

SPECIAL NOTICE -- ABOUT ELIGIBILITY RULINGS FROM IHSA for the 2015-16 SCHOOL TERM

The IHSA utilizes special forms to assist in handling your requests for eligibility rulings regarding student residency and transfers. These forms are downloadable from the IHSA web site (www.ihsa.org).

Residence Eligibility: Complete this form to facilitate determination of the eligibility of a student in regard to residence. The information included on this form will substantiate whether the student is in full compliance with the residence eligibility by-laws and whether a determination of eligibility is required. If such determination is required, the completed form must be sent to the Executive Director for a ruling. In addition, an **Affidavit of Residence Form** is to be completed, signed by all appropriate parties and submitted with the Residence Eligibility Form to the IHSA Office.

Affidavit of Residence: The Affidavit of Residence Form must be completed and submitted along with the Residence Eligibility Form when a ruling is requested.

Principals' Concurrence Regarding Transfer: Complete this document to document concurrence with the student's transfer by *both the principal of the school from which the student transfers (Sending School) and the principal of the school into which the student transfers (Receiving School)*. This is a requirement of By-law 3.041. If you, as the receiving principal, experience any delay in obtaining the sending school principal's approval, contact the sending school and try to prompt their response. If there is a further delay, notify the IHSA Office immediately and we will intervene on the student's behalf. **Note: A student is not eligible to participate in an interscholastic contest until the Principals' Concurrence Regarding Transfer Form is fully executed by both principals and is on file in the offices of the school to which the student transfers.**

Please note: *Concurrence with a transfer by both principals does not guarantee or assure eligibility.* A ruling by the Executive Director may still be required. In all cases where a ruling is sought, a fully completed Principals' Concurrence Regarding Transfer Form must be sent to the IHSA Office along with the fully completed Transfer Eligibility Form. Please include complete, correct and accurate information on the forms.

Transfer Eligibility Form: Complete this form if your school receives a transfer from another school to facilitate determination of a student's compliance with IHSA eligibility by-laws for interscholastic athletics. This form is to be sent to the IHSA Office, along with the fully completed Principal's Concurrence Regarding Transfer in the event a ruling by the Executive Director on a student's eligibility in regard to transfer is to be requested.

IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING USE OF THE ELIGIBILITY RULING FORMS

1. The forms do not ask the principal or representative to make any ruling nor should use of the forms suggest that any authority has been given to the principal or other school representative to make an eligibility ruling. As you are aware, the IHSA By-laws provide that eligibility rulings are the sole responsibility of the Executive Director of the IHSA. Also, interpretations of the By-laws can only be made by the IHSA Board of Directors. The IHSA staff is available to assist a member school and it is our hope that the principal or representative of a member school has become familiar with the By-laws so as to at least provide some assistance to a student, in the event of an eligibility question. However, neither the advice of the IHSA staff nor any statement by anyone other than the Executive Director or Board of Directors will constitute a ruling. If an eligibility question is raised, you are to contact or write the Executive Director for a ruling.
2. The eligibility by-laws may require you, as principal, to certify or approve a student's eligibility status or transfer. **Please note: Your approval or concurrence with an eligibility case or request does not constitute a ruling.** To certify means you acknowledge that the information provided to the IHSA for a ruling is complete and correct. Approval or concurrence constitutes acknowledgment that the information provided to the IHSA for a ruling is complete and correct. Approval of or concurrence with a transfer is an acknowledgment that you have no information to provide which is contrary to the By-laws regarding a student's residence information or the transfer. Advice to a student by a principal or school representative that he/she is eligible to participate is not binding on the IHSA and could result in sanctions involving both the student and the school if the advice is found to be inaccurate by the IHSA after full investigation and a ruling.

Because of the growing number of rulings required annually, the forms and information you provide are intended to speed up the ruling process so that minimal time is lost by a student in interscholastic activities. Your participation and cooperation is appreciated and this notice is simply intended as a reminder of your responsibility and role in the process regarding student eligibility rulings. Thank you for your continued cooperation with the IHSA.