



Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214

Clarification of OHSAA Lacrosse Student Eligibility Standards for 2016-17 School Year

May 2016- In June 2015 the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Board of Directors approved a recommendation from an OHSAA subcommittee that boys and girls lacrosse become sports sponsored by the OHSAA beginning with the 2016-17 school year. Subsequently, lacrosse was assigned to be a spring sport with the first OHSAA statewide tournament series beginning in 2017. To assist with the transition of lacrosse from being an Ohio High School Lacrosse Association (OHSLA)/Ohio Schoolgirls Lacrosse Association (OSLA) sponsored sport to an OHSAA “emerging sport,” the Commissioner’s Office has developed this summary of the required eligibility standards, found within Bylaw 4, Student Eligibility, all lacrosse players will have to meet.

- **Age Limitation-** At the high school level, once a student attains the age of 20 the student will no longer be eligible for lacrosse. If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7th & 8th grade lacrosse for the school year commencing in that calendar year. There are exceptions to this Bylaw outlined in the OHSAA Handbook under Bylaw 4-2.
- **Enrollment and Attendance-** All lacrosse students must be enrolled in and attending full-time in accordance with all duly adopted Board of Education or similar governing board policies of that school. There are exceptions to this Bylaw outlined in the OHSAA Handbook under Bylaw 4-3.
- **Scholarship-** All lacrosse students will be required to meet the scholastic standard found in Bylaw 4-4-1 in the immediately preceding grading period. For example, in order to be eligible for the first part of the season, which may begin during the third grading period, a student would need passing grades in five one credit courses or the equivalent (OTE) at the end of the 2nd grading period. The same would hold true for the bulk of the season which takes place during the 4th grading period - i.e. passing grades in five one credit course OTE at the end of the 3rd grading period. There are exceptions to this Bylaw outlined in the OHSAA Handbook under Bylaw 4-4.
- **Conduct, Character & Discipline-** In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to whether the student may participate.
- **Residence-** A student whose parents reside outside the state of Ohio will be ineligible for lacrosse at a member school. There are exceptions to this Bylaw outlined in the OHSAA Handbook under Bylaw 4-6.
- **Transfers- *For the sport of lacrosse, any student who transfers schools after August 1, 2016*** (i.e. the “date of enrollment” as listed in the student’s profile is after August 1, 2016) shall be ineligible for all contests, including all scrimmages, until the first 9 contests have been competed in lacrosse (GIRLS - then eligible for no more than 23 halves for the remainder of the regular season; BOYS- then eligible for no more than 46 quarters for the remainder of the regular season). Students who transfer prior to the August 1 date, and are not accountable to the transfer bylaw for lacrosse, will still be accountable to the 50% consequence in all other sports played in the previous 12 months. There are exceptions to this Bylaw outlined in the OHSAA Handbook under Bylaw 4-7.
- **International & Exchange Students-** International & Exchange students are ineligible for lacrosse in Ohio. There are exceptions to this Bylaw outlined in the OHSAA Handbook under Bylaw 4-8.
- **Recruiting-** If a student-athlete is recruited in the sport of lacrosse, as recruiting is defined in the OHSAA Handbook under Bylaw 4-9, the student shall be ineligible upon enrollment to the new school.
- **Amateur-** An athlete forfeits amateur status, and thus interscholastic athletic eligibility in the sport of lacrosse, if any of the standards of amateurism outlined in the OHSAA Handbook under Bylaw 4-10 are violated.

NOTE: This document is not intended to be an all-encompassing review of eligibility standards. Its purpose is to be a summary overview to assist students and parents. School administrators are expected to continue to conduct their due diligence when reviewing each student’s eligibility.