

NATRONA
COUNTY SCHOOLS
"Every Learner a Champion"

To: Eighth-grade students and parents of eighth-grade students
From: Tim Ray, Athletics & Activities Manager
Date: June 2, 2009
Subject: Ninth-grade football and volleyball for the 2009-10 school year

Beginning in the 2009-10 school year, there will be **no ninth-grade football or volleyball programs offered at Centennial, CY and Dean Morgan junior high schools**. Ninth-grade football and volleyball for all junior high/middle schools will be offered at either Kelly Walsh, Midwest or Natrona County high schools. All ninth-grade athletics for Centennial Junior High will be moved to the high schools.

A student should participate in ninth-grade football or volleyball at the high school he or she plans to attend as a sophomore. Due to the Wyoming High School Activities Association (WHSAA) Transfer Rule 6.4.6, "the high school that a student elects for his/her first high school attendance, School A, shall be considered his/her choice. If for any reason the student wishes to attend another school, School B, he/she shall be eligible for athletic competition, except varsity level competition, for one year from the date of enrollment in interscholastic sports in which the student has participated at any level and/or grade during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of such transfer." (For more information about the Transfer Rule, reference pages 34 - 36 of the WHSAA Handbook, which are included with this letter for your convenience, or visit www.whsaa.org.)

For now, ninth-grade basketball will remain at the middle school level for Dean Morgan and CY junior high schools.

The Athletics & Activities Department will host a public forum at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 11, in the East Room at the Central Services Facility, 970 N. Glenn Rd. We encourage parents and athletes to attend with their questions.

6.2.92 WHSAA AFFILIATE HOME SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATION ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS UNDER COMBINATION SCHOOL AGREEMENT

Submit proof of work in agreement with and to host combination member school that demonstrates compliance with subject and class hour requirements at the same frequency as the academic eligibility of other students is determined at the member school. Proof of work agreement may include requirements from 6.2.91 a. or b.

6.3.0 AGE REQUIREMENTS

6.3.1 A student must be under twenty years of age on August 1 for fall sports, November 1 for winter sports, and March 1 for spring sports. Member school administrators should be alert to apply for an early start for the eligibility of students who might be affected by this rule.

6.3.9 Bylaw Regarding Eligibility for Foreign Exchange and International Students

1. Foreign Exchange Students

a. A foreign exchange student is an international student who attends high school in the U.S. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics in the U.S., such student must be under the auspices of and be placed with a U.S. host family by an international student exchange program that has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and be recognized by the U.S. Department of State. The foreign exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures that no student, or his/her athletic interests or abilities were a component of the placement process.

b. A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and his/her parents, and to the host family.

1) Neither the school the student attends nor any person associated with the school shall have input into the selection of the student.

2) No member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family.

c. The foreign exchange student must possess a current J-1 visa, issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

d. The foreign exchange student must comply with all eligibility requirements set forth by the Wyoming High School Activities Association.

2. Other International Students

An international student who is not under the auspices of and placed by a CSIET listed exchange program must meet the following requirements in order to be considered for interscholastic athletic eligibility in Wyoming.

a. The student must possess a current F-1 visa, issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

b. The student must provide to the principal of the school he/she attends an official untranslated transcript and a transcript that is translated to English, by an acceptable agent or agency, which indicated work taken in all grades in which the student was enrolled.

c. The international student must pay tuition to the high school he/she attends as prescribed in Section 625 of U.S. Public Law 104-208.

d. No member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary shall serve as the resident family

for the student.

e. The international student must comply with all eligibility requirements set forth by the Wyoming High School Activities Association.

Non-compliance with one or more of the foregoing provisions shall render the international student ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any high school which is a member of the Wyoming High School Activities Association.

6.4.0 TRANSFER

The purpose of the Transfer Rule (Rule 6.4.0 thru Rule 6.4.93) is to protect, not inhibit students who participate in athletic competition. The

Transfer Rule is preventative in nature and is devised to eliminate the incentive to transfer schools when a motivation is for athletic purposes

and after a student has initially chosen the school of his/her choice. The Transfer Rule protects students who have previously participated in

athletic competition at a member school from being replaced by students who transfer for athletic purposes and further protects students at

other member schools from the affects of “school shopping” by students (Rule 4.1.2) and “recruiting” by member schools and their agents (Rule

4.1.1 and Rule 4.1.2). The Transfer Rule encourages fair play, discourages the excesses and abuses of over enthusiastic promotion and

protects the integrity of interscholastic athletic programs for the member schools and their students. The eligibility of a transfer student must

be established by school records or verification from the sending school. The responsibility for establishing eligibility rests with the receiving

school. A student’s residence is the home in which the parent(s) or legal guardian actually, physically live. Residence can be changed only by

the union of “act and intent.” The residence of a person is where his habitation is fixed and to which, whenever he is absent, he has the

intention of returning. A change of residence can only be made by the act of removal joined with the intent to remain in another place. There can

be only one residence. The only legal guardianship that is recognized by the WHSAA for transfer rule purposes is that legal guardianship which

has been established at least 12 months prior to the student’s moving to a new school and the fact that the student has been living with that

legal guardian in their previous school setting.

6.4.1 The principal must submit an “athletic residence” record of transfer form to the WHSAA office. All information included on the certificate must

have been verified. If the Record of Transfer or Foreign Exchange Student form is not posted or is posted by the member school

following the participation of a student who is eligible under all WHSAA eligibility requirements, the member school shall be assessed \$50 per

form.

In addition, if the Record of Transfer or Foreign Exchange Student form is not posted or is posted by the member school following the

participation of a student who is ineligible under any WHSAA eligibility requirement, the member school shall be assessed \$50, and the member

school shall forfeit any contests in which that student participates in accordance with WHSAA Rule 5.0.7.

6.4.2 Upon completion of the requirements of Rule 6.4.1, a student shall be immediately eligible for all interscholastic athletic competition under the following conditions:

1. A student moving from a two year junior high school to the ninth grade of a senior high school for the first time.
2. A student moving from a three year junior high to the tenth grade of a senior high school in the same attendance area for the first time.
3. A student assigned to a foster home by court order.
4. A student returning home from a correctional institution.
5. A foreign exchange student from a foreign exchange program approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) or the WHSAA. All students under any foreign exchange program must meet all other WHSAA eligibility rules and must be reported to the WHSAA office on the appropriate form. A foreign exchange student who becomes a participant shall be eligible for three consecutive sports seasons. Any part of any season shall constitute one complete season.

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6. A student transferring from a closed or discontinued school.

EXCEPTION: A student who has graduated from a school in his/her home country may be ruled eligible if semester eligibility has not been met.

6.4.3 A student who transfers from a school in the United States, a U.S. Territory, or U.S. Military Base (to be referred to as School A) to School B without a change of residence on the part of the parents or legal guardian from school attendance area A to school attendance area B, shall be eligible for athletic competition, except varsity level competition for one year from the date of enrollment in interscholastic sports in which the student has participated at any level and/or grade during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of such transfer.

6.4.31 Dual Residence and Divorced/Separated Parents

The transfer bylaws are based upon the place of residence of the parents. With cases of pending divorce, legal separation, or dual residences (only applies to divorce or legal separation situations) the student shall be eligible either at the school in the district in which the home last occupied by both parents is located, or the WHSAA member school where the student has established eligibility, or with the parent with court designated physical custody of the student. After a finalized divorce, and after enrollment in the ninth grade, a student is granted one move from parent to parent involving a WHSAA member school with immediate eligibility for all interscholastic athletic competition.

6.4.4 The eligibility of a student who transfers from one school to another before a move by his/her parents shall be determined as provided in Rule

6.4.3. The student may be declared eligible as soon as the family's new residence has been established within the school's attendance area if, at the time of the student transfer, notice is given to the member school that the parent or WHSAA recognized legal guardian will be moving to the school's attendance area prior to the expiration of one year from the date of enrollment as referred to in Rule 6.4.3.

6.4.5 Students who transfer from one attendance center to another within the same unified district (USD) when initiated by the school, may be declared eligible without a move on the part of the parents, provided policies on such transfers are clearly defined in board of education policy and provided both principals approve the “special” transfer.

The status of a student who transfers from one school to another without a change of residence on the part of his/her parents, providing two or more high schools operate within the same district whether under the same or different authority, will be considered the same as changing school districts and the same rules will apply.

This applies to 9-12 grade students who transfer from one school to another whether it is a member school or an affiliate member school.

6.4.6 The high school which a student elects for his/her first high school attendance, School A, shall be considered his/her choice. If for any reason the student wishes to attend another school, School B, he/she shall be eligible for athletic competition, except varsity level competition for one year from the date of enrollment in interscholastic sports in which the student has participated at any level and/or grade during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of such transfer.

6.4.7 Except as provided in rules 6.4.1 through 6.4.6, all other students who transfer to a member school shall be eligible for athletic competition, except varsity level competition for one year from the date of enrollment in interscholastic sports in which the student has participated at any level and/or grade during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of such transfer.

6.4.71 High School Closure and Charter Schools

If a high school is closed and students are forced to attend a high school elsewhere and the following year a charter school is granted to the school that was closed the students could return to the charter school and be eligible to participate in all WHSAA sanctioned activities at the beginning of the school year.

6.4.8 TRANSFER RULE - HARDSHIP

If, after determination of a student's eligibility with regard to transfer, the member school administrator determines that a potential hardship exists on the student as defined in Rule 6.4.81, the member school administrator may petition the Commissioner for a waiver of the transfer rules. Such cases must be filed under and in accordance with the proper form. The Commissioner will rule upon the petition for waiver on an individual case basis utilizing the hardship standard set forth in Rule 6.4.81. The Commissioner's ruling on hardship is subject to appeal to the Board of Directors as provided in Article XII of the WHSAA's Constitution.

6.4.81 HARDSHIP DEFINED

A hardship is an unforeseeable, unavoidable AND uncorrectable act, condition or event which causes the imposition of severe and nonathletic burden upon the student or his/her family.

1. This is to include the case of orphans, children of overseas military transfers, and children from broken homes.

2. No consideration for waiver may be granted if by doing so the action will result in a student who was ineligible in the sending school becoming eligible in the receiving school.

3. Hardship appeals must be processed by the principal of the receiving school on the appropriate WHSAA form and in concert with the specific guidelines.

6.4.82 DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS FOR WAIVER OF THE TRANSFER RULE.

1. Petition for waiver completed by the petitioning school

2. Petition forwarded to superintendent or principal of school from which student transferred

3. Waiver form completed by superintendent or principal of school student last attended

4. Completed form returned to the WHSAA office for a ruling from the Commissioner

6.4.9 INELIGIBLE TRANSFER STUDENT

6.4.91 Any student who deliberately falsifies information for eligibility purposes will lose one year's eligibility.

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6.4.92 If by domicile outside Wyoming, a student is or would have become ineligible, he/she cannot become eligible by transferring to Wyoming.

6.4.93 A student who would be ineligible in a member school because of disciplinary reasons or expulsion, may not become eligible by transferring to another member school.

A student who is ineligible for any reason in a member school or affiliate member school may not become eligible by transferring to another member or affiliate member school.

6.5.0 SEMESTER REQUIREMENTS

6.5.1 A pupil shall not be eligible for more than four fall and four spring semesters, for a total of eight semesters. These semesters will be counted consecutively after the student enters the ninth grade. NOTE: If a student does not participate or is ineligible due to transfer, scholarship, etc., the semester(s) during that period shall be counted toward the total number of semesters possible.

6.5.2 Enrollment of 20 or more school days shall constitute a semester of eligibility when applied to participation in school activities.

6.5.3 Students who are forced to drop out due to injury or illness may present their situation to the Commissioner for special consideration.

6.5.4 Students who must attend a semester to gain eligibility shall not participate in interscholastic activities until after they have attended classes on Monday (or the first day of school) in the new semester.

6.5.5 SEMESTER RULE - HARDSHIP

6.5.6 If after determination of a student's eligibility with regard to semester, the member school administrator determines that certain conditions beyond a student's control exist which create a hardship on the student, the member school administrator may petition the Commissioner for a waiver of the semester rule. Such cases must be filed under and in accordance with the proper form. The Commissioner will rule upon the petition for waiver on an individual case basis.

6.5.7 The semester hardship rule applies only to those students who, because of illness or other justifiable emergencies, are not able to complete

a semester after twenty days of attendance. The Commissioner may waive portions of this rule for special cases.

6.5.8 DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS FOR WAIVER OF THE SEMESTER RULE

1. Petition of waiver (front side) completed by petitioning school
2. Petition sent to WHSAA office for a ruling from the Commissioner

6.6.0 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, IMMUNIZATION AND PARENTAL CONSENT

6.6.1 Forms shall be signed by the physician and parents. Forms for married students over 18 years of age shall be signed by both the student and his/her spouse with the statement that the student may participate. See form A7 and A8 on the WHSAA web page (Forms Link) for the suggested physical examination form.

6.6.2 The earliest acceptable date for a current physical examination is June 1. Medical doctors and osteopaths are eligible to give physicals for the purpose of high school eligibility. Physicians assistants who are operating in a program approved and licensed by the Wyoming State Board of

Medical Examiners are also eligible to give physicals. Advanced Practitioners of Nursing with a specialty area of either School Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner or College Health Nurse are eligible to give physical examinations provided they are currently licensed by and in good standing with the Wyoming State Board of Nursing.

6.6.3 No pupil shall be eligible to compete in any interscholastic sport or activity unless, within the current school year and preceding any practice, he/she shall have filed a certificate of physical fitness with his/her high school principal. The medical examination form is also a parental permission form and must be signed by the parent/legal guardian.

No pupil shall be eligible to compete in any interscholastic sport or activity unless, within the current school year and preceding any practice, he/she shall have provided proof of immunization as defined in Wyoming Statute 21-4-309.

6.6.4 Activities that require yearly physical examinations are basketball, spirit squad, cross country, football, golf, gymnastics, indoor track, skiing, soccer, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball, and wrestling.

6.7.0 THREE YEAR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

6.7.1 Schools may certify a ninth grader as either a junior high or high school participant. A ninth grader whose ninth grade team's starting practice date is earlier than the WHSAA approved date cannot take part in the high school season at the conclusion of the junior high season.

He/she may wait until the official WHSAA starting date, and after completing the mandatory number of practices, become eligible for athletic competition.

6.7.2 In schools which have a separate three year junior high, seventh and eighth grade pupils may compete with or against ninth graders on a junior high school team without forfeiting a year of eligibility for such participation.

6.7.4 Ninth grade students will be permitted to participate in activities that are sponsored by the WHSAA if they are attending a WHSAA member school (WHSAA Rule 6.1.3). Because Ninth grade students in a Wyoming public three year junior high school are counted in ADM toward WHSAA classification, those students may participate at the senior high level. Ninth graders

who have competed on a high school team must attend the high school at which they competed as a ninth grader or they will be treated as transfer pupils who must comply with WHSAA Transfer Rule 6.4.0.