

**QUESTION: What is meant by an athletically motivated move or transfer?**

**ANSWER:** Based on the CIF philosophy that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary [Bylaw 200.A.(2)], individual Section Offices may limit eligibility for a student when there is evidence the transfer, or move is made to acquire athletic participation at School B. Such evidence of an athletically motivated move may include, but is not limited to:

- Transferring to a School after Participating on a Non-School Athletic Team, Camp or Clinic Associated with the School [Bylaw 510.E.(1)]
- Transferring to a School Where a Former High School Coach Has Relocated [Bylaw 510.E.(2)]
- A demonstrated move or transfer that is prompted by association with club programs or outside agencies that use the facilities of the new school.
- Evidence that multiple students have transferred or changed schools to participate in a particular sports program at one (1) school.

(Revised April 2017 Federated Council)

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## 207. TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY

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Note: Any school seeking athletic eligibility (AT ANY LEVEL) for a student athlete must complete the appropriate online transfer process. Prior to any interscholastic competition, the student athlete must be cleared by the CIF Southern Section office. The status of any individual athlete can be obtained on the CIF website or by contacting the CIF Southern Section office.

**A. Determination of Transfer Student Status-Standards of Enrollment - See also Bylaw 201.A. (3)**

**(1) A student shall be considered to be a transfer student when:**

- a. The student has attended class at their former school (School A);  
(Revised April 2016 Federated Council)  
AND/OR
- b. The student has played in an athletic contest for their former school; AND/OR
- c. The student has tried out for or practiced with a team prior to the beginning of the school year for five (5) days or more; AND
- d. That student withdraws from School A or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled in at School A, so that student is no longer enrolled in any way at School A; AND
- e. That student enrolls as a full-time student in a new school (School B).

**THEN that student shall be determined to be enrolled in and having transferred to School B if all conditions of Bylaw 201.A.(1) are met.**

**QUESTION:** What is the definition of an athletic contest?

**ANSWER:** An athletic contest is defined as a contest(s) between student(s) representing two or more schools, either public/charter/private, and between student(s) representing schools that are either CIF/State Organization/NFHS affiliated or between student(s) representing schools that are not CIF/State Organization/NFHS affiliated.

**(2) Students may not practice with or participate in an interscholastic athletic contest for the new school prior to establishing enrollment in the new school meeting these enrollment standards except if they are transferring at the beginning of the school year and practice for that season of sport begins prior to the first day that school and classes begin. These conditions must be met even if prior to this such a student has registered for classes and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee to the new school.**

- a. For eligibility purposes, students cannot have dual enrollment in two (2) different schools at the same time. During the time a student is intending to transfer schools, has registered for classes at the new school and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee at the new school, but still remains enrolled in the former school, the student will be considered to be enrolled in the former school. Only at such time as the student has withdrawn from or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled at the former school and is no longer enrolled in any way at the former school, shall that student be considered as having transferred to the new school. This applies to 8<sup>th</sup> graders matriculating the following school year to 9<sup>th</sup> grade in a CIF member school.

**(3) No one associated with the athletic program at the new school may perpetrate any violation of Bylaw 510 or have inappropriate pre-enrollment contact as outlined in Bylaw 207.C or 510 prior to their enrollment in the new school as defined above. [See also Bylaw 201.A (4)]**

(Revised April 2016 Federated Council)

**QUESTION: What is meant by an athletically motivated move or transfer?**

**ANSWER:** Based on the CIF philosophy that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary [Bylaw 200.A.(2)], individual Section Offices may limit eligibility for a student when there is evidence the transfer, or move is made to acquire athletic participation at School B. Such evidence of an athletically motivated move may include, but is not limited to:

- Transferring to a School after Participating on a Non-School Athletic Team, Camp or Clinic Associated with the School [Bylaw 510.E.(1)]
- Transferring to a School Where a Former High School Coach Has Relocated [Bylaw 510.E.(2)]
- A demonstrated move or transfer that is prompted by association with club programs or outside agencies that use the facilities of the new school.
- Evidence that multiple students have transferred or changed schools to participate in a particular sports program at one (1) school.

(Revised April 2017 Federated Council)

**B. CIF Transfer Rule**

All students transferring at any time during their enrollment in high school to a CIF member school after their initial enrollment in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in any school (referred to as Former School or School A) shall have their eligibility determination made in compliance with the following Bylaw 207.B. except:

- Those making a valid change of residence (Bylaw 206); OR
- Those transferring to or from a CIF member school under the auspices of a CIF-approved foreign exchange program (Bylaw 208); OR
- Those transferring as a result of discipline (Bylaw 209).

**QUESTION:** What is the eligibility status of a transfer student who does not earn a 2.0 GPA in the most recent regular grading period prior to their transfer?

**ANSWER:** The student is academically ineligible until they complete a regular grading period at their new school with a minimum 2.0 GPA and all other CIF eligibility requirements are met.

NOTE: This applies to Valid Change of Residence, Transfer and Hardship students.

**NOTES:**

**Emancipated Minors:** This Bylaw also applies to students 18 years of age or older and emancipated minors.

**No Child Left Behind Every Student Succeeds Act:** Students transferring to another school under any provision of the federal legislation “No Child Left Behind Every Student Succeeds Act” are not residentially eligible at their new school. However, a student may become eligible under the provisions of the appropriate CIF Section and CIF State Constitution and Bylaws. (The Elementary Secondary Education Act (Pub.L. 114–95) also known as the Every Student Succeeds Act or ESSA, was signed into law on December 10, 2015 by President Obama.)

**Boarding School:** A high school student who transfers to or from the status of a full-time resident at a 24-hour boarding school shall be subject to all provisions of Bylaw 207 with the exception of those making a valid change of residence (Bylaw 206).

**QUESTION: Is a boarding school student eligible to apply for the Sit Out Period?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, assuming the student meets all provisions of Bylaw 207.B.(5).b.

(Approved April 2018 Federated Council)

**(1) Mandatory Applications for Eligibility Determination**

All such transfer students addressed in Bylaw 207 must complete the respective CIF Section-required Application form (please use local CIF Section Form). This form must be submitted to the CIF Section for an eligibility determination which the CIF Section Commissioner shall render in writing within twenty (20) business days of receipt unless a shorter timeframe has been so designated. No transfer student is eligible to compete for their new school of enrollment until a determination has been made by their respective CIF Section. (See also Bylaws 501, 510 and 700.)

(Revised January 2016 Federated Council)

(2) Pre-Enrollment Disclosure Requirements

[Please see also Bylaws 201.A.(1) & (4) and 510]

Any and all pre-enrollment contact of any kind whatsoever with a student must be disclosed by the student, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, and the schools involved to their respective CIF Section office on a completed CIF Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit [CIF Form - (please use local CIF Section Form)]. Pre-enrollment contact may include, but is not limited to: any communication of any kind, directly or indirectly, with the student, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, relatives, or friends of the student about the athletic programs at a school; orientation/information programs, shadowing programs; attendance at outside athletic or similar events by anyone associated with the school to observe the student; participation by the student in programs supervised by the school or its associates before enrollment in the school per Bylaws 201.A.(1) & (4).

(3) Transfers to a CIF Member School (described as New School or School B) From Schools (described as Former School or School A) Located in the United States, a U.S. Territory, Canada or a U.S. Military Base (referred herein as Domestic Transfers)

Such transfer students who meet all other requirements for eligibility outlined in CIF Bylaws will be granted unlimited residential eligibility in all sports at all levels at the new school except:

- a. In any sport(s) in which the transfer student has competed at any level at the former school(s), or was part of an academy program which competed against a high school or non-school organization during that season of sport, in the 12 calendar months immediately preceding their transfer to the new school, the student will be limited to sub-varsity (limited) eligibility in those sports;

QUESTION: What is the definition of an interscholastic athletic contest?

ANSWER: An interscholastic athletic contest is defined as a contest(s) between student(s) representing two or more schools, either public/charter/private, and between student(s) representing schools that are either CIF/State Organization/NFHS affiliated or between student(s) representing schools that are not CIF/State Organization/NFHS affiliated.

- b. No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two (2) different schools in the same school year;
- c. If the transfer is determined to be athletically motivated. Athletically motivated transfers may be considered prima facie evidence that the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons and cause the student to be ineligible for participation in those sports in which the student participated at the former school as outlined in Bylaws 510 and 207.C.;
- d. The transfer is not determined to be based upon a disciplinary situation (See Bylaw 209);
- e. The student meets all other provisions of all CIF Bylaws.

The student shall have unlimited residential eligibility for all sports at all levels under Bylaw 207 after having been enrolled for 12 calendar months from the date of transfer to the new school or in the case where the student returns to the previous school of eligibility as stated below:

When a student eligible in School A transfers to School B or any subsequent school and is residentially not eligible, the student may return to School A and shall be determined to be residentially eligible for unlimited participation in interscholastic sports provided the student did not participate in an interscholastic athletic contest while at School B or any subsequent school.

(Approved April 2018 Federated Council)

NOTE #1: Refer to (5) below for applications for transfer eligibility limitations determinations and exceptions.

NOTE #2: For purposes of this bylaw, an "academy" is defined as a non-school organization located in or outside the State of California that consists of a sports development and/or training program, consisting of athletic team(s) that compete against other high school or non-school organization athletic programs.

(Approved Federated Council April 2023)

(4) International Transfers Not in a CIF-Approved Foreign Exchange Program

Students who transfer to a CIF Member school (described as New School or School B) from:

- a. Any school (described as Former School or School A) which is located outside of the United States, a U.S. Territory, U. S. Military Base or Canada; AND

- b. Who are not enrolled in the CIF member school under the auspices of a CIF-approved foreign exchange program; AND
- c. Who meet all other requirements for eligibility in Bylaws.

THEN they may be granted unlimited residential eligibility in all sports at all levels at the new school except:

- (i) In any sport(s) in which the transfer student has competed at any level for a club or school team, in the 12 calendar months immediately preceding their transfer to the new school. The student will be limited to sub-varsity (limited) eligibility in those sports. For the purpose of this Bylaw, any and all organized sports programs (e.g. youth teams, community teams, club teams, national teams at any level or individualized instruction for competition in development schools or programs) in which the international student competed on, or participated within the last 12 months, will be considered by the CIF in determining whether the student participated in the equivalent of interscholastic competition.
- (ii) No student who has participated with a club or school team as described in (i), shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at the CIF member school within the same 12-month period (See also Bylaw 504.L.).
- (iii) If the transfer is determined to be athletically motivated. Athletically motivated transfers may be considered prima facie evidence that the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons and cause the student to be ineligible for participation in those sports in which the student participated at the former school. (See also Bylaw 510)
- (iv) International students who are not participating in a CIF approved foreign exchange program are not eligible for the Sit Out Provision.

The student may be granted unlimited residential eligibility for all sports at all levels under Bylaw 207 after having been enrolled for 12 calendar months from the date of transfer to the new school.

In addition, such international transfers must:

- d. Possess a valid visa, allowing them to attend school, issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service or be a U.S. citizen who has been attending the equivalent of a United States high school secondary educational program outside of the United States; AND
- e. Provide to the principal of the school he/she attends an official un-translated transcript and a transcript that is translated into English, by an agency acceptable to the Section from the National Association of Credential Evaluation Service (NACES) membership, which indicates work taken in all grades in which the student was enrolled; the grade level equivalent in the United States as if the international student had completed all courses attempted satisfactorily; and the California grade-point average equivalent; AND
- f. If required, the international transfer student must pay tuition to the school/school district he/she attends as prescribed in Education Code Section 48052 et seq.; AND
- g. Be subject to the maximum of eight (8) consecutive semesters Bylaw 204; AND
- h. Be subject to the age requirement Bylaw 203; AND
- i. Not have graduated from high school. If they should have graduated, or have completed the equivalent coursework for graduation from high school/secondary school, the student is ineligible to participate in CIF competition; AND
- j. Not have the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, serve as the resident family for the international transfer student.

NOTE: CIF Sections may require individual students to have their school records/transcripts from the school from which they are transferring evaluated by an outside agency at the student's or school expense.  
(Revised April 2018 Federated Council)

(5) Applications for Transfer Eligibility Limitations, Determinations and Exceptions

The CIF recognizes that, in certain circumstances, students may transfer from one (1) school to another due to a compelling hardship need or situation that is beyond a student's or their family's control. In response to such cases, the CIF allows for the CIF Section to make an exception to the limited eligibility status whenever they transfer and the case meets one (1) of the hardship circumstances outlined in Bylaw 207.B.(5)c.(viii). The first time a student transfers in high school, they may utilize the Sit Out Period exception covered in Bylaw 207.B.(5)b. below if they meet all of the conditions required. Any student whose transfer circumstances do not meet the conditions required by these two (2) options, will have their residential eligibility determined in compliance with 207.B.(5)a. as long as they meet the conditions required in that Bylaw.

(Revised April 2018 Federated Council)

a. Limited Eligibility Applications

Any student who submits a limited eligibility application to their respective CIF Section may be made eligible to play at the sub-varsity level in any sports in which they have participated at any previous school in the 12 months prior to this transfer under the following conditions:

- (i) The student was academically eligible at the time of transfer from the former school. Students who are academically ineligible at their previous school will not be eligible to compete at their new school until the requirements in Bylaw 205 are met and the new school has completed a grading period to verify that the student has met the CIF and school district academic eligibility requirements. A student cannot gain academic probation at the new school to fulfill this requirement if not available at prior school; AND
- (ii) The principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not made in violation of Bylaw 510; AND
- (iii) The student is not transferring either voluntarily or because their former school has determined they must withdraw, because of a disciplinary infraction at the former school as defined in Bylaw 209.C. (1); AND
- (iv) The student is not found by the CIF Section to have transferred to a school where their former high school coach has relocated or where a club coach, with whom they have been associated, is coaching per Bylaw 207.C.(4) or (5); AND
- (v) No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two (2) different schools in the same school year unless the student changed schools as a result of a valid change of residence or pursuant to a hardship approved by their respective CIF Section; AND
- (vi) A completed Limited Transfer Application (please use local CIF Section Form) is received by the respective CIF Section office and has been processed and approved; AND
- (vii) The student who is approved by their respective CIF Section office and competes in a contest at the sub-varsity level following such approval and before the Sit Out Period (SOP) dates described in B.(5)b.(ix) below, is ineligible for and may not compete at the varsity level in that sport for the remainder of that school year. This applies through the end of any Section, Regional or State Championship finals in that sport; AND
- (viii) The student has not been determined by their respective CIF/Section Office or the CIF to have made a transfer or change in schools in violation of Bylaw 510.

b. Varsity Eligibility Applications (Non-Hardship Sit Out Period)

Any student who transfers for the first time since their initial enrollment in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in any school, or if the first transfer of schools for this student was granted due to an approved CIF hardship [see Bylaw 207.B.(5).c], or a valid change of residence and whose circumstances causing the transfer do not meet any of the Hardship Exceptions outlined in c.(viii) on following page, may become eligible for varsity competition for the sport(s) in which they competed in the last 12 months at the former school or any other school, upon submission, review and approval by their respective CIF Section under the following provisions:

- (i) This is the student's first transfer since they first enrolled anywhere in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade or had their first transfer determined to be a CIF hardship circumstance [Bylaw 207.B.(5).c.]; or a valid change of residence; AND
- (ii) The student was academically eligible at the time of transfer from the former school; AND
- (iii) The principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not made in violation of Bylaw 510; AND
- (iv) The student is not transferring either voluntarily or because their former school has determined they must withdraw, because of a disciplinary infraction at the former school as defined in Bylaw 209.C. (1); AND

- (v) The student is not found by the CIF Section to have transferred to a school where their former high school coach has relocated or where a club coach with whom they have been associated is coaching, per Bylaw 207.C.(4) or (5); AND
- (vi) The student has not been determined by their respective CIF/Section Office or the CIF to have made a transfer or change in schools in violation of Bylaw 510; AND
- (vii) No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two (2) different schools in the same school year unless the student changed schools as a result of a valid change of residence or pursuant to a hardship approved by their respective CIF Section; AND
- (viii) The student has not competed at the new school at the sub-varsity level in that sport following the transfer during the current school year; AND
- (ix) The student shall remain out of any competition at any level in each sport in which they competed in the last 12 months at the former school or any other school in accordance with the following Sit Out Periods (SOP) [Bylaw 207.B.(3).]:  
 NOTE: In any sport(s) in which the transfer student has competed at any level at the former school(s) in the 12 calendar months immediately preceding their transfer to the new school, the student will be limited to sub-varsity (limited) eligibility in those sports (Bylaw 207.B.(3)a.) (Editorial June 2021)  
 The Sit Out Period will be 50% of the total number days in that particular season of sport. The number of days in a season is determined by each Section in accordance with their first allowable competition date through the final regular season competition date. If total number of days in a season is an odd number, then the Sit Out Period would be 50% plus one additional day. (Revised October 2017 Federated Council)
  - The student who transfers to a school after School B's first contest will have an SOP equivalent in calendar days to the SOP of all other students who transferred before the season started. The respective CIF Section Office will provide the actual date once the proper forms are received, reviewed and approved.

**QUESTION:** What happens if a student competes in a varsity game prior to becoming eligible under the student's SOP designated date?

**ANSWER:** Should the student participate in any contest(s) prior to his/her SOP date, (indicated for that student in their transfer case), the student is considered an ineligible player. The team will forfeit the contest(s) in which the ineligible student participated. In addition, the student will "Sit Out" the number of contests equivalent to the number of contests played prior to the assigned SOP date (a one for one penalty). For example, if the student participates in one contest prior to reaching their SOP date, the student will be ineligible for the contest immediately following their SOP date. If a student participates in three (3) contests prior to reaching their SOP date, the student will be ineligible for the three (3) contests immediately following his/her assigned SOP date.

**QUESTION:** My son was denied the Sit Out Period. May we appeal this ruling?  
**ANSWER:** No.

**QUESTION:** How is the SOP determined for a Traditional Competitive Cheer transfer?  
**ANSWER:** Because the CIF recognizes Traditional Competitive Cheer programs in each of the three (3) seasons of CIF competition, transfers seeking the SOP for Traditional Competitive Cheer will work directly with their Section office on a case-by-case situation.

**c. Unlimited Eligibility Applications**

Exceptions to the determination of limited eligibility under Bylaw 207.B. (application for unlimited residential eligibility in all sports) may be applied for by the new school [CIF Form – (please use local CIF Section Form)] on behalf of the student. Consideration for unlimited residential eligibility will be given by the respective CIF Section upon review of the application only under the following provisions.

- (i) The student was scholastically eligible at the time of transfer from the former school. Students who are scholastically ineligible at their previous school will not be eligible to compete at their new school until the requirements in Bylaw 205 are met and the new school has completed a grading period to verify that the student has met the CIF and school district scholastic eligibility requirements. A student cannot gain academic probation at the new school to fulfill this requirement if not available at prior school; AND
- (ii) The student is NOT transferring, either voluntarily or because their former school has determined they must withdraw, because of a disciplinary infraction at the former school as defined in Bylaw 209.C.(1); AND
- (iii) The student is not found by the CIF Section to have transferred to a school where their former high school coach has relocated or where a club coach, with whom they have been associated, is coaching per Bylaw 207.C.(4) or (5) & 510.E; AND
- (iv) The student has not been determined by their respective CIF/Section Office or the CIF to have made a transfer or change in schools in violation of Bylaw 510; AND

- (v) The student has not competed at the new school at the sub-varsity level in that sport at any time following the transfer to the new school; students who chose to play at the sub-varsity level under the provisions outlined in (5)a. (Limited Eligibility Applications) above may not subsequently be granted unlimited eligibility for that same sport during the same season at the new school; AND
- (vi) No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two (2) different schools in the same school year unless the student changed schools as a result of a valid change of residence or pursuant to a hardship approved by their respective CIF Section; AND
- (vii) A completed Unlimited Transfer Application (please use local CIF Section Form) and documentation required by the CIF Section is received by the respective CIF Section office and has been processed, reviewed and approved; AND
- (viii) One (1) of the following hardship circumstances is documented to the satisfaction of the respective CIF Section:
  - (a) **Court-Ordered Transfers**  
Unlimited eligibility may be granted by the CIF Section in which the student's new school is located in cases where a student is residentially placed from one (1) school attendance area to the attendance area of the new school by a court order or a child protection order and all provisions listed above in c.(i-vii) are met. The student may be determined to have unlimited residential eligibility upon receipt of the CIF application (please use local CIF Section Form) and sufficient documentation (including but not limited to a copy of the court order) to satisfy that CIF Section Commissioner that the circumstances meet this criteria. The student will become eligible for varsity competition upon notification to the new school of the approval of such an application by the CIF Section.
  - (b) **Children of Divorced Parents**  
Unlimited eligibility may be granted by the CIF Section in which the student's new school is located when a student changes residence from one (1) parent's domicile to the other parent's domicile as a result of a court-ordered custody change, or court ordered or approved joint custody agreements and all provisions listed above in c.(i-vii) are met. The student may be determined to have unlimited residential eligibility upon receipt of the CIF application (please use local CIF Section Form) and sufficient documentation (including but not limited to a copy of the divorce papers and custody agreements) to satisfy that CIF Section Commissioner that the circumstances meet this criteria. The student will become eligible for varsity competition upon notification to the new school of the approval of such an application by the CIF Section.

SOUTHERN SECTION GUIDELINES - STUDENT TRANSFERS AND GUARDIANSHIP

- 207.1 If a student transfers from one high school to another and a new guardian is appointed DUE TO HARDSHIP, only a court appointed legal guardian will constitute a basis for consideration of a waiver, and all requests, along with proper legal verification, must be submitted to the CIF Southern Section office for review and determination of eligibility.
- 207.2 If a student resides in one school district with the student's legal court appointed guardian and the legal court appointed guardian changes official residence to another school attendance area the student may enroll in a new school and be immediately eligible.

QUESTION:	What is the difference between temporary guardianship and legal adoption insofar as eligibility is concerned?
ANSWER:	Guardianship or Letters of Guardianship are easily obtained and are generally on a temporary basis; therefore, the eligibility of any transfer student where guardianship is concerned must be reviewed and determined by the Commissioner. Legal adoption is more complicated and permanent and Rights of Survivorship accompany such action. In all cases a student is immediately eligible when his/her transfer from one school to another is a result of legal adoption.
QUESTION:	When the parents of a student legally separate and take up residence in different high school attendance areas, what is the eligibility status of the student?
ANSWER:	When a student's parents legally separate AND initiate divorce proceedings, the student would have continuing eligibility in the high school attendance area in which he/she originally resided. Any subsequent move to a new school attendance area would require a review, with the new school submitting all documentation to the CIF Southern Section Office for review. All other changes would be governed by the transfer Bylaw 207.
QUESTION:	What is the status of a student who transfers and then resides with "foster parents"?
ANSWER:	The student would come under Transfer Bylaw 207 and all applications. Any waiver of the Residence Bylaw would require an appeal to the CIF Southern Section Office for consideration.

QUESTION:	What is the eligibility status of a student formerly living with his or her parents who transfers to a new school and takes up residence with a legal guardian?
ANSWER:	The student would be considered for eligibility if the guardian were "court appointed" legal guardian and the new school submitted all documentation to the CIF Southern Section Office for review and possible subsequent approval.
QUESTION:	May a student continue to participate in athletics at a school after the parents have moved to another city?
ANSWER:	The student may continue in the first school of legal enrollment and be eligible even though the parents or guardians change residence.
QUESTION:	How does Bylaw 207.B apply to schools governed by the United State Bureau of Indian Affairs?
ANSWER:	Schools located in California that are governed and operated by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, are considered <b>residentially eligible</b> upon enrollment at that school. Students must still fulfill all other CIF eligibility rules and regulations prior to being granted athletic eligibility.

- (c) **Individual Student Safety Incidents**  
**Unlimited eligibility may be granted by the CIF Section in which the student's new school is located when a student is transferring as a result of a specific, documented safety incident in which the student was involved and all provisions listed above in c.(i-vii) are met. The student may be determined to have unlimited residential eligibility upon receipt of the CIF application (please use local CIF Section Form) and sufficient documentation is submitted to satisfy that CIF Section Commissioner that the circumstances meet this criteria. Required documentation may include, but is not limited to, administrative records and documentation from the former school about the specific safety incident that occurred at the former school and/or police records (if any). The student will become eligible for varsity competition upon notification to the new school of the approval of such an application by the CIF Section.**
- (d) **Discontinued Program**  
**When the former school, in which a student has been enrolled, discontinues a particular program in which the student had previously been enrolled or participated, and that student transfers to another school because of these circumstances, the student shall be determined to be residentially eligible for unlimited participation in the new school provided that new school offers a continuation of that same program and the student can show documentation that they were enrolled in or participated in that program at the former school and are currently enrolled or participating in that same program at the new school.**
- (e) **Foster Children or Homeless Children**  
**A student who: (1) is under the court-ordered supervision of the California Foster Care System who has changed residences pursuant to a court order and as a result, has transferred schools, OR (2) is homeless as defined by 42 U.S.C. § 11302; shall be determined to be residentially eligible for unlimited participation in interscholastic athletics provided all other CIF rules and regulations are met. Under circumstance (1), a change of residence ordered by a social worker of the California Foster Care System shall be acceptable, provided all other CIF rules and regulations are met. Under circumstance (2), a determination by a Local Education Agency that the student meets the definition of homeless shall be acceptable, provided all other CIF rules and regulations are met. A subsequent transfer of schools by a homeless student while continuing to reside in the same residence/locale where the LEA declared the student "homeless" is subject to the transfer provisions of Bylaw 207. Section Commissioners shall render eligibility determinations for foster children and homeless children within 15 business days of receipt.**  
**(Revised January 2016 Federated Council)**
- (f) **Military Service**  
**A student shall be determined to be residentially eligible for unlimited participation interscholastic athletics when returning from military service provided:**
- **The student was eligible when the student entered into the Armed Forces; AND**
  - **The student enrolls in the same school which the student attended before leaving for the service, or enrolls in the school in the district in which the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver reside; AND**
  - **The student enrolls in the school no later than the succeeding semester after being discharged; AND**

- Provided student did not receive a dishonorable discharge; AND
- The student is fully eligible under all other rules of the CIF.

(g) Married Status

A student who marries and lives with the student's spouse shall be determined to be residentially eligible for unlimited participation in interscholastic athletics in the school in the attendance area in which the student and their spouse resides.

(h) Board of Education Ruling

A student, or group of students, who transfer as a direct result of a ruling by the Board of Education of a school district that has two (2) or more high schools and which mandates a change of school attendance boundaries shall be determined to be residentially eligible for unlimited participation in interscholastic athletics in the school in the attendance area in which the student(s) are required to attend, provided the Board of Education Ruling is not a result of a disciplinary situation.

(Revised April 2018 Federated Council)

(May 2019 Removed (i) Open Enrollment Act Schools/Low Achieving Schools as it was eliminated by the State Legislature)

*Question: Why are charter schools included?*

Answer: Charter schools are considered public schools and are included on the list of Low Performing Schools and are subject to this bylaw.

*Question: Does this bylaw apply to private schools?*

Answer: No. Private schools do not have an API score and therefore there is not score to measure where they stand.

*Question: My school is on the low achieving school list. I want to go to a school that is not the geographically closest higher performing school. Am I eligible?*

Answer: No. This bylaw indicates you are eligible at the next geographically closest higher performing school.

*Question: What of the next geographically closest school is impacted and closed to new students?*

Answer: You would be eligible the next geographically closest school as long as that school is a higher performing school

d. Appeals

All eligibility determinations made by the respective CIF Section office under the provisions of Bylaw 207.B.(5)c. are final as all of these hardship circumstances are factual in nature and can be documented. Students whose eligibility determinations are made because they do not meet one (1) of the criteria outlined below in Bylaw 207.C. or in Bylaw 510 may appeal that portion of their eligibility determination in accordance with Bylaw 1100. Students may appeal a determination by their respective CIF Section if they have been found to not meet the following criteria:

- (i) Bylaw 207.B.(5)a.(iv) or b.(v) or c.(iii)

(Revised April 2017 Federated Council)

C. Pre-Enrollment Communication or Contact (Domestic and International Transfers)

A student who transfers from School A to School B, as described in Bylaws 207.A. and 207.B. above, shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics at School B until application under the appropriate CIF Section procedures is completed, including the following:

(1) Mandatory Parent/Student Certification

[Please see also Bylaws 201.A.(1) & (4), 207.B.(2) and 510]

Any and all pre-enrollment contact of any kind whatsoever with a student must be disclosed by the student, parent(s)/ guardian(s)/caregiver, and the schools involved to their respective CIF Section office on a completed CIF Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit [CIF Form - (please use local CIF Section Form)]. Pre-enrollment contact may include, but is not limited to: any communication of any kind, directly or indirectly, with the student, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, relatives, or friends of the student about the athletic programs at a school; orientation/information programs, shadowing programs; attendance at outside athletic or similar events by anyone associated with the school to observe the student; participation by the student in programs supervised by the school or its associates before enrollment in the school per Bylaws 201.A.(1) and (4).

(2) **Mandatory Former School Certification**

The principal and athletic director of School A shall attest that to the best of their knowledge they have no credible evidence\* of any person: who is connected with the athletic department of School B; who is part of the booster club of School B; or who is acting on their behalf, having communication, directly or indirectly, through intermediaries or otherwise, with the transfer student, student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, or anyone acting on behalf of the student, prior to the completion of the enrollment process.

**Definition of Credible Evidence**

\*Credible evidence is considered as evidence which proceeds from a trustworthy source; evidence which is so natural, reasonable and probable as to make it easy to believe; information which is obtained from authentic sources or from the statements of persons who are not only trustworthy, but also informed as to the particular matter; that which is not mere speculation, or rumor.

(3) **Mandatory New School Certification**

The principal, athletic director and head coach of School B shall certify that to the best of their knowledge, no person: who is connected with the athletic department of School B; who is part of the booster club of School B; or who is acting on their behalf, has had communication, directly or indirectly, through intermediaries or otherwise, with the transfer student, student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, or anyone acting on behalf of the student, prior to the completion of the enrollment process.

(4) **Club Coach Association with New School (student transfers to a new school which a coach from the student's non-CIF sports participation experience is associated)**

The transfer of a student from his or her current school of attendance with or without a valid change of residence (Bylaw 206) to any CIF member high school where the student participated, during the previous 24 months, on a non-school athletic team, (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club team, etc.) that is associated with the new school in the sports previously participated in shall be considered prima facie evidence (sufficient evidence) of undue influence/recruiting by the school to which the student transfers. Such transfer may be considered prima facie evidence (sufficient evidence) that the student enrolled in that school in whole or part for athletic reasons. A team associated with the school is one that is organized by and/or coached by any member of the coaching staff at, or any other person associated\*\* with, that school and/or on which the majority of the members of the team (Participants in practice and/or competition) are students who attend that school. When a prima facie case (sufficient evidence) of undue influencing/recruiting exists, the student shall be ineligible to represent the new school in interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the student's enrollment in the new school in all sports in which the student participated at any school in the last 12 months and/or the sport with which the coach referenced herein is associated, unless sufficient proof is presented to the satisfaction of the Section Commissioner that rebuts or disproves the evidence of undue influence/recruiting for athletic reasons.

**Definition of Persons Associated With School**

\*\*Defined as: Persons associated with a school include, but are not limited to; current or former coaches, current or former athletes, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver of current or former student/athletes, booster club members, alumni, spouses or relatives of coaches, teachers and other employees, coaches who become employed, active applicants for coaching positions, and persons who are employed by companies or organizations that have donated athletic supplies, equipment or apparel to that school.

(5) **Relocation of Former High School Coach (Domestic and International Transfers)**

A student at any grade level who transfers to a new school within one (1) calendar year of the relocation of his/her former high school coach to that school with or without a corresponding valid change in residence shall be considered prima facie evidence (sufficient evidence) of undue influence/recruiting by the school to which the student transfers or may be considered prima facie evidence (sufficient evidence) that the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons (See Bylaw 510). When a prima facie (sufficient evidence) case of undue influence/recruiting exists, the student shall be ineligible to represent the new school in interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the student's enrollment in the new school in all sports in which the student participated at any school in the last 12 months and/or the sport with which the coach referenced herein is associated, unless sufficient proof is presented to the satisfaction of the Section Commissioner that rebuts or disproves the evidence of undue influence/recruiting for athletic reasons.

(6) **Athletically Motivated Transfers (Copied from Bylaw 510.E.)**

The CIF, as the governing body of high school athletics, affirms that athletic competition is an important part of the high school experience and that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. The privilege of participation in interscholastic athletics is available to students in public or private schools who meet the democratically established standards of qualification as set forth by the Federated Council. As stated in CIF Bylaw 200.A.(6) the CIF

Bylaws shall serve as a deterrent to students who transfer or change schools for athletic reasons and to individuals who attempt to recruit (unduly influence) student-athletes or their parents to enroll in a school because of athletics. As stated in CIF Bylaw 200.A.(2) the CIF Bylaws reinforce the principle that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary. CIF Bylaws provide for individual Section Offices to limit eligibility for a student when there is evidence the transfer, or move is made to acquire athletic participation at their new school (School B). Students may be determined by their respective CIF/Section Office or the CIF to have made an athletically motivated transfer or change in schools under any of the basis listed in CIF Bylaw 510.E.(1)-(3).  
(Revised April 2017 Federated Council)

**(7) Disclosure**

Any pre-enrollment communication as described above must be disclosed in full, and in writing, to the appropriate Section. The Section Commissioner shall determine if the pre-enrollment communication is a violation of Bylaw 510.

**(8) Clearance of Pre-Enrollment Contact**

A student with whom contact or communication has occurred, as described in C.(1) above, and who meets all other CIF Section transfer waiver requirements, may become eligible upon determination that:

- a. The communication was completely unrelated to any aspect of School B; AND
- b. Was of a type that, from the objective point of view of a reasonable person disinterested in the win/loss record of School B, does not have an effect upon the integrity of interscholastic athletics at School A or School B.

**(9) Penalties**

Failure to disclose pre-enrollment communication with School B persons, identified in C.(2) above, to disclose any pre-enrollment contact, or communicate in writing to the appropriate Section as described in C.(3) above may result in:

- a. A forfeiture of all games in which the student participated; AND/OR
- b. Disqualification from playoff and championship competition for all seasons in which the student is a member of the school's team. (A student shall be considered a member of the school's team if he or she participated in any aspect of an interscholastic contest, no matter how brief such participation may have been); AND/OR
- c. Divestment from the school of all trophies, banners and other indicia of athletic success obtained while the student was a member of the school's team.

**(10) Appeals**

Students whose eligibility determination is made by the Section Commissioner that the prima facie evidence has not been successfully rebutted by sufficient proof to satisfy said Commissioner under the provisions of Bylaws 207.C.(4), (5), or (6) and/or 510 may appeal that portion of their eligibility determination in accordance with Bylaw 1100.

**DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Immediate Family** — Includes parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, stepparents and minor siblings with whom the student resided when Initial Residential Eligibility was established.

**Initial Residential Eligibility** — Under CIF rules and regulations, students establish their Initial Residential Eligibility at their school of choice entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade or the 10<sup>th</sup> grade of a three (3)-year high school.

**Limited Eligibility** — Students granted limited eligibility are limited for one (1)-year (from the date of transfer) to non-varsity competition in the CIF sports they participated in during the previous 12 calendar months but may participate in varsity competition in all other CIF sports.

**Prima Facie** — A legal term that means at first sight; on the first appearance; on the face of it; a fact presumed to be true unless disproved by some evidence to the contrary. A prima facie case is one in which the evidence presented is sufficient proof for the plaintiff (Section) to win its case of undue influence. In such a case, the defendant (school) must successfully refute the evidence for the student to gain eligibility.  
(Revised February 2017 Federated Council)

QUESTION:	May a student continue to participate in athletics at a school after the parents have moved to another city?
ANSWER:	The student may continue in the first school of legal enrollment and be eligible even though the parents or guardians change residence.
QUESTION:	Are there any attendance areas or districts for private or parochial schools?
ANSWER:	The CIF Southern Section has prescribed no attendance boundaries for private or parochial schools. A student graduating from the eighth grade or an elementary school or the ninth grade of a junior high school may enroll and be eligible in any private or parochial school in the Southern Section.
QUESTION:	Under what conditions may a student maintain his or her athletic eligibility when the student transfers from one parochial or private school to another (private or parochial school)?
ANSWER:	A student, not a full-time resident in a 24-hour boarding school, who transfers from a private or parochial school to another private or parochial school, will be eligible in the second school, only when the family has established a new valid residence change in another public attendance area different from the one than that of the first school.
QUESTION:	What is the eligibility status of a senior transferring under the provisions of Bylaw 207 when the school has no junior varsity team?
ANSWER:	Athletes transferring under the provisions of Bylaw 207 will not be granted varsity eligibility, even though the school does not field a junior varsity team.
QUESTION:	What constitutes a change of residence as far as the CIF Southern Section transfer rule is concerned?
ANSWER:	The parents, court appointed legal guardian and sibling(s) of a student with whom he/she is residing must change their actual residence from one high school attendance area to another high school attendance area, if the student is to transfer from one school to another and be immediately eligible. Please note: In doing so, the parents, court appointed legal guardian and sibling(s) may not maintain two residences for purpose of establishing eligibility.

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## 208. FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

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A foreign exchange student is a transfer student from one (1) school to another without a valid change of residence (See Bylaw 206.C.) under the auspices of a CIF-approved foreign exchange program.

- A. Students Transferring to a CIF Member School Under the Auspices of a CIF-Approved Foreign Exchange Program**  
Foreign Exchange students transferring under the auspices of a CIF-approved foreign exchange program from a school located outside the United States, a U.S. Military Base, a U.S. Territory or Canada to a CIF member school may be granted unlimited residential eligibility for all CIF athletic competition if all of the following conditions apply:
- (1) Such student must be under the auspices of, and be placed with a host family in the United States by a foreign exchange program that meets all the requirements listed below:**
- The program has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET); AND**
- The program has submitted a signed CIF Foreign Exchange Program Approval Request Form:**
- a. Stating that their placement procedures for foreign exchange students are purely random with respect to athletic participation and school placement; AND
  - b. Stating that there shall be no school, coach, community, relative or friend contact related to athletics regarding the enrollment of any student in a particular school; AND
  - c. Has been approved by the CIF; AND
  - d. The program has been recognized by the U.S. State Department and the California Office of the Attorney General, and the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET); AND
  - e. Any CIF-approved foreign exchange program that fails to fulfill the CIF conditions for exempt status shall be subject to immediate suspension of its exempt status and subject to permanent loss of its exempt status after due process has been fulfilled. All approved programs will be posted on the CIF website ([www.cifstate.org](http://www.cifstate.org))