the previous or current year, as it relates to changing schools for athletic purposes.
- (f) **ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION BY DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**
- (1) If the District Executive Committee where the student attends school finds that the student did not change schools for athletic purposes and meets all the criteria listed in Section 442, it shall declare the student eligible if he/she meets all other eligibility requirements.
 - (2) If the District Executive Committee where the student now attends school finds that the student did not change schools for athletic purposes, it may declare that student eligible even though the school district from which he or she moved refused to sign the PAPF. (Extreme caution should be used in granting eligibility under this condition)
 - (3) If the District Executive Committee where the student now lives finds at any time that the

change was made for athletic purposes, it shall declare that student ineligible to participate in athletic contests for one year. This may include a student who did not compete at the previous school. If the committee decides that the period of ineligibility should be longer than one year, the committee shall transfer the case to the State Executive Committee. Subject to Section 403(f) and 463 (2)(A), a student who has established varsity eligibility under this section at a member school but who subsequently enrolls in another member school and is found to have changed schools for athletic purposes remains eligible at the school, where eligibility was first established.

- (4) When officials from both the sending and receiving schools agree that a student changed schools for athletic purposes, the State Executive Committee will not hear or grant an appeal.
- (g) **MINIMUM PENALTY.** If a Previous Athletic Participation Form was not filed prior to competition and it was an inadvertent error and the student is actually eligible under Subchapter M of the Constitution, the District Executive Committee is not required to demand forfeiture or to rule the student ineligible. The committee may assess the minimum penalty of reprimand.
- (h) **NO PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM REQUIRED.** The Previous Athletic Participation Forms are not required if the student did not practice or participate with his or her former school in grades eight through twelve or if the student was required to change schools because the school district or attendance zone lines were changed by the school board or other appropriate authority.

PAPF - https://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/PAPF_and_Elig_Quest2021.pdf

NOTE: (d) and (f) above speak to the applicability of the Previous Athletic Participation Form as it relates to students who have or have not represented another school in grades nine through twelve in either varsity or sub varsity competition. Section 403 (c) prohibits students from changing schools for athletic purpose.