**Surviving Athletic Eligibility:** Identifying Students with Eligibility Problems

Athletic eligibility can be overwhelming. Many WIAA rules and case specific information making each case different and unique. One small fact can drastically change a student’s eligibility. The best advice for you as a new AD is to discuss each of your potential cases with your eligibility go-to people:

* + Have your District Eligibility Chair on speed dial
  + Find another AD in your league or that serves on eligibility team or has lots of eligibility knowledge.
  + Justin Kesterson or Jenee James Executive Directors in charge of eligibility at the WIAA. It is critically important that student eligibility is processed correctly. Even if you need to verify that you are right – call and make sure you are 100% correct.
  + WIAA is responsible for all rule interpretations.

Here are the most common eligibility problems:

* **Transfer students** – In general, any student goes thru the enrollment process in your school or an incoming 9th grade that did not attended a full year of 8th grade at an established feeder school for your high school. (WIAA Rule 18.12.0)
* **Previous semester** – In the previous semester, the student must be a full time student. (WIAA Rule 18.9.0)
* **Scholarship** –
  + Student did not meet the academic standards (WIAA or School District) with the current grade check or in the previous semester with grades and/or credits earned. (WIAA Rule 18.8.0)
  + Student is not attending regularly. (WIAA Rule 18.10.0)
* **Season’s Limitation** – A student is back for an additional year or 5th year of high school. (WIAA Rule 18.15.0)
* **Residence** – The student is attending their school of residence determined by living in the corresponding school service area. (WIAA Rule 18.11.0)
* **Age** – Student does not meet the age requirements – usually the student it too old. (WIAA Rule 18.4.0)
* **Physical Exam** – Student has a current physical and must have a valid physical thru the season.
* **Regular Member School** – Attends the residential school 50% of the time. (WIAA Rule 18.6.0)

Please note - There are additional rules potentially impacting a student’s eligibility in each of the bullet points above.

Once you have a list of potential students with eligibility problems, details of each case are critically important to help you determine a student’s athletic eligibility.

* Complete WIAA New Student packet – Transfers, Residency
* Previous School Statement - Transfers
* Current transcript – Previous Semester, Scholarship, Season’s limitation, Age, Transfers
* Contact parents – email or call parents for specifics.

Call your go-to eligibility people and go thru each case to:

* Identify what you have missed.
* Other information that is needed.
* Determine if a student eligible or not.
* What paperwork is needed?
* Is a hearing needed?