

Guidance on Athletic Eligibility And Dissolutions, Reorganizations and Whole Grade Sharing

07/29/16

Many questions have been raised about the athletic eligibility of students whose high schools cease to exist, either because the district has dissolved, reorganized or entered into a whole grade sharing agreement. The matrix that follows covers various situations and the varsity eligibility of student-athletes. When the word “immediately” is used in this guidance it is referring to “immediately following the last class period held at the high school that is closing”. Please contact the Iowa High School Athletic Association (515/432-2011) or the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (515/288-9741) for eligibility determinations.

DISSOLUTIONS		
ACTION BY DISTRICT	REACTION BY STUDENT	ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
District A dissolves (for all of the dissolution scenarios, it does not matter whether the dissolution is voluntary or involuntary), effective with the 2017-2018 school year.	Student chooses to attend new district of residence.	The student is eligible immediately at his/her new district of residence.
District A dissolves, effective with the 2017-2018 school year.	Student chooses to attend a nonpublic school or open enrolls to another district or misses open enrollment deadline and pays tuition to another district.	The student is eligible immediately at the student's new school of enrollment.
District A dissolves, effective with the 2018-2019.	Student chooses to attend a nonpublic school or open enrolls to another district or misses open enrollment deadline and pays tuition to another district commencing with 2017-2018 school year.	A student who transfers before “losing” his/her high school is ineligible for varsity level interscholastic sports for first 90 consecutive school days of 2017-2018 school year.

<p>Softball/Baseball District A dissolves, but offers softball and/or baseball in its final year of existence.</p>	<p>Students who have not yet graduated may choose to play for District A or the high school the student will be attending in the fall.</p>	<p>The only time such student would not be eligible immediately at the student's new school of enrollment would be if the student played baseball/softball for School B, but then enrolled in School C in the fall. This would result in a 90 consecutive school day ineligibility under the General Transfer Rule.</p>
<p>Softball/Baseball District A dissolves, and does not offer softball and/or baseball in its final year of existence.</p>	<p>Students who have not yet graduated may play only for the high school the student will be attending in the fall.</p>	<p>The only time such student would not be eligible immediately at the student's new school of enrollment would be if the student played baseball/softball for School B, but then enrolled in School C in the fall. This would result in a 90 consecutive school day ineligibility under the General Transfer Rule.</p>
<p>Softball/Baseball District A dissolves, but offers softball and/or baseball in its final year of existence.</p>	<p>Graduated seniors may only play baseball/softball for District A.</p>	<p>A graduated senior whose high school offers baseball/softball the senior's final year is not "losing" his or her high school, and so must compete for the senior's high school of graduation.</p>
<p>Softball/Baseball District A dissolves, and does not offer softball and/or baseball in its final year of existence.</p>	<p>Graduated seniors may compete in baseball/softball, but only for the district the student would be assigned to if the student were an underclassman.</p>	<p>A graduated senior whose high school does not offer baseball/softball the senior's final year is "losing" his or her high school. The senior has an opportunity to compete, but cannot be given a choice of where because any choice would be motivated solely by sports.</p>

REORGANIZATIONS		
ACTION BY DISTRICT	REACTION BY STUDENT	ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
Districts A and B reorganize with each other to form District C, effective July 1, 2017. High school is in what was District B.	Students from District A choose to attend a nonpublic school or open enrolls to another district or misses open enrollment deadline and pays tuition to another district.	Students from District A are eligible immediately at their new schools of enrollment. Students from District B are not “losing” their high school, and have no immediate eligibility if they choose to transfer to a new high school.
Districts A and B reorganize with each other to form District C, effective July 1, 2018 . High school will be in what was District B.	Students from District A choose to attend a nonpublic school or open enrolls to another district or misses open enrollment deadline and pays tuition to another district, commencing with the 2017-2018 school year.	Students who transfer before “losing” their high school are ineligible for varsity level interscholastic sports for first 90 consecutive school days.
Softball/Baseball Districts A will reorganize with District B (high school in A will no longer exist), effective July 1, 2017, but District A offers softball and/or baseball in its final year of existence.	Students who have not yet graduated may choose to play for District A or the high school the student will be attending in the fall.	The only time such student would not be eligible immediately at the student’s new school of enrollment would be if the student played baseball/softball for School B, but then enrolled in School C in the fall. This would result in a 90 consecutive school day ineligibility under the General Transfer Rule.
Softball/Baseball District A will reorganize with District B (high school in A will no longer exist), effective July 1, 2017, and District A does not offer softball and/or baseball in its final year of existence.	Students who have not yet graduated may play softball/baseball only for the high school the student will be attending in the fall.	The only time such student would not be eligible immediately at the student’s new school of enrollment would be if the student played baseball/softball for School B, but then enrolled in School C in the fall. This would result in a 90 consecutive school day ineligibility under the General Transfer Rule.

<p>Softball/Baseball District A will reorganize with District B (high school in A will no longer exist), effective July 1, 2017, but District A offers softball and/or baseball in its final year of existence.</p>	<p>Graduated seniors may only play baseball/softball for District A.</p>	<p>A graduated senior whose high school offers baseball/softball the senior's final year is not "losing" his or her high school, and so must compete for the senior's high school of graduation.</p>
<p>Softball/Baseball District A will reorganize with District B (high school in A will no longer exist), effective July 1, 2017, and District A does not offer softball and/or baseball in its final year of existence.</p>	<p>Graduated seniors may only play baseball/softball for District B.</p>	<p>A graduated senior whose high school does not offer baseball/softball the senior's final year is "losing" his or her high school. The senior has an opportunity to compete, but cannot be given a choice of where because any choice would be motivated solely by sports.</p>

<p align="center">WHOLE GRADE SHARING AGREEMENTS</p>		
<p>ACTION BY DISTRICT</p>	<p>REACTION BY STUDENT</p>	<p>ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS</p>
<p>Districts A and B negotiate successfully for a whole grade sharing agreement that will send all 9-12 graders of District A to District B, effective with the 2017-2018 school year.</p>	<p>Student in District A may choose to attend District B, open enroll to another district, pay tuition to another district (if student misses deadline), or pay tuition to attend a nonpublic school.</p>	<p>Student from District A has immediate eligibility under any of these choices because the student is "losing" his or her high school.</p>

<p>Districts A and B already have a whole grade sharing agreement wherein all the 9-12 graders at A were sent to B. Both boards vote to end the agreement for the 2017-2018 school year <i>(neither district will have a high school beginning with the 2017-18 school year).</i></p>	<p>1. Any student in A or B in any grade may file for open enrollment if they do so on or before March 1, 2017.</p> <p>2. All students in either A or B in a grade covered by the former agreement may file for open enrollment after January 1, if they do so within 45 days of board's vote to end the agreement.</p>	<p>1. Any student in a grade included in the whole grade sharing agreement, whether from the sending district or the receiving district, have immediate eligibility in any new school to which the student transfers. A student in a grade not covered by the agreement is ineligible for 90 consecutive school days (barring some other exception such as District A not offering the sport).</p> <p>2. Eligibility is same as #1 above.</p>
<p>Same as above, but the termination of the agreement won't be effective until the 2018-2019 school year.</p>	<p>Any student in A or B in any grade may file for open enrollment if they do so on or before March 1, 2018.</p>	<p>A student in a grade covered by the whole grade sharing agreement has immediate eligibility for the 2018-2019 school year. A student who open enrolls before "losing" their high school is ineligible for varsity level interscholastic sports for first 90 consecutive school days, barring some other exception.</p>

<p>Districts A, B and C already have a whole grade sharing agreement wherein all the 9-12 graders at A were assigned to B or C. The students had no choice. All three boards vote to <u>end the agreement</u> for the 2017-2018 school year. District A (which has no high school) will now send all students solely to District B either under a new WGS agreement or per a reorganization with District B.</p>	<p>Student from District A may choose to attend District B, may choose to open enroll to District C, may pay tuition to a nonpublic school, open enroll to another district, or pay tuition to District C or to another district (if the student misses the open enrollment deadline).</p>	<p>Student from District A has immediate eligibility at any high school at which the student attends in the fall of the 2017-2018 school year, as long as the student has not competed on a baseball/softball team for a high school other than the school the student attends in the fall.</p> <p>Students at Districts B and C are not “losing” their high school, so if they transfer, they are ineligible for varsity level interscholastic sports for first 90 consecutive school days of 2017-2018 school year.</p>
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<p>Districts A, B and C already have a whole grade sharing agreement wherein all the 9-12 graders at A had the choice whether to attend B or C. All three boards vote to <u>end the agreement</u> for the 2017-2018 school year. District A (which has no high school) will now send all students solely to District B either under a new WGS agreement or per a reorganization with District B.</p>	<p>Students from District A who previously chose to attend District B must remain at District B. Student from District A who previously chose to attend District C may now attend District B or may choose to stay (via open enrollment) at District C.</p>	<p>This is different for the student from District A from the above scenario because the student had a choice prior to the 2017-2018 school year.</p> <p>Students at Districts B and C are not “losing” their high school, so if they transfer, they are ineligible for varsity level interscholastic sports for first 90 consecutive school days of 2017-2018 school year.</p>
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<p>Districts A and B are in negotiations to form a whole grade sharing agreement for the 2017-2018 school year, but the negotiations fail (the vote fails with one or both boards).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All students in A or B in any grade may file for open enrollment if on or before March 1, 2017. 2. All students in A or B who would have been affected by an agreement may file late for open enrollment, if within 45 days of board's vote. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barring the applicability of another exception, no student has immediate eligibility. 2. Same as #1 above.
<p>Same as above (effective 2017-2018), but Districts A and B agree to allow late filed open enrollments for the 2017-2018 school year.</p>		<p>The agreement of the boards to allow the late-filed open enrollment requests does not affect the transfer rule. These students are ineligible for 90 consecutive school days (barring the existence of an exception such as a cooperative sharing agreement).</p>
<p>Softball/Baseball Under any of the scenarios regarding whole grade sharing, District A offers softball and/or baseball in its final year of existence.</p>	<p>Students who have not yet graduated may choose to play for District A or the high school the student will be attending in the fall.</p>	<p>The only time such student would not be eligible immediately at the student's new school of enrollment would be if the student played baseball/softball for School B, but then enrolled in School C in the fall. This would result in a 90 consecutive school day ineligibility under the General Transfer Rule.</p>
<p>Softball/Baseball Under any of the scenarios regarding whole grade sharing, District A does not offer softball and/or baseball in its final year of existence.</p>	<p>Students who have not yet graduated may play softball/baseball only for the high school the student will be attending in the fall.</p>	<p>The only time such student would not be eligible immediately at the student's new school of enrollment would be if the student played baseball/softball for the high school they would have attended in the fall, but then enrolled in School C in the fall.</p>

<p>Softball/Baseball Under any of the scenarios regarding whole grade sharing, District A offers softball and/or baseball in its final year of existence.</p>	<p>Graduated seniors may only play baseball/softball for District A.</p>	
<p>Softball/Baseball Under any of the scenarios regarding whole grade sharing, District A does not offer softball and/or baseball in its final year of existence.</p>	<p>Graduated seniors may only play baseball/softball for their new resident high school.</p>	<p>A graduated senior whose high school does not offer baseball/softball the senior's final year is "losing" his or her high school; the senior has an opportunity to compete, but cannot be given a choice of where because any choice would be motivated solely by sports.</p>