

# **Athletic Eligibility Information**

## **Entering High School – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

It is a family choice in deciding the school in which they chose to enroll their children. Athletic eligibility is first established when the student enters 9<sup>th</sup> grade, regardless of the member school. This is called **Initial Residential Eligibility** and specific details are listed in CIF Bylaw 206. Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade must meet all academic and citizenship requirements of the CIF and are subject to local school/board policies in order to participate in CIF high school athletics.

**CIF Bylaw 202.B. prohibits providing false information in regard to any aspect of eligibility. CIF Bylaw 510 (Undue Influence – Recruiting) prohibits any person or persons to secure, retain or influence what high school a student attends. In both cases, there are severe penalties for both the student-athlete and the school. The student-athlete penalty could include ineligibility for up to 24 months. Please report unethical behavior immediately to your school principal to help protect your student-athlete eligibility. Unethical behavior, recruiting and cheating hurts everyone.**

**Anytime a student moves from one school to another school (School “A” to School “B”), the student is considered a “transfer” student.**

## **Before the First Day of 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

A family may make a decision to transfer their student prior to the first day of the student’s 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive semester (typically the first semester of the sophomore year) of attendance since the initial enrollment in 9th grade and still retain residential athletic eligibility when the specific conditions are met. Please see CIF Bylaw 207A.(3) for the conditions that must be met for the student to retain residential athletic eligibility. The student and his/her family will need to complete all necessary forms to help the new school determine that no recruiting took place and that the student meets all other CIF academic and eligibility standards in order to participate at the new school. These forms must be completed and approved prior to the student participating in a game or contest.

## **Anytime Following the First Day of 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

When a family makes the decision to transfer the student after the first day of his/her 10<sup>th</sup> grade year, there may be limitations on the student's athletic eligibility, depending on the classification of the student.

### **Classifications of Transfer Students**

- 1. A valid change of residence student.**
- 2. A transfer without a valid change of residence.**
- 3. An involuntary transfer student** (*when a school/district forces the student to change schools*).

Regardless of the type of transfer, there will be paperwork, (forms and documentation) that the student and his/her parents/legal guardians will have to complete for the new school (School "B") in order to request athletic eligibility. The new school (School "B") will communicate with the transfer student's previous school (School "A") and work with the parents to complete the necessary forms to ensure not only residential eligibility but also academic eligibility.

On the following page is an abbreviated explanation that describes the athletic eligibility process for students who transfer under these circumstances. It is hoped that families will be better prepared to make "school choice" decisions with an understanding of the impact of those decisions on their student's residential athletic eligibility.

## **A SIMPLE PROCESS**

**When a student transfers schools (changes from School "A" to School "B") regardless of the reason for the change, the new school (School "B") must take steps to ensure the athletic eligibility of the student. These steps will include:**

**The new school principal or administrative designee must determine if the student is academically eligible and has made a valid change of residence.**

- The new school site principal/designee shall review if the student made a valid change of residence by following the process of its respective CIF Section for a "Valid Change of Residence." The process will include submission of paperwork to the CIF Section office prior to participation in games/contests.
  - The new school must also verify the student has met the academic requirements of the school and CIF.
  - The new school must verify there was no "Undue Influence."
  - The new school must verify that there are no pending school discipline issues existing at the prior school that could jeopardize the student's eligibility at the new school; that the move (by voluntary transfer or change of residence) did not occur either to avoid discipline or pending discipline, or that the move was involuntary due to discipline issues.
- The new school (School "B") athletic director/administrator may contact the athletic director/administrator from the previous school to inform him/her of the valid change of address and check on any other issues that could affect the student's eligibility.
- This process will not begin before the student is enrolled and attending the new school.

**If it is determined that the student did not make a valid change of residence, the new school (School "B") must take a few additional steps prior to determining the eligibility of the student.**

- All CIF Sections WILL require that the appropriate forms be submitted to and APPROVED by the CIF Section office PRIOR to the student participating in contest/games when there is NOT a “Valid Change of Residence”.
  - The new school is responsible for determining if the student meets the academic requirements of the CIF, CIF Section and the school.
  - The new school is responsible for using Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit (CIF Form 510.) to determine that there was no “Undue Influence.”
  - The school must also verify that there are no pending discipline issues existing at the prior school that could jeopardize the student eligibility at the new school.
- Students may be granted “limited eligibility” by the CIF Section office once all forms and paperwork are submitted and approved under certain circumstances.
- It is recommended that the parents and the student-athlete discuss “Limited Eligibility” and the hardship waiver process with their new school administrator if they feel that there are extenuating circumstances as defined under CIF Bylaw 208: Hardships.

**North County Conference Transfer Eligibility (CCA, LCC, SDA, TP)**

A student who participated at the varsity level in a sport at School “A” in the North County Conference and enrolls (either by bona fide change of residence, transfer, or otherwise) in School “B” during that same season of sport shall have restricted athletic eligibility in that sport for the duration of the season.

For more information, check out the CIF website: [www.cifsds.org](http://www.cifsds.org)