



The information provided below is intended to help Students / Parents navigate the various academic /athletic environments families wish to access for their children while maintaining athletic eligibility. The current landscape of academic and athletic offerings is changing rapidly amid Covid-19 so please note that the examples below are not exhaustive nor intended to cover all possible scenarios. In addition, WIAA rules are minimum requirements and many schools have more restrictive guidelines. Please contact your building Athletic Director for clarifications as needed.

**RESIDENT DISTRICT** - the district in which the student's residence is located.

**NON RESIDENT DISTRICT** - the district in which the student is enrolled or is seeking entrance and in which the student's residence is not located.

**Alternative Learning Experience (ALE)** - Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) is public education where some or all of the instruction is delivered outside of a regular classroom schedule.

**Public / Regular School** - education offered by the public school system in which the students FTE goes to the public school. Traditionally held in the brick and mortar school or a program offered as an extension of the school.

**Private School** - education offered by a certified private school. The student does not have an FTE, rather pays a tuition to the school in exchange for the educational offerings. Students choosing private school are making a choice to not attend their resident district.

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#### **Reminders**

- 18.5.0 Students must be a regular member of the school they represent in order to participate. Regular member of a school is indicated by being enrolled 50% or more.
- If a student were to withdraw from their resident public school / school of record and later return to the resident public school they would be treated as a “new student” and subject to the new student packet.

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#### **TRANSFER QUESTIONS :**

***A family is interested in moving their student-athlete to a different state to access a sport being offered during a timeframe in which Washington is not offering the sport. This decision is made with the intent to return to Washington to access the sport again, when Washington is offering the sport.***

WIAA Philosophy of Transfer language can provide a baseline for how the WIAA intends to handle situations involving transfer. Rules in the WIAA Handbook that are specific to this question include:

**18.11.2.A. A student whose transfer is based on a bona fide change of residence to a new school (district) due to an actual physical relocation of and with the entire family unit to a different residence and preceded by termination of all occupancy of their previous residence.**

- There is corresponding paperwork that would be completed as a part of the transfer process. This paperwork can be reviewed on our website at : <https://wiaa.com/ardisplay.aspx?ID=1902>

**18.26.1.B There must be no reason to believe that the decision and/or the execution of the decision concerning the student's transfer was for athletic purposes.**

***A family is interested in having their student-athlete withdraw from their current school to attend an online school for the first semester with the intent to transfer back to their current school when in person school resumes.***

If the online school has an independent [OSPI](#) number and does not offer any athletics, this would be acceptable.

***A family is interested in having their student-athlete withdraw from their private school to attend running start for the first quarter with the intent to transfer back to their current school when in person school resumes.***

Running start is a public school program. Withdrawing from the private school and enrolling in the public school would result in transfer rules going into effect thus impacting athletic eligibility.

OPTION for family to consider : The student could be enrolled 50% in private school and 50% in running start to maintain athletic eligibility at private school.

OPTION for family to consider : Many private schools offer college in the classroom and/or AP classes that can provide college credit.

***A family is interested in having their student-athlete attend an alternative school but still access athletics at the resident school.***

If the alternative school has its own separate [OSPI](#) number and does not offer any athletics, this is an acceptable situation. Keep in mind, the AD will want to confirm the school has its own number represented on the transcript for that school.

OPTION for family to consider : The student could be enrolled 50% in current school and 50% in alternative school to maintain athletic eligibility at resident school.

***A family is interested in having their student-athlete attend BYU online but still access athletics at the resident school.***

This student will be withdrawing from the public school system and NOT be enrolling in another public school system. Since BYU online is typically not part of the OSPI educational system, this would be considered home school and would need to follow home school expectations (18.5.1) and [RCW 28A.200.011\(1\)](#)

***A family is interested in having their student-athlete be homeschooled but still access athletics at the resident school.***

This student will be withdrawing from the public school system and NOT be enrolling in another public school system. They would need to follow home school expectations (18.5.1) and [RCW 28A.200.011\(1\)](#)

## SEASON LIMITATIONS:

***A family is interested in having their student-athlete take a “gap” year for 2020-21 and return in the fall of 2021 and have athletic eligibility for an additional year.***

WIAA Handbook Rules that are specific to this question include:

18.14.0 SEASON LIMITATIONS - After entering or being eligible to enter seventh (7th) grade students shall have six (6) consecutive years of interscholastic eligibility.

18.14.1 Students who do not attend school or who fail to, or are deemed ineligible to participate shall forfeit their eligibility during that period and shall not be provided any additional period of eligibility except as may be provided through the appeal process in Article 19.

- There is corresponding paperwork that would be completed as part of the appeal process for season limitations. This paperwork can be reviewed on our website at :  
<https://wiaa.com/conDocs/Con1903/SEASON%20LIMITATIONS%20HARDSHIP%20APPEAL%20PACKET.pdf>

***A family is interested in having their senior student-athlete (class of 2020) return to school for the 2020-21 school year to participate in the spring sport that was missed due to COVID-19.***

The WIAA Executive Board had extensive conversations about the impact of COVID-19 on the spring of 2020. It was determined that for participation purposes, the spring of 2020 will not be counted as a season of participation. However, for a student athlete to return to high school for the 2020-21 school year, they would need to meet all other conditions of eligibility:

- Full time student
  - Has not graduated from high school
  - Would need to take a full class load to maintain academic requirements.

***A family is interested in having their student-athlete “reclassify” and repeat a school year in order to have an additional year to replace sports that have been lost due to COVID-19.***

WIAA Handbook Rules that are specific to this question include:

18.14.0 SEASON LIMITATIONS - After entering or being eligible to enter seventh (7th) grade students shall have six (6) consecutive years of interscholastic eligibility.

- If a student is new to Washington and would like to “reclassify”, please keep in mind the season limitation rules are still in effect. Both the family and the previous school will be required to provide all athletic participation beginning in 7th grade.