



Sumner School District **In-District, High School, Athletic Transfers**

Synopsis of the Athletic Transfer Rule:

Students are eligible for varsity competition at the high school designated by the district attendance boundary, or parent/student selection through the district waiver process at the end of their 8th grade year. After initial enrollment and attendance, students who transfer, but do not move their residence are only eligible for sub-varsity competition for a period of one calendar year, after which time they would become eligible for varsity competition. Students are only eligible to compete, at any level, at the high school where their academic file is located.

Regulations:

In regard to athletic eligibility status of students who transfer between two high schools within the Sumner School District, the Board of Directors has directed the administration to apply the same policies as those of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) in regard to transfer of students between school districts, including, but not limited to the following:

- Students whose transfer is based on a bona fide and immediate change of residence, 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, shall be deemed to meet the requirement for athletic eligibility at the varsity level.
- Students attending a high school outside their attendance boundary for the period of one (1) calendar year or more shall be deemed to meet the requirement for athletic eligibility at the varsity level.
- Students whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) reside in different abodes as the result of a divorce or court appointed separation are allowed one (1) transfer between parents or guardians after entering the ninth grade without being restricted to sub-varsity competition for one year. Any subsequent transfer shall be governed by the transferring student rules and procedures

Procedures:

- At the end of the 8th grade year students will be enrolled in their designated “Resident” high school as determined by the established Sumner School District high school boundaries, and the student’s primary residence, or parent/student selection through the district waiver process. Once the student has enrolled and is attending the designated high school, that high school becomes the “Resident” high school for athletic eligibility purposes.
- Any requests to change high schools, after initial enrollment and attendance without physically changing the student’s family’s residence will require an “Athletic Transfer”
- “Athletic Transfer Rule”
 - Transfer students will not be eligible for varsity competition for a period of one calendar year from the date of enrollment at the transfer school. Transfer students are eligible for sub-varsity competition only, during the one calendar year period.
 - The ineligibility can be appealed, based on hardship to the District Athletic/Activities Director and the Sumner School District Athletic/Activities Eligibility Committee. Their decision will be final.
 - Hardship is defined as a condition beyond the student’s or parent’s control that required the transfer (see WIAA handbook rule 18.25.0 for complete definition)
 - Athletic reasons will not be considered hardships
 - Students who attend part of their academic program at both schools will be eligible at their resident school, or the school where their academic file resides. Changes will be subject to the transfer rule
 - Students who participate in “Running Start” will be eligible at their resident school, or the school where their academic file resides. Changes will be subject to the transfer rule
 - If a family moves from their existing residence to a new residence within the boundaries of the other high school, the student may remain enrolled and eligible in their original resident school, with the annual approval of the academic waiver request, or, if they enroll at their new resident school within 30 days of the family taking possession of the new residence, they will not be subject to the transfer rule. Enrollment in the new resident school after 30 days of the family taking possession of the new residence will be subject to the transfer rule

Purpose of Transfer Rule

- Promotes individual athletes participating in a variety of activities at their home school
- Provides full opportunities and privileges to students selecting a high school at the end of their 8th grade year
- Promotes equity, balance and parity between competing schools
- Eliminates the incentive to transfer
- Protects students who have previously participated, from being replaced by a student living in another high school boundary area
- Protects students from recruiting
- Reduce parent or student “Shopping” for schools with the perceived best athletic program
- Discourages the excesses and abuses of over promotion
- Allows schools to equitably develop traditions of success and positive school and community pride