

ATHLETIC TRANSFER RULE

Student athletes shall attend the school in their geographic attendance area in accordance with Waterloo Community School District Policy 501.6, School Attendance Areas. Transfers by student athletes within the Waterloo Community School District shall be reviewed pursuant to the following guidelines for determination of eligibility.

1. Verification of Geographic Attendance Area

The student athlete's geographic attendance area shall first be determined in accordance with Waterloo Community School District Policy, 501.6, School Attendance Areas. This determination shall then be verified as follows:

- a. Each middle and senior high school shall designate one person to verify student addresses and address changes.
- b. The designated person charged with this responsibility shall verify the address or address change of all student athletes competing for the school by contacting the parents/head of household and the District administrator in charge of athletics prior to permitting the student athlete to engage in interscholastic competition.
- c. Further, the designated person at each middle school shall verify the addresses of all student athletes preparing to enter high school.
- d. Finally, the school receiving the student athlete shall be notified, in writing, of the address verification made by the designated person at the student athlete's previous school, prior to registration. The receiving school shall be entitled to rely upon the verified address until such time as it shall receive knowledge or information that the previously verified address may be inaccurate. At such time, the receiving school shall then verify the address or address change of the student athlete, as per the foregoing provisions.

2. Review Board

In the event of any dispute regarding the eligibility of a student athlete, based upon the geographical attendance area of the student athlete, the dispute shall first be referred to the two high school athletic directors. They shall meet, prior to interscholastic competition by any disputed student athlete, and review the affects and circumstances of each dispute. Following the review, they shall make a recommendation regarding the eligibility of the student athlete to the District administrator in charge of athletics. Thereafter, the District administrator in charge of athletics shall make a final determination of the eligibility of the student athlete, prior to interscholastic competition by any disputed student athlete, and shall notify the student athlete and his/her parent/head of household of the decision in writing.

3. General Transfer Rule

Pursuant to Scholarship Rule 36.15 (3), a student who transfers from a school in another state or country or from one member or associate member school to another member or associate member school, shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletics for a period of 90 consecutive school days, as defined in 281-Subrule 12.1 (256), exclusive of summer enrollment, unless one of the exceptions listed below. The period of ineligibility applies only to varsity level contests and competition. In ruling upon the eligibility of transfer students, the executive board shall consider the factors motivating student changes in residency. Unless otherwise provided in these rules, a student intending to establish residency must show that the student is physically present in the district for the purpose of making a home and not solely for school or athletic purposes.

4. Guidelines for Intra District Transfer

- a. Any student athlete who changes residence with parent/guardian move shall be ineligible for Varsity Level athletic competition for the new school for a period of 90 consecutive school days. Additionally, if the student transfers to a new school during a semester, the student will be ineligible until the end of the current semester AND for 90 consecutive school days beginning on the first day of the next semester.
- b. Any student athlete who either changes their school attendance with a Student Services Special Permission or District Voluntary Transfer shall be ineligible to compete at the varsity level for 90 consecutive school days. Additionally, if the student transfers to a new school during a semester, the student will be ineligible until the end of the current semester AND for 90 consecutive school days beginning on the first day of the next semester. If after participating in a Student Services Special Permission or District Voluntary Transfer, a student desires to return to his/her home school, the student shall be ineligible to compete at the varsity level for 90 consecutive school days. Additionally, if the student transfers to a new school during a semester, the student will be ineligible until the end of the current semester AND for 90 consecutive school days beginning on the first day of the next semester.
- c. Students approved for the District's Voluntary Student Transfer Program at the ninth grade level will be accorded immediate eligibility (in regard to the Athletic Transfer Rule) for athletic and other school activities at the receiving school.
- d.. Any student athlete who is found to have falsified his/her address in order to attend a specific school, shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition on behalf of that school for a period of one calendar year from the date of the final determination to that affect by the District administrator in charge of athletics.
- e. Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 256.46, a student whose residence changes due to any of the following circumstances is immediately eligible provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements in these rules and those set by the school of attendance:

1. Adoption.
2. Placement in foster or shelter care.
3. Participation in a foreign exchange program recognized by the school of attendance.
4. Placement in a juvenile correction facility.
5. Participation in a substance abuse program.
6. Participation in a mental health program.
7. Court decree that the student is a ward of the state or of the court.
8. The child is living with one of the child's parents as a result of divorce decree, separation, death, or other change in the child's parents' marital relationship, or pursuant to other court-ordered decree or order of custody.

f. All other matters will be reviewed by the athletic review board comprised of the Athletic Directors.

5. Guidelines for Transfers with a Good Conduct Rule Violation

Any student transferring into the Waterloo Community Schools who is ineligible under the prior school's Good Conduct Rule and has not completed the full period of ineligibility imposed by that school will not be eligible for interscholastic competition at any District high school until the full period of ineligibility has passed. Once the period of ineligibility has been completed, the student is immediately eligible for interscholastic competition, as far as any Good Conduct Rule is concerned.

6. Open Enrollment Guidelines

A student in grades 9 through 12 whose transfer of schools had occurred due to a request for open enrollment by the student's parent or guardian is ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletics, during the first 90 school days of transfer except that a student may participate immediately if the student is entering grade 9 for the first time and did not participate in an interscholastic athletic competition for another school during the summer immediately following eighth grade. The period of ineligibility applies only to varsity level contests and competitions. The student will become eligible at 4:00 PM on the 90th day. This 90-day restriction on participation does not preclude the student from practicing with an athletic team during the 90 school days of ineligibility. The period of ineligibility does not apply if the student:

- a. Participates in an athletic activity in the Waterloo Community School District that is not available in the district of residence; or
- b. Participates in an athletic activity for which the Waterloo Community Schools and the receiving districts have a cooperative student participation agreement pursuant to Rule 36.20(280); or

- c. Has paid tuition for one or more years to the Waterloo Community Schools prior to making application for and being granted open enrollment; or
- d. Has attended the Waterloo Community School District for one or more years, prior to making application and being granted open enrollment under a sharing or mutual agreement between the Waterloo Community School District and the resident district; or
- e. Has been participating in open enrollment and whose parents/guardians move out of their district of residence but exercise either the option of remaining in the original open enrollment district or enrolling in the new district of residence. If the pupil has established athletic eligibility under open enrollment, it is continued despite the parent's or guardian's change in residence; or
- f. Has not been participating in open enrollment, but utilizes open enrollment to remain in the original district of resident following a change of residence of the student's parent(s). If the pupil has established athletic eligibility, it is continued despite the parent's or guardian's change in residence; or
- g. Obtains open enrollment due to the dissolution and merger of the former district of residence under Iowa Code subsection 256.11(12); or
- h. Obtains open enrollment due to the pupil's district of residence entering into a whole-grade sharing agreement on or after July 1, 1990, including the grade in which the pupil would be enrolled at the start of the whole-grade sharing agreement; or
- i. Participates in open enrollment and the parent/guardian is an active member of the armed forces and resides in permanent housing on government property provided by a branch of the armed services.

Any decision made by the District administrator in charge of athletics, pursuant to the foregoing policy, shall be subject to the Student Grievance procedure -- Waterloo Community School District Administrative Regulation, 503.3-R, commencing at level three. An appeal must, however, be filed with the Superintendent within three (3) days of the delivery of the written decision of the District administrator in charge of athletics.

Legal Ref.: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2013).
IAC 281, Chapter 17

Cross Ref.: 510.1 Student Activity Program
501.8 Voluntary Student Transfer Program

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