

NEW EIGHTH GRADE RULE PARTICIPATION CLARIFICATIONS

New Eighth Grade Participation Rule including Transfer Rule Reference

Section (5) STUDENTS BELOW NINTH GRADE

5.1 ***A student who is enrolled in the 8th grade shall be eligible to participate in an Association contest, but must meet the following requirements and parameters:***

- a. ***The eighth-grade student is participating in a contest other than football.***
- b. ***There is no restriction in place for participation of this 8th grade student at his/her middle school and/or high school of which he/she will be participating.***
- c. Any eighth-grade student allowed to participate will have eight semesters of high school eligibility remaining.
- d. All eighth-grade students participating must meet the academic requirements.
- e. ***All eighth-grade students participating must meet the transfer requirements. The official MHSA transfer form must be used.***

f. All eighth-grade students participating in a high school contest must adhere to all other MHSA rules and guidelines. Committed to a contest at the high school level, the eighth-grade student may not also participate in that same sport at a level under high school concurrently.

Section (10) TRANSFER RULE

10.1 Any student, ***including eighth grade students allowed high school participation***, who transfers from one-member high school, home school, or non-member school to a member high school is ineligible to participate in a varsity Association Contest for half the number of P.I. days in the current school year of the school to which he/she transfers from the date of enrollment (first day he/she attends classes) in the school to which he/she transfers. A student and his/her parents or legal guardians must reside in the attendance area of the school in which he/she is enrolled except for a student enrolling in ninth grade for the first time (see Section (12) Record of Transfer.) This rule applies to a student who transfers after twenty (20) days of enrollment or after he/she participates in an athletic contest while enrolled in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, **EXCEPT** the following students may be declared eligible:

Note: This rule does not apply to non-public or home school participants. There is no transfer for non-public or home school participants.

Eighth Grade Participation Clarifications

- The student(s) meet all MHSA eligibility rules, i.e., age, residency and regular enrollment in the school they are attending.
- The student(s) and his/her entire family must live in the attendance area of the school they will be participating for. The administrator is responsible for verifying residency.
- The student cannot compete concurrently on the high school team and the junior high school team in the **same** sport. If an eighth grader quits the high school team(s), he/she can return to eighth grade participation but cannot compete again at the high school level for that sport.
- Any eighth-grade student allowed to participate will have eight semesters of high school eligibility remaining after participating as an eighth grader.
- All eighth-grade students participating must meet the academic requirements (of their middle school).
- Once an eighth grader participates on a high school team, the MHSA Transfer Rule is in effect for that student (home school and/or nonpublic school participants cannot transfer).
- Home school and nonpublic school students can participate if they meet all MHSA requirements for home school / nonpublic school participants including their entire family living in their school

attendance area. Home school or nonpublic school students are only eligible in the attendance area they live, and they cannot transfer or participate in a school outside their attendance area.

- Eighth Grade participants can participate at any level of play.
- Out of Season and Summer Rules
 - A. Only students who meet all MHSA eligibility requirements (enrollment, age, semesters, academics, physical examinations etc.) are eligible to practice with and participate on member school teams. Exception: students who are eligible in every way except academics may participate in practice if the school allows.

Exception – For incoming eighth graders (completed the seventh grade) from the high school's feeder school can practice with that high school's team during the June 1 – July 31st period,

Also, for incoming eighth graders (completed the seventh grade), enrollment into an MHSA high school's feeder school will occur after the following:

- a) the student completes seventh grade
- b) the parent(s) complete registration at the student's selected school
- c) the parent(s) paid the applicable tuition charge
- d) the parent(s) complete a request that cumulative school records be sent to the high school's feeder school.

Upon completion of these four criteria, incoming eighth grade students are eligible to participate in the open team coaching period for that high school during June 1- July 31.

Section (12) RECORD OF TRANSFER

A student received by transfer shall not be eligible to participate in an Association Contest until the principal of the school shall have filed with the Executive Director of the Association a record of the transfer on the official MHSA transfer form. This section does not relieve the student from eligibility requirements arising from his/her change of high schools.

INTERPRETATIONS

A student enrolling in the ninth grade for the first time in high school is not to be considered a transfer student unless:

- a) The student competed as an eighth grader at the high school level
- b) The student as a ninth grader or who did compete as an eighth grader in high school, has been enrolled in another school for twenty school days or more.
- c) The student as a ninth grader or as an eighth grader, who has been enrolled in another school for fewer than 20 school days but has participated in a high school interscholastic athletic contest.