



THE CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Quick CIAC Facts!!!

Transfer Rules-Student Athletic Eligibility: One complication less!

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Recent rule changes for athletic eligibility for certain types of transfers will be in effect for next year. Those changes affect the eligibility status for students who transfer in or out of a “school of choice” since now these students will have the same restrictions as a student who transfers in or out of any other high school. That rule states that: any student in grades 10, 11, or 12 who transfers out of a CIAC member school without at the same time changing residence, will become ineligible for 365 days. It should also be noted that if a principal “signs off” on the transfer notification form, (athletic directors must fill one out for all transfers in grades 10 through 12 who do not have address changes) indicating that the transfer was not for athletic reasons, the athlete in question will have a wait period of 50% of the scheduled regular season contests for the last sport played at the sending school.

The transfer rule is a simple one but does present about 20 possible waivers (See Appendix B of the CIAC Handbook). Any one of those waivers requires a CIAC staff member to verify that it is applicable. While the rule “exceptions take up two pages in the handbook, they require individual attention in each case since there are so many possible situations that present “grey areas” of interpretation.

Your school’s athletic director should be able to offer the first level of advice to the high school administration. This office will provide a “quick guide” for principals for the following school year but even with that, there are a great many possible interpretations of the waivers that individual attention is the best first step after speaking to the student initially.

Another frequent question that comes to the attention of principals and athletic directors is the “age limitation” application for student athletes. What is the “oldest age” that an athlete may be and still compete at a CIAC member school? The answer to this question is far simpler than the “transfer rule”, no student may turn twenty (20) years of age during a sport season. So even if it is the last day of the “regular season” when a young man or woman turns 20, he or she is ineligible. There is no waiver of this rule and has been in effect for several years. It is similar throughout state athletic organizations in the United States.

We hope that these simplistic explanations help as you move into a new year and season!

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