

When the Family Unit and Residence is Questioned Concerning WIAA Eligibility

Date _____

The purpose of this document is to record, in writing, the expectations of the _____ School District regarding the residence of _____ and the family unit; clarify any misinterpretations of the WIAA eligibility rules concerning residency and transfer; and finally, serve as a safeguard for the _____ School District against penalty and sanctions if the _____ family fails to meet the requirements of the residency rule at any time during enrollment at _____ school.

Expectations:

1. The _____ School District expects the _____ family to move residency of the entire family unit to _____ (address) as indicated by Mr. /Ms. _____. This move will include all family members currently living in the home. In accordance with WIAA regulations, the family unit is required to use the _____ (address) residency on a permanent basis, not on a partial week basis.
2. The process of moving residency for any family entails many responsibilities. When a family moves residence, the family address must be changed in order to provide verification of the new residence. Verification will be established when the new address is documented on driver's licenses, personal checks, voter registration.
3. It is the expectation of the _____ School District that the _____ family will make the necessary changes as verification of residency.
4. If these expectations are not met, the student/athlete's eligibility status will be changed to a TRANSFER STUDENT status. This would have limitations on the student's athletic participation according to WIAA Article 18.26.3 and may limit participation to the junior varsity level for one calendar year.

25.4.1 The use of a participant who is ineligible by WIAA or local school district rules shall result in forfeiture of contests in which that participant took part, except in situations in which it is determined that the participant/parent/guardian provided the school with false information which caused the school to declare the participant eligible. In such cases, the participant will be declared ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one (1) year. The one (1) year penalty begins on the day the determination is made that false information had been provided. The one (1) year penalty may be appealed to the WIAA Executive Director.

2016-17 Clarification of the WIAA Handbook

The residency rule of the WIAA handbook states:

PHILOSOPHY OF RESIDENCE RULE: *The WIAA residence rule is intended to create an equitable environment in which its member schools can compete, and at the same time prevent those abuses that taint the goals of interscholastic athletics. Primarily, the residence rule is intended to prevent athletic recruiting, prevent students from choosing schools for athletic reasons, and to promote the varied family units as the best environment for students to live in while attending school. Deterring students from running away from or avoiding imposed discipline, protecting school programs by discouraging athletic transfers and protecting the opportunities for bona fide resident students to participate are also viable reasons for the residence rule.*

18.10.0 DEFINITION of RESIDENCE and FAMILY UNIT

RESIDENCE - The place where the family unit has established its home and/or the place where the student is habitually present and to which, when departing, the student intends to return.

FAMILY UNIT - The adult(s) who has/have resided with, had legal custody, legal guardianship, or has/have acted in a parental capacity of the student and any siblings high school age or younger with whom the student resides for a period of at least one (1) year.

18.10.1 In order to be eligible to participate and/or represent a member school in an interscholastic contest, the student of that school must be residing within the boundaries of that school district and designated attendance area of the school. In the event a school does not have a designated attendance area, the WIAA Executive Board shall have the authority to designate an attendance area for such school. The WIAA Executive Board shall consider all relevant factors, including but not limited to the natural or historical attendance area for such school, the geographical setting of the school in the municipality, and the nearby public school boundaries.

18.10.2 Unless otherwise provided, a student shall become varsity eligible at the school in which that student resides with the family unit, provided the student continuously attended that member school, or a feeder school of that member school, for a period of one (1) year.

18.10.3 A student who cannot meet the Residence Rule requirements would be eligible for all interscholastic competition below the varsity level, subject to 18.26.3.

18.10.4 Residence Area for private schools shall be a fifty (50) mile radius from the school address. NOTE: Refer to Article 3.1.1 for status of a private school district.

This agreement shall be signed and dated by the high school principal, the high school counselor, high school athletic director, the student/athlete, and his/her parents. By signing this agreement, the student and family agree to all terms of the agreement and understand they must adhere to the agreed academic plan for the school year or be subject to WIAA regulations 25.4.1 which states in part: "... [if] it is determined that the participant/parent/guardian provided the school with false information which caused the school to declare the participant eligible ... the participant will be declared ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one (1) year."

Signature of Superintendent

Date

Signature of Principal

Date

Signature of Athletic Director

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Student

Date