



Alabama High School Athletic Association Eligibility Rules

**What Every Parent
Should Know**

AHSAA Eligibility Rules



The presentation highlights some of the major AHSAA eligibility rules. It is important to understand that these are general statements only and do not include all the details that may be involved in any specific eligibility question.

If you have any questions or need further explanation of details and exceptions, see your school's principal, athletic director or head coach. If an official ruling from AHSAA is necessary, your school must make a request.

AHSAA Eligibility Rules

- **What every parent should know about the Home Rule:**
 - A student is eligible at his/her home school at the beginning of the school year.
 - The home school is a AHSAA-member school that serves the area where the parents reside.
 - Even though parents may move to an address that does not serve the school where a student is attending, the student may remain eligible at that school.
 - Students entering the seventh grade for the first time are eligible where they enroll, regardless of school zone and/or residence.

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- **What every parent should know about the Transfer Rule:**
 - A student who is enrolled in one school then leaves and enrolls in another school at any time after beginning the seventh grade is a transfer.
 - A student who attends a school outside of his/her home school district must attend that school for one full calendar year in order to establish athletic eligibility.
 - If a student is currently attending Gulf Shores and completes the school year, then GS has already been established as their home school.
 - Before transferring from one school to another, always check AHSAA eligibility rules.

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- **What every parent should know about the Bona Fide Move Rule:**
 - A bona fide move occurs when a student's parents move completely out of one school attendance zone into another.
 - Guidelines for determining a bona fide move include:
 - The household furniture of the family must be moved into an unoccupied house or apartment.
 - All principal members of the family must reside in the new place of residence.
 - The original residence must be closed, rented or disposed of and not used by the family.
 - Nine months at the new residence will be required to make a move bona fide.
 - ***(Bona Fide Move, continued on next slide)***

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- **What every parent should know about the Bona Fide Move Rule:**
 - A transfer student whose parents make a bona fide move is eligible at the member school that serves the area where his/her parents reside if all other requirements are met.
 - If the family making the bona fide move remains at the new residence for less than nine months, the student becomes ineligible there on the day the family leaves the attendance zone of the new school.

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- **What every parent should know about Overlapping School Zones:**
 - A student, whose parents reside in an area served by more than one school, lives in the school zone of each school, thus lives in overlapping school zones.
 - A student who changes schools within overlapping school zones is ineligible for one year at the new school.

Recruiting cautions:

- ▶ It is illegal for a coach or anyone associated with another school to talk to a student (not enrolled in his/her school) about transferring to their school to participate in athletics. (this includes private instructors, trainers, club coaches, etc.)
- ▶ It is also illegal for a coach or anyone associated with another school to talk to parents about their student transferring to the other school to participate in athletics.
- ▶ Parents on their own will, may visit a school to inquire about their child transferring to a new school.
- ▶ If a student or parent is contacted by anyone about transferring to a new school, they should notify their school principal immediately.

AHSAA Contact Information

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