

**Proposed Amendment to the
University Interscholastic League Conference and District Assignment Policies and Procedures**

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment

This amendment to Section 465(b)(3) and Section 468(a)(3), *Foreign Exchange Students*, would outline the process for foreign exchange students to participate in varsity sports. It mandates approval from the District Executive Committee before foreign exchange students can apply for a waiver to bypass the parent residency requirement.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

This amendment requires a foreign exchange student seeking a waiver from the parent residency requirement to first obtain approval from the District Executive Committee via a Foreign Exchange Participation Form. The DEC will review the student's application, considering factors such as prior participation of foreign exchange students in the same varsity sport at the school, prior advanced training in their home country, national rankings or participation on a national team and any influence of athletic abilities on placement with a host or school. Upon approval of the form, the student may then apply for a Foreign Exchange Waiver, enabling them to participate in varsity sports.

C. Proposed Amendment

Section 465(b)(3) and 468(a)(3) of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* would be amended as follows, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

- (3) *Foreign Exchange Students*. The waiver of the residence requirement of a foreign exchange student may be granted under the following conditions:
 - (A) FOREIGN EXCHANGE PARTICIPATION FORM: FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS MUST HAVE A FOREIGN EXCHANGE PARTICIPATION FORM (FEPF) APPROVED BY THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BEFORE APPLYING FOR A FOREIGN EXCHANGE WAIVER.
 - a. A FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT MAY SUBMIT AN FEPF IF THE SCHOOL DID NOT HAVE A FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT PARTICIPATE IN THE SAME VARSITY SPORT THE PREVIOUS YEAR.
 - b. THE DEC MAY APPROVE THE FEPF IF IT FINDS THAT THE STUDENT:
 - 1. DID NOT CHANGE SCHOOLS FOR ATHLETIC PURPOSES, AND
 - 2. has not received advanced training (defined as training which is above and beyond that which is normally provided in Texas public schools) in the germane activity prior to arriving in Texas, such as pre-Olympic training, being nationally ranked or having similar status in a sport, or participation on a national team, and
 - 3. has not been placed with a host or a school based on athletic interests or abilities, whether initiated or caused by a student, a natural or host parent, a school, a program or any other interested party.
 - (B) FOREIGN EXCHANGE WAIVER: The waiver of the residence requirement of a foreign exchange student may be granted under the following conditions:
 - a. a copy of the student's J-1 visa and certification papers from the approved CSIET (Council on Standards for International Educational Travel) United States Foreign Exchange Program accompanies the waiver form; AND
 - b. A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF SCHOOLING PROVIDED BY THE PLACEMENT AGENCY VERIFIES THAT the exchange student has not completed four years of high school attendance and/or graduated from high school; and
 - c. the exchange student meets all other University Interscholastic League eligibility rules.
 - d. A foreign exchange student must apply for and receive an approved waiver before the district certification deadline.

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.