

Updates to WIAA Rule 18.12 (the Transfer Rule)

We hope this message finds you well. The Transfer Committee and WIAA staff want to provide important updates as Amendment #6 was passed by the Representative Assembly during the recent voting period. This document aims to ensure understanding of the updated process described in the new rule and ensure the implications for students who utilize the WIAA-defined window of transfer or choose to pursue a hardship appeal are clear to all.

Key Update to the Proposed Amendment

The updated rule is designed to explicitly distinguish between two pathways available to students who change schools (transfer) **without** a bona fide change of residence and the outcome for each respective pathway:

1. Accessing the WIAA Window of Transfer:

- Students who utilize the WIAA-defined window of transfer automatically accept the associated period of ineligibility as outlined in the current rules. The period of ineligibility is defined as: the first 40% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the maximum allowable contests, according to sport specific rules, in any sport the athlete played at the school level or club/community equivalent during the calendar year prior to their transfer.

2. Appealing a Period of Ineligibility Through the Hardship Process:

- Students who wish to appeal any period of ineligibility must forgo access to the WIAA-defined window of transfer.
- These students must instead engage in the hardship process, as specified under WIAA Handbook Rules 18.27.0 and 18.13.0.
- By opting for the hardship process, students become subject to the eligibility determinations outlined in these hardship rules, which include a potential one-calendar-year ineligibility for varsity participation if their appeal is not granted.

Rationale for the Update

This clarification ensures that the amendment aligns with the principles of transparency and fairness while maintaining consistency with WIAA policies. By clearly delineating these two pathways, we aim to:

- Empower athletic directors **and** students / families to make informed decisions about their eligibility and transfer options.
- Streamline the administrative processes for schools and WIAA staff by reducing ambiguity.
- Reinforce the integrity of the transfer system by upholding established rules and procedures.

Next Steps

We continue to work with our partner, FinalForms to move the process to determine eligibility to an “on-line” platform, updating our current paper-based process. Work to date has progressed quickly, and the “on-line” process will be available for the 2025 fall sports season.

Additionally, member schools should be aware that this rule takes effect on June 1, 2025. This means that students who change schools (transfer) without a bona fide change of residence may access the window of transfer **after the final day of the 2024-2025 school year for their current school.** This means that a student must finish the school year at their current school **prior to** engaging in any program with their new school.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and commitment to the WIAA community. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information.

<u>40% of contests</u>	<u>Max team contests</u>	<u>40% of max contests</u>	<u>Number of contests</u>	-	<u>Max team contests</u>	<u>40% of max contests</u>	<u>Number of contests</u>
Baseball	20 contests	8	8	Softball (Fastpitch)	20 contests	8	8
Basketball	20 contests	8	8	Softball (Slowpitch)	20 contests	8	8
Bowling	18 contests	7.2	7	Swim and Dive	12 contests	4.8	5
Cross Country	10 contests	4	4	Tennis	18 contests	7.2	7
Football	10 contests	4	4	Track and Field	10 contests	4	4
Golf	12 contests	4.8	5	Volleyball	18 contests	7.2	7
Gymnastics	10 contests	4	4	Wrestling	16 contests	6.4	6
Soccer	16 contests	6.4	6				

WIAA Rule 18.12 Summary Table

	<u>Current Rule(s)</u>	<u>Option 1</u>	<u>Option 2</u>
		<u>Window of Transfer (18.12.2.I)</u>	<u>Hardship (18.27.0)</u>
A student who wishes to attend a school without a corresponding change of residence by their family unit and who meets all other conditions of eligibility between grade 8 and 9	Considered a transfer student (transfer #1), fully eligible as the change is during the 'window of transfer'	Not considered a transfer student. ALL students between grade 8 and 9 (or 9 and 10 for jr. high) would be allowed to make a choice to begin their four (4) consecutive years of athletic eligibility, aligned with RCW 28A.225.220 and applicable local school board policies.	Not considered a transfer student. ALL students between grade 8 and 9 (or 9 and 10 for jr. high) would be allowed to make a choice to begin their four (4) consecutive years of athletic eligibility, aligned with RCW 28A.225.220 and applicable local school board policies.
A student who wishes to attend a school without a corresponding change of residence by their family unit and who meets all other conditions of eligibility between grade 9 and 10 (except as defined above)	Considered a transfer student (a subsequent transfer based on specific student circumstances) - varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year unless a hardship is granted by the WIAA District eligibility committee.	Considered a transfer student, eligible after a 40% period of ineligibility in those sports the athlete participated in during the previous 12 months if the student transfer is during the window of transfer. The period of ineligibility cannot be appealed if a student chooses to access the window of transfer.	Considered a transfer student. If any student, including a student who moves schools during a window of transfer, chooses to complete paperwork and schedules a hardship hearing, student is varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year unless a hardship is granted by the WIAA District eligibility committee.
A student who wishes to attend a school without a corresponding change of residence by their family unit and who meets all other conditions of eligibility between grade 10 and 11	Considered a transfer student (a subsequent transfer based on specific student circumstances) - varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year unless a hardship is granted by the WIAA District eligibility committee.	Considered a transfer student, eligible after a 40% period of ineligibility in those sports the athlete participated in during the previous 12 months if the student transfer is during the window of transfer and the student did not access the window between grade 9 and 10. If the window was accessed previously, this is a subsequent transfer, student is varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year unless a hardship is granted by the WIAA District eligibility committee.	Considered a transfer student. If any student, including subsequent transfers or a student who moves schools during a window of transfer, chooses to complete paperwork and then schedules a hardship hearing, student is varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year unless a hardship is granted by the WIAA District eligibility committee.
A student who wishes to attend a school without a corresponding change of residence by their family unit and who meets all other conditions of eligibility between grade 11 and 12	Considered a transfer student (a subsequent transfer based on specific student circumstances) - varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year unless a hardship is granted by the WIAA District eligibility committee.	Considered a transfer student, eligible after a 40% period of ineligibility in those sports the athlete participated in during the previous 12 months if the student transfer is during the window of transfer and the student did not access the window between grade 9 and 10 or grade 10 and 11. If the window was accessed previously, this is a subsequent transfer, student is varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year unless a hardship is granted by the WIAA District eligibility committee.	Considered a transfer student. If any student, including subsequent transfers or a student who moves schools during a window of transfer, chooses to complete paperwork and then schedules a hardship hearing, student is varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year unless a hardship is granted by the WIAA District eligibility committee.
A student who wishes to change schools After residing in, registering with, attending, or participating with a middle level or high school, students changing enrollment to/from one school district to another school district or from one high school to another high school within a multiple high school district outside of a window of transfer (during the school year)	Considered a transfer student - varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year - if the student cannot resolve the imposed condition(s) of ineligibility	Considered a transfer student - varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year - if the student cannot resolve the imposed condition(s) of ineligibility	Considered a transfer student - varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year - if the student cannot resolve the imposed condition(s) of ineligibility
Subsequent transfer(s) (i.e. a second school move)	Considered a transfer student - varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year - if the student cannot resolve the imposed condition(s) of ineligibility	Considered a transfer student - varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year - if the student cannot resolve the imposed condition(s) of ineligibility	Considered a transfer student - varsity ineligible for one (1) calendar year - if the student cannot resolve the imposed condition(s) of ineligibility