

**Proposed Amendment to the
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment

This amendment to Section 443, *Changing Schools for Athletic Purposes*, and Section 1205, *Athletic Eligibility*, would update requirements for filing a Previous Athletic Participation Form (PAPF) and mandate completion of the New Student Eligibility Questionnaire prior to participation at any level at a new school.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

In some cases, schools are not filing timely PAPFs when students enter new schools. This rule change would mandate that any new student to a school in grades 9-12 must complete the New Student Eligibility Questionnaire prior to participation at any level at a new school. The amendment also reorganizes the flow of section 443 to be more consistent.

C. Proposed Amendment

Sections 443 and 1205(c) of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* would be amended as follows, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

Section 443: CHANGING SCHOOLS FOR ATHLETIC PURPOSES

A (f) NEW STUDENT ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE. THE NEW STUDENT ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE (PAGE 1 OF THE PAPF) IS REQUIRED FOR **ANY NEW STUDENT** IN GRADES 9-12. THE NEW STUDENT ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE SHALL BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN ANY CONTEST AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL, INCLUDING VARSITY AND SUB VARSITY / JUNIOR VARSITY ATHLETICS.

B (e) PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM (PAPF). An individual is presumed to have changed schools for athletic purposes if he or she participated with his or her former school in any UIL athletic contest or practice in grades eight through twelve during any previous school year until:

- (1) the student's parents change their residence to the new school or attendance zone; (Refer to Section 442 (g) for a student who changes residence with a separated parent);
- (2) a representative of the previous school sign a PAPF stating that the student was not recruited to the new school and did not change schools or attendance zones for athletic purposes;
- (3) a representative of the new school signs a PAPF stating that the student was not recruited and is not changing schools for athletic purposes;
- (4) the District Executive Committee approves the completed PAPF.

NOTE: The District Executive Committee is not bound to determining only the status of students who participated at another school the previous or current year, as it relates to changing schools for athletic purposes.

C (h) NO PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM SIGNATURE FROM PREVIOUS SCHOOL REQUIRED. The Previous Athletic Participation Forms (PAGE 2 OF PAPF) are not required TO BE SIGNED BY A PREVIOUS SCHOOL if the student did not practice or participate with his or her former school in grades eight through twelve or if the student was required to change schools because the school district or attendance zone lines were changed by the school board or other appropriate authority.

D (a) Determination by district executive committee. The District Executive Committee is to determine whether or not a student changed schools for athletic purposes, when considering each student who changed schools and has completed the eighth grade, whether or not the student has represented a school in grades nine through twelve.

E (b) Common Indicators. District Executive Committees should look closely to determine if a student is changing schools for any athletic purpose. Some common indicators committees should include in their considerations include, but are not limited to: checking to see if a student was recruited; ascertaining whether a student was in good standing in the previous school, either academically or in a sports program; determining if a student was unhappy with a coach in the previous school; determining if a student played on a non-school team and is transferring to the school where members of the non-school team attend; determining if a student played on a non-school team and is transferring to the school where the non-school team coach or a relative of the non-school team coach, is the school coach; and determining if a student received individual or team instruction from a school coach and is transferring to the school of that coach.

(F) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION BY DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

- (1) If the District Executive Committee where the student attends school finds that the student did not change schools for athletic purposes and meets all the criteria listed in Section 442, it shall declare the student eligible if he/she meets all other eligibility requirements.
- (2) If the District Executive Committee where the student now attends school finds that the student did not change schools for athletic purposes, it may declare that student eligible even though the school district from which he or she moved refused to sign the PAPF. (Extreme caution should be used in granting eligibility under this condition.)
- (3) If the District Executive Committee where the student now lives finds at any time that the change was made for athletic purposes, it shall declare that student ineligible to participate in athletic contests for one year. This may include a student who did not compete at the previous school. If the committee decides that the period of ineligibility should be longer than one year, the committee shall transfer the case to the State Executive Committee. Subject to Section 403 (f) and 463 (2)(A), a student who has established varsity eligibility under this section at a member school but who subsequently enrolls in another member school and is found to have changed schools for athletic purposes remains eligible at the school, where eligibility was first established.
- (4) When officials from both the sending and receiving schools agree that a student changed schools for athletic purposes, the State Executive Committee will not hear or grant an appeal.

G (e) INELIGIBLE. A student who changes schools for athletic purposes is not eligible to compete in varsity UIL athletic contest(s) at the school to which he or she moves for at least one calendar year, even if both parents move to the new school district attendance zone. Refer to (e) below.

(1) Exception:

- (A) One time only, intra-district transfer students are eligible for one varsity athletic activity that was not offered at their previous school. The student must wait one calendar year before gaining eligibility for any other varsity athletic contest. If a student who has been granted participation under this section returns to the school in the attendance zone where the parents reside, a Previous Athletic Participation Form shall be furnished to the District Executive Committee, who will rule on the student's eligibility at that school.

H (d) LENGTH OF INELIGIBILITY. The District Executive Committee for the district into which the student moves shall determine when or if a student who moves for athletic purposes becomes eligible. Refer to (c (new g)) ~~above~~ and (f)(3) ~~below~~ above.

I (g) Minimum Penalty. IF A NEW STUDENT ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE OR Previous Athletic Participation Form was not filed prior to competition and it was an inadvertent error and the student is actually eligible under Subchapter M of the Constitution, the District Executive Committee is not required to demand forfeiture or to rule the student ineligible. The committee may assess the minimum penalty of reprimand. REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF THIS SECTION COULD SUBJECT THE SCHOOL IN QUESTION TO THE RANGE OF PENALTIES, IN SECTIONS 29 (DEC) AND 27 (SEC), INCLUDING ENHANCED PENALTY FACTORS.

NOTE: (f) and (h) above speak to the applicability of the Previous Athletic Participation Form as it relates to students who have or have not represented another school in grades nine through twelve in either varsity or sub varsity competition. Section 403 (c) prohibits students from changing schools for athletic purposes.

Section 1205: ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

(c) PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM. SEE SECTION 443. ~~The Previous Athletic Participation Form is required if a new student in grades 9-12 practiced or participated with his or her former school in grades eight through twelve during any previous school year in any athletic activity.~~

D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools

This amendment should have no fiscal impact on schools.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2025.