**Surviving Athletic Eligibility: District Hearing Needed**

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The following rules need District hearings. Best practice is to discuss eligibility cases that are:

* new to you
* have a twist
* aren’t straight forward
* you are not 100% positive that the student is eligible

An experienced AD in your league or your Eligibility Chair should be your first call to work through each situation to make sure you are on the right path. The WIAA team makes all rules interpretations and should be contacted even when you have confirmation you are on the right path from one of your colleagues. WIAA eligibility rules intertwin at times making eligibility confusing. Best practice is to ask questions so you can help the family with the process.

Below are the most common WIAA rules requiring a hearing. Examples and potential scenarios are listed with each rule.

**Transfer Students 18.12.0:**

* Parents are not legally separated or divorce. Parents are in process of being separated or divorced, married but not living in the same household or were never married.

**Residence and Family Unit 18.11.0**

* Family unit did not move as a whole. An example is the student is living with grandparents in your service area.
* Public school student that moves to a private/alternative school (outside the Window of transfer) that does not have a corresponding full family unit move.
* Private school student (outside the Window of transfer) moves to another private, public school or alternative school within a 50 mile radius of the original private school.
* Alternative school student has athletic eligibility at their school of residence.

**Season Limitations 18.15.0:** A student that is in their 5th year of high school or repeated a grade after entering their 7th grade year. All students in this category need a hearing. This is one of the few rules for eligibility at any level, varsity or sub-varsity team. In Season’s Limitation, the student must be missing a season due to a hardship that is beyond their control in that season during that specific period of time. WIAA XXX states that 7 practices or participating in one contest constitutes a season.

**Previous Semester 18.9.0**

* Any student that was not a full time student the previous term. Common examples of this are students that withdraw from classes, a running start student that drops a class or a student that has non-credit classes.

**Scholarship 18.8.0**

* Student did not meet the WIAA or their residential school district’s grading standards for the previous semester.

**Member School 18.6.0:**  Any student that is not enrolled as a full time student in your school and accesses your athletic program, needs meet the criteria of a member school. This rule is a bit complicated and tricky, thus calling the WIAA eligibility team to confirm eligibility is highly recommended. Potential problems:

* A student is not a member of your school for 50% of their schedule.
* Student does not live in your service area and is attending another school.
* A student from a choice school that does not have their sport can access their school of residence. The AD confirms yearly that the school of choice does not have the sport. If you are not their school of residence, they do not have eligibility at your school.
* A student attends home school, online school or an alternative school and you are not their school of residence.

**Physical Exam 18.4.0:**

* Physical is not valid.
* Physical is not recognized by the WIAA: Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP), Physician’s Assistant (PA), or Naturopathic Physician.

**Scholarship (regular attendance) 18.10.0** The student shall be enrolled full time as defined in 18.8.0 and in regular attendance within the first 15 school days in a semester or ten school days in a trimester at the start of the current semester/trimester in order to participate in interscholastic contests during the current semester/trimester. An enrolled student who receives semester/trimester grades will be considered to have been in attendance for that semester/trimester unless they are withdrawn from school.

**Age:** A student shall be under 20 years of age within the first two weeks of each sport season.