

CIAC Transfer Rule

Why Have a Transfer Rule?

- Prevent the recruiting of student-athletes
- Prevent “school jumping” by students for athletic reasons
- Minimize the influence of athletics upon the family’s decision regarding school attendance
- Protect and maintain equitable opportunity for students whose families are legitimate residents of a school district

History of the CIAC Transfer Rule

There have been many changes to the CIAC Transfer Rule over the years. The current version of the rule was adopted by the CIAC Board of Control in 2010. The prior version required student-athletes to sit out thirty days rather than 50% of the varsity schedule. This change was initiated by CAAD.

The CIAC Transfer Rule

A student who transfers from an in-state school or out-of-state school to a CIAC member school during grade 10-11, or 12 without at the same time changing legal residence to another school district or school service area must complete at least one year (365 days) of approved membership before being eligible for interscholastic competition in the same sport in which he or she was a participant in the present or preceding season during grades 10, 11 or 12 on the junior varsity or varsity team. (Legal residence is defined as location of legal guardian.)

Identifying Transfer Students

Work with your Guidance Department to create a system to identify students who have transferred to your school. Determine whether the transfer rule applies to an individual student. Once tryouts are underway, coaches are your best resource to identify student-athletes in upper grades who are new to the team.

Filling Out the Transfer Form

New Eligibility Center>Forms and Applications>Student Transfer>Add New

This form is only required if **all three** of the following conditions apply:

- 1) The student-athlete was in grade 10 or higher prior to withdrawing from their sending school.
- 2) The student-athlete was a varsity or junior varsity player in grades 10, 11 or 12 in at least one CIAC-sponsored sport during the calendar year (365 days) prior to the transfer.
- 3) The student-athlete did not, while living with their parents or legal guardian, have a change of legal address into the service area of the receiving school.

Make sure to completely fill out the form. The form is initiated by the receiving school. Once it is filled out by the sending school, the form is sent to the CIAC office for final determination of transfer rule application. If both principals sign off that the transfer is

not for athletic reasons, the student athlete will sit out 50% of the varsity schedule of the first affected sport.

Exceptions to the Transfer Rule

There are 18 exceptions to the transfer rule.

(1) A student who transfers after not less than a 90 calendar day membership from a non-state association member school to a member school and resides with a parent or legal guardian.

(7) A student ordered transferred within a school system, for other than athletic purposes, by a board of education or the governing body of a private or parochial school system. Transfer must take place within the same school system.

(8) A student who, because of the divorce or separation of his/her parents or because of the death of a parent or legal guardian, moves into another school district or school service area...

(9) A student eighteen (18) years or older who moves from one school district or school service area to another without being with a parent or parents and resides within the school district or school service area and complies with local board of education residency requirements will be eligible for participation. The transfer will be permitted once per twelve month period which commences on the date of said transfer and must be approved by the CIAC Eligibility Committee.

(13) A special needs student, as identified by an IEP or 504 Plan, may transfer without loss of eligibility if the principal of the sending school attests in writing that the school is unable to provide the support services necessary for the student's academic success.

(15) When for educational reasons a parent or legal guardian moves to a new school district, the student, to gain eligibility at the new school without establishing a 365 day period of attendance, must transfer his/her enrollment simultaneously with the transfer of residence of parent or legal guardian, or no later than the beginning of the next school year.

(17) A student whose parents move out of the district any time after he or she becomes a grade 10 student may continue to be eligible in the same school provided enrollment is continuous (unbroken) in the same school.

(18) Hardship – Eligibility may be granted to a transfer student who does not meet the CIAC transfer standard when sufficient evidence, as determined by the CIAC Eligibility Committee, is provided to show that it was necessary for the student to transfer because of unforeseen, unavoidable, or unusual circumstances

Residency as it Pertains to the Transfer Rule

The fact the guardianship papers have been issued, placing a student under the control of a person or persons other than his/her parent(s), does not establish eligibility in the district of the guardian unless such papers are issued through a probate court judge. Residence with and support by any individual or individuals for a period of one calendar year does establish the residence of that individual or individuals as the residence of the student for athletic purposes.