

It is the responsibility of the school principal to ensure that all athletes and cheerleaders meet the residency, academic and other requirements of the Caldwell County Board of Education, the North Carolina/Junior High School Athletic Manual, and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Residency for athletic/cheerleading purposes shall be the same as for general attendance purposes. When a change in residence occurs, an otherwise eligible athlete/cheerleader is immediately eligible at the school to which he/she is then assigned by the Board of Education. If the student continues to attend the school serving the former residence, he/she shall be eligible the remainder of the school year. At the beginning of the next school year, the student will be eligible at the school serving the new residence or at the former school with an approved transfer.

A. TRANSFER STUDENTS

In order to prevent the recruitment of student athletes, students transferring to another school are ineligible to compete in athletics and cheerleading for a period of one calendar year, except as exempted below. This provision also applies when a student returns to his/her home district school after attending another school on a Board-approved transfer unless the transfer was denied because of a closed school. In addition, this policy will apply to any out-of-county transfer not having a bona fide residence in the attendance district of the school. If the Superintendent transfers a school employee involuntarily to another school, the employee's child will be athletically eligible at that school.

The following students shall be exempt from the provision of this policy requiring one calendar year of ineligibility following a transfer:

1. A student who will be enrolled in the *6th, 7th, or 8th grade of a K-8 school that does not offer a sport in which the student desires to participate and who receives a transfer to a middle school that offers the desired sport.
*6th grade students may be eligible to participate in all interscholastic sports with the exception of football.
2. A student who attended *6th, 7th, and 8th grades at the middle school in his/her domiciliary district but whose domicile then changes and who receives an approved transfer to the high school serving their former middle school.
*6th grade students may be eligible to participate in all interscholastic sports with the exception of football.
3. A student who will be enrolled as a 6th grader that attended an elementary school that is a natural feeder to the middle school may be eligible to participate in middle school athletics and cheerleading, with the exception of football, at their current school. The provision does not apply if the 6th grade student transfers to a middle school from an elementary school that is not in the middle school's natural feeder pattern.

4. A student who is the child of a school system employee and who transfers to a school other than the one in his or her home school district. Home school district for this policy is defined as the district where the student is domiciled.
5. High school foreign exchange students who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements of the NC High School Athletic Association are eligible to participate immediately in high school athletics in the school district in which their host parents live.
6. A student who attends Caldwell Early College High School or Caldwell Career Center Middle College is eligible to participate in athletics immediately at his/her home school district school. Such students, including the children of school system employees, are permitted to participate in athletics only at their home school district school.

B. ATTENDANCE

1. A player must be in attendance for at least 85 percent of the previous semester. Specifically, the student may not miss more than 13 days to be in compliance with the 85 percent rule.
2. A student must, at the time of any game in which he or she participates, be in attendance at school. More specifically, the student must be counted present for the day, on the day of the contest, unless the game is played on a non-school day.
3. The student must be enrolled within the first 15 days and in regular attendance for the present semester to be eligible for athletics. A student whose family has moved into a school district shall immediately assume the same status in the new district as that from which he or she moved.
4. At the end of each semester, any participant who has failed to attend school 85 percent of that semester is immediately ineligible the following semester.
5. A student, upon first entering grades *six and nine, is eligible, based on attendance, for participation. *6th grade students may be eligible to participate in all interscholastic sports with the exception of football.
6. A student not eligible, based on attendance, at the beginning of the semester is not eligible at any time during the semester.

The system-wide Athletic Appeals Committee will consider appeals of eligibility decisions made at the individual school level based on this policy. Upon such appeal, the committee shall determine whether or not the decision of the local school administration regarding eligibility is correct or not. Neither the committee nor the superintendent shall have the authority to permit Caldwell Early College High School or Caldwell Career Center Middle College students to participate in athletics at any school other than the student's home district school, as defined in

this policy.

An appeal of the committee determination and decision to the Board of Education may be requested in writing pursuant to the procedures described in Board Policy 1740/4010. School staff and school volunteers are prohibited from any recruiting practice and will be punished for any infraction by a variety of ways, including but not limited to, dismissal from their coaching duties.

If it is found that a student athlete or cheerleader enrolls in a school by providing false or misleading information, he or she may be deemed ineligible for athletics, systemwide, for a period of no less than 365 days from the date the offense was determined.

Adopted: August 14, 1995

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