

## SECTION 1: ELIGIBILITY

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### 1.1 APPLICATION

- 1.1.1 All eligibility rules shall apply to all students participating in interscholastic athletic competition in all sports at all levels of play (varsity, junior varsity, sophomore, or freshman teams).
- 1.1.2 An ineligible student shall not dress out in uniform, **however, with the principal's permission may** sit on the team's bench during any interscholastic athletic contest (game or scrimmage).
- 1.1.3 It is a school's responsibility to educate student-athletes, coaches, and other appropriate persons on LHSAA rules, including eligibility rules that could affect them. Additionally, a school is required to monitor its compliance with all LHSAA constitutional rules and by-laws.
- 1.1.4 The school **shall** maintain an individual folder on each student-athlete in a **centrally located place** in the school to be determined by the principal. A school failing to adhere to all required rules and/or failing to have all required eligibility forms properly completed, signed, and maintained in the school's files shall be subject to the penalty. Each folder shall contain the following required eligibility documents:
1. Legal proof of birth as required (Rule 1.6.2)
  2. Completed and properly signed LHSAA Medical History Form (Rules 1.8)
  3. Current Medical Examination Form (Rule 1.8)
  4. Completed and properly signed LHSAA Interscholastic Athletic Participation Form (Rule 1.9)
  5. Completed and properly signed LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract (Rule 1.10)
  6. Official copy of grades (final grades from previous school year for first semester or mid-term grade for second semester) (Rule 1.11)
  7. An official copy of the student's transcript (Rule 1.11)

### 1.2 OFFICIAL RULING REQUEST

- 1.2.1 If at any time the eligibility of a player is questioned, a principal shall have the right to ask the Executive Director for a ruling on the player's eligibility. All information provided by the school on the student shall be true and accurate.
- 1.2.2 A principal may ask for an eligibility ruling on a player from his/her own school or from another school.
1. All official requests for eligibility rulings shall be in writing and signed by the principal.
  2. Official requests shall only be accepted by U.S. mail, fax or hand delivery.
  3. E-mail requests shall be considered for a ruling only if it is received from the principal's official email address that is properly registered with the LHSAA.
  4. To be official, the Executive Director shall issue a ruling in writing.
  5. Unwritten rulings or opinions are unofficial.
- 1.2.3 Once a principal officially requests an eligibility ruling on a student from his/her school, **the student shall be ineligible** for interscholastic athletic participation at all levels of play in all LHSAA sports until he/she is ruled eligible by the Executive Director. If a request for an eligibility ruling is made and time does not permit its consideration before a game, the game shall be played; but if upon sufficient evidence, it appears that a player is ineligible, the Executive Director shall ban the player from further competition until he/she may become eligible. The games he/she played in shall be forfeited to the opposing team and other penalties may be imposed on the offending team.

### 1.3 REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF STUDENTS

- 1.3.1 Prior to the first interscholastic contest (*jamboree or regular season game*) of each sport each year, each student shall be properly and completely **registered and submitted** on the LHSAA Member School website before the student is allowed to participate. Proper and complete registration of each student shall include the correct date of birth and last four digits of the student's social security number. **Only the school principal, using his/her assigned user name and password, can submit students for eligibility. At the time a student is submitted online, the school must have a completed eligibility folder on the student as outlined in Rule 1.1.4.** This information does not have to be filed before participation in scrimmages but shall be filed before playing in a jamboree or regular season contest, whichever occurs first.
- 1.3.2 **After a student is registered and submitted for the initial sport he/she participates in, the student must be added and resubmitted to the roster of each additional sport he/she participates in during the school year.** A student shall meet all eligibility requirements **in all sports at all levels of competition** to participate in scrimmages, jamborees, and contests throughout the year.

## **Section 1-Eligibility**

- 1.3.3** No student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition until his/her name with all required information has been submitted online to the LHSAA each school year.
- 1.3.4** Eligibility **rosters** in all sports do not have to be exchanged between schools unless the exchange requirement is adopted by the district.
- 1.3.5** It shall be the school's responsibility to verify and certify that each student is eligible under all LHSAA's eligibility rules. Email verification from the Executive Director's office that a school's online student eligibility has been received and registered does not assure that the student(s) registered online are eligible under all LHSAA rules.
- 1.4** **ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS**
- 1.4.1** If a student has not enrolled in and attended a school in the first 11 days of the school semester, he/she is ineligible to participate the first 30 days of his/her attendance in that semester.
- 1.5** **BONA FIDE STUDENT**
- 1.5.1** A student-athlete shall be a bona fide student of his/her school. He/she shall be enrolled in and attending an LHSAA school on a regular basis and taking the required number of subjects which shall be recorded on the student's transcript unless the student is a special education student who is not pursuing a high school diploma, or a student in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade or below. A student shall not be a graduate of a high school or secondary school or a recipient of an equivalency diploma.
- 1.5.2** The LHSAA has jurisdiction over a member school consisting of grades 9-12. Schools having fewer than four high school grades (9, 10, 11, and 12) may use students above the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level from any junior high school in the same school attendance zone. The principal of the senior high school is responsible for verifying that these students meet all eligibility rules. A high school with first-year 9<sup>th</sup> grade students shall be considered a four-grade high school.
1. The LHSAA shall recognize the school grade configuration of a member school, as reported to the association on the LHSAA Membership Application Form, as submitted annually by the school. The grade configuration submitted shall be consistent on this form and shall coincide with the grade configuration on all forms submitted annually to the DOE.
  2. If a member school reports to the LHSAA that it does not contain a 9<sup>th</sup> grade or below in its grade configuration, for interscholastic athletic purposes, the principal of grades 10-12 shall not have interscholastic athletic jurisdiction over any grades below the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. If an LHSAA school does not contain a 9<sup>th</sup> grade, in order for eligible 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate on any of its LHSAA teams, the 9<sup>th</sup> grade shall be under the jurisdiction of an individual who is not an assistant principal or faculty member of the LHSAA school and not the LHSAA principal.
  3. If the school has on file a written statement signed by one or both parents that the above rule has been read and explained to them, a student from a junior high school above the 8<sup>th</sup> grade choosing to participate in athletics at a senior high school shall not, after participating in any interscholastic contest with that school, transfer to another senior high school in that attendance zone and be eligible for athletics until he/she has been enrolled there for one calendar year.
- 1.5.3** A student in a home bound program shall not be considered a bona fide student of an LHSAA member school unless he/she is enrolled in the member school and his/her grades are transferred and recorded on the student's official school transcript.
- 1.6** **AGE AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**
- 1.6.1** A student becomes ineligible for interscholastic athletic participation if he/she has reached his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday before September 1 of that school year. If he/she becomes 19 on or after September 1, he/she is eligible for the remainder of the school year, if he/she meets all other eligibility rules.
- 1.6.2** The principal shall have on file at all time sufficient evidence of the legal birth of each student-athlete and evidence of the student's entry into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- 1.6.3** Evidence of legal birth date shall be established by one of the following:
1. A legal copy of a birth certificate.
  2. An official record of birth from the Bureau of Vital Statistics.
  3. An official notification of birth issued by the state, parish or county health unit.
  4. An official passport.
  5. A hospital certificate signed by a physician and/or the hospital administrator.
  6. Legal adoption papers issued by a court.
  7. Official records verifying proof of birth issued by the Department of Welfare.
  8. Official immigration and naturalization papers issued by the United States Department of Immigration and Naturalization.

**1.6.4** Any birth certificate issued within one year of birth shall be accepted as final proof of age of a student. If a protest or question arises as to the age of the student, a delayed birth certificated based on information filed with the Bureau of Vital Statistics more than one year subsequent to the date of birth will not be accepted as final proof of correct date of birth. The eldest age given on any eligibility list, or the eldest age shown by school records, may be used as a basis of eligibility until proof otherwise is submitted and accepted by the Executive Director or the Executive Committee.

**1.6.4** Proof of birth shall be available to the LHSAA within 24 hours, if requested.

**1.6.5** The penalties for failure to have proof of age in the school files as required in Rule 1.6.3 shall be as follows:

1. A school shall be fined \$50 per student, per sport for each legal proof of age document not on file with the school not to exceed \$500 per sport.
2. A student in violation of this rule shall be withheld from further team practices and interscholastic athletic participation until the required proof of age is provided to the LHSAA. A school shall have 24 hours to provide legal proof of age to the LHSAA.
3. If legal proof of age cannot be provided within the 24-hour time period, the student shall have participated as an ineligible student and the school shall be penalized under Rule 5.11.3.
4. The coach shall be penalized under Rule 5.12.
5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

## **1.7** LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY

**1.7.1** Upon entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, a student shall be eligible for competition on high school athletic teams only during the ensuing eight consecutive semesters or terms of 90 days. The Louisiana cumulative record shall suffice as evidence of the date of entry into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Proof of entry into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade shall be available to the LHSAA within 24 hours, if requested.

## **1.8** MEDICAL HISTORY EVALUATION AND EXAMINATION

**1.8.1** To be eligible for practice or participation in interscholastic athletic contests, a student shall:

1. Properly complete an LHSAA Medical History Evaluation Form or the Louisiana School Entrance and General Health Exam Form and pass a medical examination administered by a licensed physician, a licensed nurse practitioner that is in collaboration with a licensed physician, and/or a licensed physician's assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician prior to the first time he/she participates in a sport at an LHSAA school.
2. Once a student passes the initial medical examination and completes an LHSAA Medical History Evaluation Form or the Louisiana School Entrance and General Health Exam Form prior to the sports season in which he/she participates, he/she shall annually pass a medical screening or medical examination required by a licensed physician, a licensed nurse practitioner that is in collaboration with a licensed physician, and/or a licensed physician's assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician and shall update the LHSAA Medical History Evaluation Form. ***The medical examination shall be valid until the last day of the month in which it is performed.***

**1.8.2** A copy of the completed and signed LHSAA Medical History Form or the Louisiana School Entrance and General Health Exam Form and the medical examination form shall be on file at the school for every student who practices or participates in interscholastic athletics during the school year.

**1.8.3** It is recommended that students who participate in interscholastic athletic competition be adequately insured for all accidents, injuries, emergencies, and medical aid is immediately available at all contests.

**1.8.4** The penalties for failure to have the required LHSAA Medical History Evaluation Form(s) or the Louisiana School Entrance and General Health Exam Form for all students completed, properly signed, and maintained in the school files:

1. A school shall be fined \$50 per student, per sport for each LHSAA Medical History Evaluation Form or the Louisiana School Entrance and General Health Exam Form not completed, properly signed, and on file with the school not to exceed \$500 per sport.
2. A student in violation of this rule shall not be ruled ineligible for this infraction, unless he/she has not passed a medical examination, but shall be withheld from further team practices and interscholastic athletic participation until a copy of this form is completed and submitted to the LHSAA. The completed form must be faxed or postmarked prior to the athlete's participation.

**1.8.5** The penalties for failure by a student(s) to take and pass a medical examination:

1. The school shall be fined \$50 per student, per sport if the medical exam has been taken but is not in the student's file for a maximum of \$500 per sport.
2. If the student(s) has failed to take and pass the required annual medical exam, then the student(s) shall be ruled ineligible, and the school shall be penalized under Rule 5.11.3.

## Section 1-Eligibility

3. The student(s) shall be withheld from team practices and further interscholastic athletic participation until he/she has passed the required medical examination and written documentation is provided to the Executive Director.

### **1.9 ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM**

**1.9.1** Schools shall be required to provide all students participating in all sports at all levels of play with a copy of the LHSAA Interscholastic Athletic Participation/Parental Permission Form and have the form completed and signed by the student's parent(s) or guardian each year prior to the student's participation in any LHSAA athletic contest. Schools shall be required to keep the completed and signed LHSAA Interscholastic Athletic Participation/Parental Permission Form on file at the school for the entire time the athlete is a bona-fide student at the school.

**1.9.2** The penalties for failure to have the required LHSAA Athletic Participation Form(s) for all students completed, properly signed, and maintained in the school files shall be:

1. A school shall be fined \$50 per student, per sport for each LHSAA Athletic Participation Form not completed, properly signed, and on file with the school not to exceed \$500 per sport.
2. A student in violation of this rule shall not be ruled ineligible for this infraction, but shall be withheld from further team practices and interscholastic athletic participation until a copy of this form is completed and submitted to the LHSAA. The completed form must be faxed or postmarked prior to the athlete's participation.

### **1.10 ABUSE AND/OR MISUSE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES**

**1.10.1** Each member school shall develop and implement a substance abuse/misuse policy including procedures for chemical testing of student-athletes.

**1.10.2** Prior to participating in any LHSAA sanctioned sport, the student-athlete and parent/guardian shall sign the LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract developed and distributed to all schools by the LHSAA. Once signed, the LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract shall remain in effect for the remainder of the student-athlete's eligibility.

**1.10.3** Schools may also have the student and parent/guardian sign a school issued form in addition to the LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract.

**1.10.4** The penalties for failure to have the required LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract(s) for all students completed, properly signed, and maintained in the school files shall be:

1. A school shall be fined \$50 per student, per sport for each LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Form not completed, properly signed, and on file with the school not to exceed \$500 per sport.
2. A student in violation of this rule shall not be ruled ineligible for this infraction, but shall be withheld from further team practices and interscholastic athletic participation until a copy of this form is completed and submitted to the LHSAA. The completed form must be faxed or postmarked prior to the athlete's participation.

### **1.11 SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS**

**1.11.1** To be eligible under the scholastic rule, students, other than special education students who are not pursuing a diploma, enrolled in high school subjects (*grades 9-12*) shall meet requirements all scholastic requirements. *Note: Eligibility requirements for special education students who are not pursuing a diploma can be found in Rule 1.11.15.*

**1.11.2** To be eligible for the first semester of the school year, a student shall have earned at least six (6) units from the previous year, which shall be listed on the student's transcript and shall have earned at least a "C" average as determined by the Local Education Authority when considering all "graded" subjects.

**1.11.3** To be eligible for the second semester of the school year, a student shall pass at least six (6) subjects from the first semester. ***A senior attempting four units in the first semester must pass all four units to be eligible in the second semester. Likewise, a senior attempting five units in the first semester must pass all five units, and a senior taking six or more units in the first semester must pass six units for second semester eligibility.***

**1.11.4** All subjects/units passed shall carry Carnegie units which shall be recorded on the student's transcript and include all credits/grades earned in any method of remediation and correspondence courses approved in Bulletin 741 of the Louisiana State Department of Education. *Note: College subjects do not have to be recorded on the student's high school transcript.*

**1.11.5** Individual schools or school systems may set higher, but not lower, scholastic requirements for interscholastic athletic participation.

**1.11.6** A senior (*12<sup>th</sup> grade*) student who has accumulated 20 or more units shall be required to take at least four (4) subjects/units per semester, none of which shall be subjects/units the student has previously taken and passed. The four (4) required

subjects/units may include college courses that have been approved by the State Department of Education and/or the Louisiana Board of Regents. Under the 4 x 4 block system, a senior must be enrolled in a minimum of two subjects/units per semester to be eligible to compete.

- 1.11.7** Failure to have the required official transcript or report card for all student-athletes as per Rule 1.1.4 in the school files:
1. A school shall be fined \$50 per student, per sport for each official transcript or report card not on file with the school not to exceed \$500 per sport.
  2. A student in violation of this rule shall not be ruled ineligible for this infraction, but shall be withheld from further team practices and interscholastic athletic participation until the student-athlete's official transcript and report card are submitted to the LHSAA. The transcript and report card must be faxed or postmarked prior to the athlete's participation.
- 1.11.7 Determining Grade Point Averages:** The grade point average shall be determined by dividing the total number of subjects/units attempted toward graduation into the total number of grade points earned by a student.
1. For the purpose of determining a student's GPA, the point value of each grade is as follows:  
A = 4 points    B = 3 points    C = 2 points    D = 1 point    F = 0 points
  2. Do not round off numbers when computing a student's GPA.
- 1.11.8 Block Scheduling:** The following process shall be used to determine the scholastic eligibility of students enrolled in schools that schedule classes for one full unit of credit during one semester of classes.
1. In determining the scholastic eligibility of a student at the end of the first semester of a school year, a subject's Carnegie unit value and the grade points earned in that subject shall be multiplied by two when calculating the student's grade point average.
  2. In determining the scholastic eligibility of a student at the end of the school year for the first semester of the next year, a subject's Carnegie unit value and the grade points earned in that subject shall count as earned (no multiplication required).
- 1.11.9 Grade Corrections:**
1. For a grade correction to be accepted for eligibility purposes for the first semester of a new school year, it shall be corrected within the first day of the school year for the school.
  2. For a grade correction to be accepted for eligibility purposes for the second semester of a school year, it shall be corrected by the 7<sup>th</sup> school day following the end of the grading period for the first semester.
  3. It shall not be permissible to give a second examination in order to make a student eligible unless required by an approved school system pupil progression plan.
- 1.11.10 Incomplete Grades:** If a student fails to remove an "incomplete" grade in a course within 15 school days of the official end of the first semester or within 15 days of the official school year, the grade shall be considered a failing grade in that course for scholastic eligibility purposes.
1. With the exception of an "incomplete" for work in correspondence courses, an "incomplete" shall not be considered a passing grade for the eligibility of a player.
  2. The deadline for removing an "incomplete" grade in correspondence courses is established in Rule 1.11.18.
- 1.11.11 Repeating Subjects:** Unless it is necessary to improve a GPA for a school year, a student shall not repeat any subject that he/she has already passed. If a subject is repeated, this shall be accomplished through a remedial program approved by the State Department of Education. *Interpretation: When the association added a GPA to its scholastic rule, a rule was passed to allow students to repeat a subject(s) they had already passed if they were repeating the subject(s) to improve their GPA. This is the only time a high school student (grades 9-12) may repeat a subject he/she has already passed and count it for eligibility purposes.*
- 1.11.12 Change in Scholastic Eligibility:** The date for change of eligibility status for the second semester shall be the seventh calendar day following the end of the grading period of the first semester. A student shall then become eligible/ineligible for the second semester.
1. A student who has been ineligible for the first semester because of the scholastic rule shall not become eligible for the second semester **on** the seventh calendar day following the end of the grading period of the first semester.
  2. A student who has become ineligible for the second semester shall remain eligible **on** the seventh calendar day following the end of the grading period of the first semester.
  3. *Exception: The official end of the grading period for schools that complete the first semester on the day immediately prior to the Christmas holidays shall be the first day that teachers officially return to school following the end of the holiday period. On the next calendar day after that date, a student shall become immediately eligible/ineligible for the second semester.*
- 1.11.13 Promotion into High School:** Promotion from **the 8th grade** into **the 9th grade** for the first time shall fulfill the scholastic requirements. In this context, elementary schools include grades 1-8; high schools include grades 9-12. Promotion into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade shall be in accordance with the approved local Pupil Progression Plan.

## Section 1-Eligibility

- 1.11.14 Special Education Students:** Special education students other than those classified as "*gifted and talented*" shall be eligible if they meet the provisions of the present rule.
1. This rule's purpose is to make athletic programs accessible to students; however, once a student reports for a sport, he/she, like any other student, is subject to earning a place on the team.
  2. Special education students shall be evaluated every three years for eligibility purposes.
  3. A student shall be placed in a special education program for at least two-thirds of a given semester in order to establish eligibility for the next semester.
  4. A regular education student who fails to establish scholastic eligibility shall not become eligible as a special education student until he/she has established eligibility as stated in 1.11.15.3 and 1.11.15 or 1.11.16.
- 1.11.15 Special education students not working toward a high school diploma:** Special education students identified and placed according to state regulations, by virtue of the design of their IEP, who may or may not earn the necessary Carnegie units, shall meet the following requirements: (*These are the current students who are alternatively assessed and classified as LAA1 and LAA2.*)
1. A statement of assurance form shall be completed on each special education student who is not working toward a high school diploma. The student's participation in interscholastic sports shall be monitored at regular reporting periods to assure satisfactory progress in the student's individual education program. This form shall be signed by the student's parent(s)/guardian, teacher, and principal and attached to the IEP on an annual basis.
  2. A student shall make satisfactory progress through performance and attendance in the student's IEP goals at the end of a semester to be eligible for the entire next semester.
- 1.11.16 Special education students working toward a high school diploma:** When a special education student takes enough Carnegie unit subjects to meet the basic requirements of the LHSAA's scholastic rule, his/her scholastic eligibility shall be determined as follows:
1. To be eligible for the first semester of the school year, a student shall have earned at least six (6) units from the previous year which shall be listed on the student's transcript, including any special education subject(s), and shall have earned at least a "C" average as determined by the Local Education Authority when considering all "graded" subjects.
  2. To be eligible for the second semester of the school year, a student shall pass at least six (6) subjects from the first semester, including any special education subject(s).
- 1.11.17 Summer School:** Carnegie units and grades earned in state approved subjects taken in summer school may be used in determining the scholastic eligibility of a student if completed prior to the school participating in a jamboree or the first day of classes in that school year, whichever occurs first.
1. A student shall not be allowed to earn more than two Carnegie units in summer school which count toward the student's high school graduation, excluding driver's education.
  2. If a student is repeating a subject in summer school that he/she took during the preceding school year, the subject the student took during the regular school year shall not be used in determining the student's GPA if the school elects to count the grade earned by the student in summer school. *Example: A student takes six subjects during the regular school year and passes all of them except science and math. The student repeats the same math course in summer school and passes it. The school may discard the math grade and course the student took during the regular school year and divide by six subjects when determining the student's GPA.*
  3. If a student is taking a subject in summer school that he/she did not take during the preceding school year, the new subject shall be added to the subjects pursued during the regular school year when determining the student's GPA. *Example: The same student in the previous example elects to take typing in summer school in an attempt to gain scholastic eligibility; he/she did not take typing during the regular school year. The school shall divide by seven subjects when determining the student's GPA.*
  4. A student who is eligible at the end of the regular school year shall not become ineligible through attending summer school.
  5. A school that allows a student-athlete to attend summer school free of charge or at a reduced fee shall be in violation of the illegal recruiting (*undue influence*) rule.
  6. A person or organization connected with the school that pays the summer school fees for a student-athlete shall be in violation of the illegal recruiting (*undue influence*) rule.
- 1.11.18 Correspondence Courses and/or Approved Credit Recovery Courses:** Correspondence courses and/or credit recovery courses that have been approved by the State Department of Education may be used for scholastic eligibility under the following provisions:
1. The correspondence course and/or credit recovery course shall count as a Carnegie unit or one-half unit toward the student's graduation.
  2. In order for the correspondence course and/or credit recovery course to be considered for scholastic eligibility for the second semester of the school year, the student shall complete the course no later than the final day of the marking period of the first semester.
  3. In order for a correspondence course and/or credit recovery course to be considered for scholastic eligibility at the end of the school year and used for the first semester of the succeeding school year, the student shall complete the course no later than the last day of the marking period for the second semester.

4. In order for a correspondence course and/or credit recovery course that is taken over the summer months to be considered for scholastic eligibility for the first semester of the succeeding school year, the student shall complete the course prior to his/her school's participation in a jamboree contest or the first day of classes in the school year, whichever occurs first.

**1.11.19 Connections 8th Student:** *The Connections Program is a one year process designed by the DOE where overage students, who are 15 years of age by September 30 of the current school year and are two (2) or more years academically behind their peers, receive targeted instruction and accelerated remediation aimed at attaining a diploma, GED, or State Approved Skills Certificate. The DOE has requested the LHSAA adopt a policy to allow these students to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at a member school. A Connections 8th Student is defined and classified as a bona fide student of an LHSAA member school if the student:*

1. *Is enrolled in and attends an LHSAA school under the jurisdiction of the LHSAA school principal*
2. *Is classified as an 8th grade student*
3. *A Connections 8th Program student shall only be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the sub-varsity level. If the LHSAA member school does not offer a sub-varsity level in a particular sport, the student shall be ineligible for competition in that sport.*
4. *A Connections 8th Program student shall only be eligible for interscholastic athletic participation in an LHSAA member school located in attendance where he/she resides with his/her parent/guardian or any other household with whom he/she has been residing for at least the past calendar year. This zone shall be considered his/her home attendance zone for the purpose of applying the Residence and School Transfers rule. With written permission from the LHSAA, a school system may allow a Connections 8th student to participate at his/her home attendance zone school while attending a Connections 8th Program center located within the school system.*
5. *Placement in the Connections 8th Program for the first time shall fulfill the scholastic requirements for the first semester of the school year.*
6. *To be scholastically eligible for the second semester, he/she shall pass at least 75% of all subjects taken and shall earn at least a "C" average as determined by the LEA in all "graded" subjects.*
7. *Connections 8th students shall begin their ensuing eight consecutive semesters of eligibility the first year they are classified as a Connection 8 student.*
8. *To be scholastically eligible for the first semester of the next school year, he/she shall have been promoted to the 9th grade.*
9. *Connections 8th is a one year process and shall not be extended for athletic eligibility purposes.*

## **1.12 RESIDENCE**

- 1.12.1 School districts or attendance zones designated by the public school boards or the federal courts shall be used in determining the eligibility under the transfer rule. School bus routes shall not be used in determining eligibility under this rule.
- 1.12.2 LHSAA non-public, university laboratory, and charter schools shall be bound by the same parish public school districts or attendance zones that have been designated by the parish public school boards or Federal Courts for the traditional public high school physically located in their area.
  1. If a parish does not consist of at least one parish public traditional high school, the attendance zone(s) assigned to parish public full magnet high school(s) shall serve as the factor in determining the LHSAA athletic attendance zone for the non-public, university laboratory, charter, and state recovery public high schools physically located in their area.
  2. The parish boundary lines shall serve as the athletic attendance zone for all non-public, university laboratory, and charter schools, if it does not contain a traditional public high school or a full magnet public high school.
- 1.12.3 A student shall be considered as enrolled in a high school when he/she has officially enrolled in and attended at least one class in that school.
- 1.12.4 Once a student establishes eligibility at a school through attendance for at least one calendar year, he/she shall remain eligible for as long as he/she continues to attend that school regardless of where his/her parent(s)/guardian reside unless this eligibility is negated by another section in this residence and school transfers rule such as in the bona fide move section or the foreign exchange student section.

## **1.13 SCHOOL OF CHOICE**

- 1.13.1 A student who has attended a middle school or a junior high school located in his/her home zone shall, upon the completion of all grades offered by that school, be immediately eligible at the LHSAA school of his/her first choice in that same zone.
- 1.13.2 If a student resides in an attendance zone containing more than one LHSAA school, the student upon entering an LHSAA high school for the first time, shall have his/her choice of any LHSAA school in that same zone and shall be granted immediate eligibility under this rule.

## Section 1-Eligibility

1. Once a student exercises his/her choice of schools, that LHSAA school shall become the student's school of eligibility in that zone. After exercising this choice, should the student transfer to another LHSAA school, he/she shall become immediately ineligible for a period of one calendar year from the date of enrollment at the second school. The student shall always be eligible at the school of his/her first choice in his/her home zone.
2. Once a student exercises his/her school of first choice option, that option shall remain in effect even if the student's parents move their residence from that attendance zone and subsequently return and reestablish a residence in the attendance zone where the student exercised his/her school of first choice option.

**1.13.3** A student residing in an attendance zone with more than one LHSAA member school and who has already attended a member school shall be granted a new option when a "new" LHSAA member school is added to that zone. However, in exercising this new option, the student may gain immediate eligibility only by electing to attend the school that did not exist in the zone at the time he/she elected to attend his/her present high school. This choice shall be afforded only at the beginning of the first year the "new" school is in operation in the zone. A student electing to attend a "new" school after that time shall be ruled ineligible for a period of one calendar year at the "new" school. In this sense, the word "new" shall refer to any school added to that zone for any reason.

1. Once a student attends a "new" school, it shall become the student's school of eligibility and transfer to any other LHSAA member school not covered by this exception shall cause the student to be ruled ineligible at the other school for a period of one calendar year from the date of his/her enrollment.
2. A student shall be allowed to use this option only once.

### **1.14 SCHOOL TRANSFERS**

**1.14.1** If a student transfers from one LHSAA school to another LHSAA school, he/she shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition at any level of play in all sports at the receiving school until he/she has **officially withdrawn** from the latter school.

**1.14.2** If a student meets all other eligibility requirements and has not participated as an ineligible student at any school during the past calendar year, he/she shall be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletic participation only in an LHSAA high school located in the school attendance zone he/she resides with his/her parent(s)/guardian, or any other household with whom he/she has been residing for at least the past calendar year, unless an applicable exception is contained in the residence and school transfers rule. This zone shall be considered his/her "home" attendance zone for the purpose of applying the residence and school transfers rule.

**1.14.3** If a student transfers to an LHSAA high school located outside of his/her attendance zone, he/she shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at that school for one calendar year from the date of his/her enrollment in that school. Exception: A first year 9th grader who transfers to or enrolls in an LHSAA high school located outside his/her attendance zone shall be immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the sub-varsity level. If the LHSAA high school does not offer a sub-varsity level of interscholastic athletics in a particular sport, the student shall be ineligible for a competition in that sport. **A student shall only be allowed to apply this exception one time during his/her 9th grade year.**

**1.14.4** If a student attends an LHSAA school located outside of his/her attendance zone and transfers to another school at any time, he/she negates the time in attendance established at the school located outside of his/her attendance zone.

**1.14.5 Non-Member Schools:** A student, who has been attending a non-member school, shall be immediately eligible at the LHSAA school of his/her first choice should he/she elect to attend an LHSAA school in his/her home zone. A transfer from a non-**member** school to a **member** school located outside of the student's attendance zone shall not create eligibility.

**1.14.6 Schools Outside of the Attendance Zone:** A student, who has been attending a school located outside his/her home zone, shall be immediately eligible at the LHSAA school of his/her first choice should he/she elect to attend an LHSAA school in his/her home zone.

**1.14.7** If a student attended the entire 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> grade at a middle/junior high school located outside of his/her home attendance zone for at least the entire school year immediately prior to entering high school, he/she shall be immediately eligible at the first LHSAA school located in the same public high school attendance zone in which the traditional middle/junior high school he/she attended is physically located or at the LHSAA school of first choice in his/her home attendance zone.

**1.14.8** If a student, who fails to complete the mandates of a statewide or school system examination required for promotion into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, transfers to another LHSAA school that is not organized and operated under the same school system as the school he/she attended when he/she failed to pass the required examination for promotion to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade he/she shall be scholastically ineligible for the entire school year the first year the student attends the lowest grade level offered by the LHSAA school.

1. If the student is ineligible at the LHSAA school for his/her first calendar year because of the association's Residence and School Transfers Rule or any other eligibility rule, he/she shall remain ineligible for the entire next school year because of the above rule.
2. If the student under the above exception is promoted to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade of a junior high school, he/she shall not be eligible at an LHSAA school with a 10-12 grade configuration until he/she has completed his/her 10<sup>th</sup> grade year at that school and provided he/she has met the requirements of the LHSAA Scholastic Rule at that time.

**1.14.9** In all transfer cases, the receiving school shall have the parents/guardians complete an LHSAA Residence Eligibility Form. This form is designed to help the school when considering a student's eligibility. The student must actually be attending the school before the Residence Eligibility Form is utilized. Providing false or misleading information on this form may result in penalty to the student or school or both. A copy of this form must be retained on file by the receiving school.

**1.14.10** In all transfer cases involving two LHSAA member schools, the principal of the receiving school (school to which the student transfers), and the sending (school from which the student transferred), must complete an LHSAA Principal's Concurrence Form. This form shall be initiated by the receiving school principal and provided to the sending school principal using a valid, registered email address listed on the contact portion of the LHSAA's Member Website for completion by the sending school principal. Concurrence online with the transfer by both principals is required but does not guarantee or assure eligibility. The LHSAA reserves the right to investigate any transfer and make a ruling on the student's eligibility. It is recommended a student not participate in an interscholastic contest until the transfer form is fully executed by both principals and is on file in the office of the receiving school. The receiving school has the burden of proof should the eligibility of a transfer student come into question. Providing false or misleading information on this form may result in penalty to the student or school or both. The deadline to return the Principal's Concurrence Form to the receiving school principal is ten (10) days. Failure to timely complete the LHSAA Principal's Concurrence Form shall result in the school (sending and/or receiving) being fined \$100.

#### **1.15 BONA FIDE CHANGE OF RESIDENCE**

**1.15.1** Under the residence and school transfers rule, a bona fide change of residence (*move in good faith*) shall occur when a student's parent(s)/guardian, or another household he/she has been residing with for at least the past calendar year, abandons their former home as a residence and makes a permanent move into a home that is their sole residence in another school district/attendance zone. A change of residence shall be made with the intent that it is permanent. Determination of what constitutes a bona fide change of residence shall depend upon the facts of each case, but in order for a change of residence to be considered bona fide, each of the following facts shall exist:

1. The original residence shall be abandoned as a residence. It shall be either sold, in the process of being sold, rented or disposed of as a residence.
2. It shall not be used as a residence by any relative of the student except under certain conditions or unless there is parental marital separation.
3. If the original residence is not in the process of being openly advertised for sale or rent, the family shall have the utilities disconnected in this residence.
4. All personal belongings, household goods, and furniture, appropriate to the circumstances shall be removed from the residence, unless the original residence is rented furnished and a legal lease agreement shall state exact furniture/items to remain in the residence.
5. The mailing address shall be changed and the telephone(s) shall be disconnected from the previous residence.

**1.15.2** When a bona fide change of residence is made, the student shall be eligible at the LHSAA school of first choice in the attendance zone that the new residence is located.

**1.15.3** Under the residence and school transfers rule, when a bona fide change of residence is made, the student may remain at the LHSAA school he/she has been attending and shall retain his/her eligibility, if he/she has been in attendance at the school for at least one calendar year.

**1.15.4** Two legal residences shall not be allowed for eligibility purposes under the bona fide change of residence rule.

**1.15.5** A change of residence for the purpose of creating interscholastic athletic eligibility shall not be considered a bona fide change of residence and the student shall be declared ineligible at all LHSAA schools for one calendar year.

**1.15.6** If a bona fide change of residence is made and the student's parent(s)/guardian establish another residence outside of the school's attendance zone (*other than the original residence*), the student shall become immediately ineligible at that school until he/she has been in attendance for one calendar year from the date of enrollment.

**1.15.7** If the parent(s)/guardian move back to the original residence before the student has been in attendance at the school for at least two calendar years, he/she shall become immediately ineligible until he/she has been in attendance at that school for two calendar years from the date of his/her enrollment.

## Section 1-Eligibility

- 1.15.8** A student who has been residing with a household other than his/her own for at least the past calendar year shall be eligible at an LHSAA school if the household makes a bona fide change of residence into the school's attendance zone. The student shall remain eligible at the school if the family moves out of the zone after the student has been in attendance at the school for at least one calendar year. If the household makes a bona fide change of residence into another school zone at any time, the student shall be ruled immediately eligible at an LHSAA school in that zone if he/she moves with the household.
- 1.15.9** If a student has been ruled ineligible under the residence and school transfers rule by the Executive Director, the LHSAA shall not honor a bona fide change of residence for immediate eligibility purposes by the student's parents or a household with whom the student has been living for at least the past one calendar year during the same school year.
- 1.16** **BONA FIDE MOVE INVESTIGATION**
- 1.16.1** The principal of the receiving school may request that the Executive Director conduct an investigation to determine if the change of residence meets the requirements of this rule. Requests shall be made in writing before an investigation can be conducted.
- 1.16.2** The LHSAA shall conduct only one investigation of a bona fide change of residence for a student upon the request of the receiving school. If the investigation reveals that a bona fide change of residence has not been made, the student shall be ruled ineligible until he/she has been in attendance at the school for one calendar year.
- 1.16.3** A change of residence shall not be considered a bona fide change of residence if false information is given to the LHSAA investigator conducting the investigation.
- 1.16.4** The LHSAA shall not honor a bona fide change of residence investigation request until the student has been officially enrolled in and attended classes for at least 11 school days at the school requesting the investigation and has officially withdrawn from his/her former school.
- 1.16.5** In conducting the investigation, the LHSAA shall not honor a bona fide change of residence for the purpose of immediate interscholastic athletic eligibility if:
1. it is claimed that the change of residence was made because the receiving school is academically superior or provides a safer environment than the sending LHSAA school and/or the LHSAA school physically located in the student's home attendance zone.
  2. A student's parents are living separate and apart for marital reasons unless one of the student's parents has filed a petition of divorce in a court of law.
  3. A student who has been expelled from another LHSAA school for the length of the expulsion.
  4. A student's parent(s) is/are retained as a non-faculty coach at the school.
- 1.17** **SEPARATION AND DIVORCE:** If a student's parents are living separate and apart due to separation or divorce, the student's eligibility, under the Residence and School Transfers rule, shall be determined as follows:
- 1.17.1** If permanent legal custody by a court of law has not been granted, the student shall remain eligible only in the zone in which the student's parents have been residing prior to their separation. If both of the student's parents move to a residence outside of the attendance zone in which the student has been attending an LHSAA school, the student may be ruled eligible with the parent who he/she is residing with at the time the change of residence is made by that parent. After that time, the student shall not be eligible with the other parent unless the other parent is awarded legal custody of the student through a court of law.
- 1.17.2** If permanent legal custody by a court of law has been granted, the student shall be eligible in the attendance zone of the parent's residence who has been awarded legal custody. In Louisiana a notarial change of custody does not constitute a legal change of custody.
- 1.17.3** If joint custody has been granted, the student's eligibility shall be determined as follows:
1. In the attendance zone of the parent's residence who has been named the parent of primary custody.
  2. In the attendance zone of the parent who residence has been declared by the court as the student's primary residence.
  3. In the attendance zone of the parent's residence the student resided with when the custody plan was finalized by the court (*if this occurred during the school year*), and a parent was not named the parent of primary custody or the primary residence of the student was not declared in the custody plan.
  4. In the attendance zone of the parent's residence the student resided with at the start of the next school year (*if the custody plan was finalized during the summer months*), and a parent was not named the parent of primary custody or the primary residence of the student was not declared in the custody plan.
- 1.17.4** The granting of any type legal custody or any change of legal custody shall not be effective under the Residence and School Transfers Rule until a period of 45 calendar days from the date the awarding of custody has been signed by a judge.

**1.17.5** A student who turns 18 years of age while living with one parent, when his/her parents are living separate and apart, and is eligible in the zone where that parent resides, changes his/her residence to that of the other parent shall be eligible. These circumstances would have required a change of custody by court order if the student had been below 18 years of age. The student shall be eligible in the zone he/she now resides with the parent who would have obtained a change of custody by court order, if the student had been below the age of 18. The Executive Director's office shall have the power to investigate such a move to verify it was made under circumstances that would have required a change of custody by court order if the student had been below the age of 18. Only one such change of residence, after reaching the age of 18, shall be allowed. The student shall be ineligible in any new district after the second or subsequent change of residence.

#### **1.18 COURT ORDERS**

**1.18.1** Unless interscholastic athletic eligibility is specifically written into a federal court desegregation order or the federal court desegregation order requires a student to attend a high school outside of his/her attendance zone, a court order, other than those addressed in the transfer rule, shall not render a student immediately eligible for interscholastic athletic participation at an LHSAA school. The Executive Director shall direct the LHSAA's legal counsel to secure a copy of any federal school desegregation court order that applies to a parish's public school system and shall maintain a copy of each court order in the LHSAA office for reference when applicable. It shall be a violation of the recruiting rules to contact, for athletic purposes, any student residing outside of a school's attendance zone who would be immediately eligible at the school through mandates of a federal court decision and/or state law.

**1.18.2** For eligibility purposes, under the transfer rule, the LHSAA shall not honor legal custody or guardianship granted to a person who is not the student's parent(s) unless both parents are deceased. Adoption of a student shall not be honored for eligibility purposes under the School Residence and Transfers Rule until one year after the adoption.

**1.18.3** A student declared a ward of the court or state and who is placed in a home by the court shall be ruled immediately eligible under the transfer rule at an LHSAA school in the attendance zone the home is located, provided the student's case is investigated and approved by the Executive Director.

**1.18.4** A student whose chain of attendance has been negated by a court order, may upon the withdrawal of the court order, return to the school he/she was eligible prior to the court order. The student shall retain his/her eligibility at the school provided he/she has not attended another school after the court order became final and was presented to the student's parent(s)/guardian.

#### **1.19 DEATH OR INCARCERATION**

**1.19.1** If a student transfers residence from his/her parent(s)/guardian or the household he/she has been living with continuously for at least the past calendar year to the home of another person of his/her first choice because of the death of one/both parents or the head of the household, he/she shall be eligible at the school the change of residence requires him/her to attend after the student's situation has been investigated and approved by the Executive Director.

**1.19.2** If a student transfers residence from his/her parent(s)/guardian or the household he/she has been living with continuously for at least the past calendar year to the home of another person of his/her first choice because of the incarceration of one/both parents or the head of the household, he/she shall be eligible at the school the change of residence requires him/her to attend after the student's situation has been investigated and approved by the Executive Director.

1. Should the person(s) that has been incarcerated be released before the student has attended his/her new school for one calendar year, the student, upon this release, shall become immediately ineligible at the school until he/she has been in attendance for the entire calendar year.
2. In the event of this early release, the student's eligibility shall revert to the person he/she was living with prior to the incarceration. Once the student has attended the new school for one calendar year, his/her eligibility shall be established and he/she shall remain eligible at the school as long as the student does not negate his/her chain of attendance at the school.

#### **1.20 EMANCIPATION**

**1.20.1** Under the Residence and School Transfers rule, a student who is emancipated by age or marriage or by the court shall be considered as having the same residence as his/her parents.

#### **1.21 SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

**1.21.1** A student residing in a neutral zone (a zone not containing an LHSAA school) electing to attend an LHSAA school in a school district bordering his/her parish or in a bordering parish by virtue of an official agreement between the school boards of the applicable parishes shall become immediately eligible unless the school board in his/her home parish designates the school he/she shall attend in his/her parish. In the latter case, the student shall become immediately eligible at that school. In either case, after enrollment at this school, the school shall become the student's school of eligibility and a transfer to another school shall cause him/her to be ruled ineligible for one calendar year.

## Section 1-Eligibility

- 1.21.2 A student attending a boarding school **which is housed in an LHSAA member school may become immediately eligible, thereby waiving the Residence and Transfers Rule, under the following:**
1. **The boarding school must be recognized as such in its own literature and verified by the Louisiana State Department of Education and/or a nationally recognized accreditation agency such as AdvancED (formerly SACS) or the Independent School Association of the Southwest (ISAS).**
  2. **The boarding school must have been in existence for no fewer than ten years.**
  3. **The boarding school must have appropriate dormitory facilities to house, feed, and provide general living accommodations for the boarding students.**
  4. **The boarding school must employ properly trained supervisory personnel who are on duty at all times, including nights, weekends, and holidays.**
  5. **A boarding student, to qualify for the exception, must spend at least an average of four (4) nights per week living and boarding on campus while school is in session.**
  6. **Only those schools that qualify as boarding schools as defined herein may provide any assistance for room and board to students who participate in interscholastic athletics and only if such assistance is based on financial need.**
  7. **In no other schools may room and board expense be included in the determination of school expenses and financial need.**
- 1.21.3 A student who has had his/her chain of attendance broken at a school because of the mandates of a licensed and approved chemical dependency unit he/she is enrolled in shall be immediately eligible at the same school he/she attended before the mandate was served, provided the student's situation is investigated and approved by the Executive Director.
- 1.21.4 A student who leaves the United States with his/her parents and attends a school outside of the United States, shall be immediately eligible at an LHSAA school in the first attendance zone he/she resides upon returning to the United States, provided he/she has never attended an LHSAA school and provided his/her parents continue to reside outside of the United States. If he/she has attended an LHSAA school prior to leaving the United States, he/she shall become immediately eligible at the school he/she attended prior to leaving the United States provided his/her parents continue to reside outside of the United States.
- 1.21.5 A student entering a school as an "unaccompanied youth" under the conditions of the McKinney-Vento Act must go through the hardship appeal process to become eligible for interscholastic competition.
- 1.21.6 When a military base is located in a parish containing two or more member schools, a student of a military employee who transferred to an active military base for the first time may enroll in any member school in the parish. Any school transfer after the initial move will be subject to standard eligibility regulations.
- 1.21.7 A student of a military employee who transferred to an active military base may enroll in a non-public school that is located outside the parish where the military base is located provided that the following is applied:
1. There is no member non-public school available to attend within the parish.
  2. The student was previously attending a non-public school the entire school year prior to the transfer.
  3. The student enrolls in the non-public school immediately following the relocation to the military base. Any school transfer after the initial move will be subject to standard eligibility regulations.

### **1.22 ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFERS**

- 1.22.1 The LHSAA shall not honor school-system approved administrative transfers that are granted for the following reasons:
1. To a student attending a school in which his/her parent(s) is employed if the school is located outside of the student's home attendance zone.  
**Exception:** The above rule does not apply to a student whose parent(s) is an on-staff full time faculty coach or an on-staff full-time administrator. A coach must provide verification that he/she has been an on-staff full time faculty coach for a minimum of three previous school years. The transfer of the student shall occur at the first opportunity to attend after the coach or administrator is hired.
  2. To a student attending a school located outside of his/her home attendance zone because of medical or health reasons.
  3. To a student attending a school located outside of his/her home attendance zone because of academic reasons or because a specific course(s) is not offered at the school in his/her home attendance zone. A transfer to a magnet school, a school with a magnet program, or Recovery School District (RSD) public high schools shall be an exception to this rule, if the transfer meets the requirements outlined in Rule 1.28.
  4. To a student attending a school located outside of his/her home attendance zone because an LHSAA sport is not offered at the school in his/her home attendance zone.
  5. All other school system administrative transfers granted a student attending a school located outside of his/her attendance zone for a reason not covered by any exceptions under the residence and school transfers rule.

**1.23 COMPLETION OF A SPORTS SEASON**

**1.23.1** A student who completes a sports season at one school shall not be eligible to compete in that same sport in the same season, under any circumstances, upon transferring to another LHSAA school.

**1.24 SCHOOL CLOSURE**

**1.24.1** In the event an LHSAA school closes, discontinues all interscholastic athletic competition, or is suspended from membership in the LHSAA, all students who have been in attendance at the LHSAA school for at least the preceding calendar year, shall be eligible at an LHSAA school of their choice in the same attendance zone of the school closing or discontinuing athletic competition. If the school closing or discontinuing athletic competition is located outside a student's home attendance zone, the student shall be immediately eligible at the school he/she first attends in his/her home attendance zone provided he/she has never attended an LHSAA school in that zone. In the latter case, if he/she has attended an LHSAA school in his/her home attendance zone, he/she shall be immediately eligible only at the LHSAA school he/she had first attended in his/her home attendance zone.

**1.24.2** When a school is closed and legally merges with another member school, all students who have been in attendance at the school that closes for at least one calendar year shall be immediately eligible at the latter school.

**1.25 NEW MEMBER SCHOOLS**

**1.25.1** When a school becomes a new LHSAA member, any student residing outside the attendance zone of the new member school, but who has been attending that school for at least the preceding calendar year, prior to the school's admittance in the LHSAA, shall be immediately eligible. Otherwise, the student shall be ineligible until he/she has attended the new member school for one calendar year from the date of enrollment in that school.

**1.26 TRANSFERS FROM ACADEMICALLY UNACCEPTABLE SCHOOLS**

**1.26.1** A student, who is enrolled in and attends or is assigned to attend a traditional high school or the traditional curriculum of a dual-curriculum school that has been classified as an academically unacceptable school by the school's state school system and transfers to enroll in and attend classes at a member school that has been classified by the same school system as an academically acceptable school that is physically located outside of the student's home attendance zone, shall be immediately eligible at the latter school provided the transfer is officially executed within the first 11 school days of the school year.

**1.26.2** During his/her eight semesters in high school, a student shall be allowed to make only one transfer from an academically unacceptable school in his/her home attendance zone to an academically acceptable school under this rule. Should the student transfer to and enroll in and attend one class in a second academically acceptable school at any time, the student shall be ineligible not only at the second academically acceptable school, but also at the first academically acceptable school for a period of one calendar year from his/her enrollment date.

**1.26.3** If the student returns to, enrolls in, and attends one class at the school he/she has been attending in his/her home attendance zone, he/she shall be ruled immediately eligible at that school, if that school was the school of first choice, and shall not be allowed another choice at an academically acceptable school for immediate eligibility consideration under Rule 1.26.1.

**1.26.4** The application of Rule 1.26.1 shall not provide that student with a second choice of schools in his/her home attendance zone or any other attendance zone.

**1.26.5** Rule 1.26.1 shall not apply to a student who transfers to another school that has been classified as an academically unacceptable school by the school's state school system or a school that has not been classified by its school system.

**1.26.6** If the academically acceptable school to which the student from the academically unacceptable school transferred to is later classified as an academically unacceptable school by its state school system, the student shall be given a new choice at an academically acceptable school under Rule 1.26.1 or may remain and retain eligibility at the school that the student was attending before it was re-classified as an academically unacceptable school.

**1.26.7** It shall be a violation under the Recruitment Rule for anyone connected with an academically acceptable school to contact a student at an academically unacceptable school for athletic purposes.

**1.27 FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

**1.27.1** A foreign exchange student attending an LHSAA school through an approved program of student cultural exchange (as provided below) shall become eligible immediately for a period of one calendar year under the Residence and School Transfers Rule when he/she meets the following requirements:

## Section 1-Eligibility

1. The foreign exchange student is attending the LHSAA high school through and by a program of foreign student educational and cultural exchange for Private Sector Programs and/or Rotary International Exchange Programs approved by the Academic and Government Programs Division of the Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The organizations designated to administer such high school foreign student cultural exchange visitor programs shall be posted on the LHSAA website.
2. The foreign exchange student is living with a host family to which student was assigned by the approved foreign student cultural exchange program.
3. The host family for the foreign exchange student maintains its sole residence in the home attendance zone of the LHSAA school to which the student is assigned and attends.
4. Neither the husband nor wife of the host family or any other adult member of the family shall be a head coach, assistant coach (faculty or non-faculty), administrator, faculty member, or other employee of the school to which the foreign exchange student is assigned and attends.
5. The foreign exchange student shall not be attending the LHSAA school for the primary purpose of participating in high school sports.
6. The foreign exchange student shall not have been recruited for athletic reasons by anyone connected with the LHSAA school.
7. The foreign exchange student shall not have attended another high school in this state or any other state of the United States prior to becoming a foreign exchange student.
8. The school shall be limited to only one foreign exchange student at the varsity level in each sport during a season and shall be the same student initially registered with the LHSAA in that sport.
9. Exception: *The above rules shall not apply to a foreign student who has been attending a high school in any state prior to becoming a foreign exchange student.*

### **1.28 MAGNET, DUAL CURRICULUM, AND RECOVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT (RSD) PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**

- 1.28.1** A student who transfers to a magnet high school, the magnet curriculum of a dual curriculum high school, or to an RSD public high school with school board, court approval, and/or state statutes shall be eligible to represent the magnet high school or RSD public high school in athletic competition immediately if the transfer is at the beginning of the school year at the lowest level of entry offered by the school. If entry occurs a grade level above the lowest grade level offered in the school or after the beginning of the school year, the student shall be ineligible at the magnet school or the RSD public high school for one calendar year. Interpretation: *The lowest level of entry offered by a school refers to the first opportunity the student has to attend the magnet school, the dual curriculum school's magnet component, or the RSD public high school at the beginning of the school year or upon transferring into the school system if this occurs after the start of the school year.*
- 1.28.2** A student who transfers from a magnet high school, dual-curriculum high school, or RSD public high school may return to the first high school he/she attended in his/her home zone and shall become eligible immediately. In the event the student has not attended a high school in his/her home zone, he/she shall become eligible at the first high school he/she attends in his/her home zone.
- 1.28.3** If, at any time, a student drops the magnet program in a school outside his/her home attendance zone, he/she shall become ineligible immediately at the magnet school for one calendar year. If, at any time, a student attending a dual-curriculum high school outside his/her home attendance zone changes from the magnet curriculum to the regular curriculum, he/she shall become ineligible immediately at the dual-curriculum high school for one calendar year.
- 1.28.4** It shall be a violation of the recruiting rule for any individual connected with a magnet school or RSD public high school to contact a student for athletic purposes.
- 1.28.5** It shall be a violation of the recruiting rule for any individual connected with a dual curriculum (magnet) school to contact a student who does not reside in the school's traditional attendance zone for athletic purposes.
- 1.28.6** Each school year, the principal of a dual-curriculum magnet school shall be required to provide the LHSAA with the following information:
1. The name(s) of the school system approved magnet component(s).
  2. The names of the magnet component subjects that students are required to take each year to be officially enrolled in the magnet component.
  3. A list of all student-athletes (*form provided by the LHSAA*) who reside outside of the school's traditional attendance zone with their grade level and the magnet subjects each student is enrolled in and taking for the school year.
  4. The principal shall immediately report the name(s) of any student(s) residing outside of the school's traditional attendance zone who withdraws from the magnet program but remains at the school and taking only traditional subjects. The principal shall also immediately prohibit this student(s) from participating in interscholastic athletic competition for one calendar year from the date he/she withdraws from the magnet program. This shall also apply to any student(s) that fail(s) to meet any requirement of the magnet program.
  5. This information shall be filed with the LHSAA prior to the first regular season contest of each sports season in which at least one of these applicable students participate.

## 1.29 **SPECIAL SCHOOLS**

- 1.29.1 All eligibility rules, except the age rule, shall be waived in the case of Louisiana State School for the Deaf and State School for the Visually Impaired of Baton Rouge.

## 1.30 **REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS RENDERED ELIGIBLE BY STATE LAWS**

- 1.30.1 Before a student, who would otherwise be ineligible, is allowed to participate in an LHSAA interscholastic athletic contest at any level of play (*varsity or sub-varsity*) in any LHSAA sport because of a state law that conflicts with an LHSAA eligibility rule, the school shall register this student online with the LHSAA. Only when your school receives notification from the LHSAA that the State Department of Education has declared the student eligible under Act 465 or Act 691 shall the student be allowed to participate in any interscholastic athletic competition. A school shall be required to register the student online only once during the school year but shall be added and/or updated to the online sports roster for each additional sport in which the student participates.
- 1.30.2 A student who is eligible under a state law shall be required to meet all other LHSAA eligibility rules.
- 1.30.3 A student who is ineligible under a state law shall not be allowed to process his/her ineligibility status through the LHSAA's Hardship Program.
- 1.30.4 Failure to timely register the student(s) online shall result in the school being penalized in the following manner:
1. If the violation is reported by the offending school, the school shall be fined \$100 for each contest in which the unregistered student participated up to a maximum of \$1,000 per student.
  2. If the violation is not reported by the offending school, the school shall be fined \$200 for each contest in which the unregistered student participated up to a maximum of \$2,000 per student.
  3. The offending school shall be placed on administrative probation for up to one calendar year from the date of the penalty ruling.
  4. In the case of multiple violations in a sport, the school shall be subject to being placed on restrictive probation and ruled ineligible for district and/or state championship honors in which the unregistered student(s) participated.
  5. The school may receive other penalties to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.
- 1.30.5 A student declared eligible under Act 465 may be eligible provided he/she attends the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade school year in a non-public school operated by the same organization/federation as the high school the student chooses to attend in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and provided he/she enrolls and attends class the first day of school in his/her 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. After the student's 9<sup>th</sup> grade school year, the school shall be required to certify the student's eligibility status and update him/her on the school's online eligibility registration
- 1.30.6 A student who is enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE in accordance with R.S. 17:236.1 shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities at a member school provided:
1. The home study student shall meet all other standards and requirements applicable to a student participating in the athletic activity, including but not limited to tryouts, practice time, codes of conduct and student discipline, physical exams, proof of age, permission forms, waivers, required paperwork, fees, and transportation arrangements excluding requirement for enrollment and attendance at the member school.
  2. ***A home study student shall be subject to the same residency or attendance zone requirements as other students participating in the athletic activity.***
  3. The student's parent or legal guardian shall make a written request for the student to participate in interscholastic athletic activities to the principal of the school providing the activity. Such request shall be made no later than the first 11 days of the school year.
  4. The principal of the school providing the athletic activity shall approve or disapprove such written request within 30 days after receipt by the principal of all information and documentation requested by the principal from the student or the student's parent or legal guardian, or both. ***A request for information and documentation by the principal shall be limited to information and documentation that is required by Act 691 and information and documentation that is required of other students relative to participation in the athletic activity.*** A decision by the principal to approve or disapprove the written request for the student to participate shall be final. No person, individually or on behalf of any other person, shall have a cause of action arising from a denial by a principal of participation by a home study student in interscholastic athletics at the school.
  5. After a decision is made by the principal to approve a request for the student to participate, the student then shall participate in any tryouts for such activity at the same time and in the same manner as other students who want to participate in the same activity.
  6. The student shall submit documentation from BESE that the student is in an approved home study program.
  7. The student shall meet academic standards required of other students to participate in the athletic activity. The student shall submit a copy of his/her transcript showing units of study completed or in progress, the grades earned for such study, and his cumulative grade point average.

## **Section 1-Eligibility**

8. The student shall meet conditions applicable to students at the school relative to having any required insurance coverage either by participating, if otherwise eligible, in insurance programs offered through the school or school system or by providing for such insurance coverage in another manner.
9. A home study student's participation at a state-approved non-public school shall be at the sole discretion of the governing authority of the non-public school. Specifies that if participation is permitted, the governing authority shall determine the terms and conditions of any such participation at the school.
10. A student who has been enrolled in a public or non-public school during the school year in which the student begins home study or during the previous school year and who was determined ineligible to participate in one or more interscholastic extracurricular activities at such school for reasons related to student conduct or academic performance, or both, shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities for one calendar year from the date the student was determined ineligible.
11. A student who has been enrolled in a public or non-public school during the school year in which the student begins home study shall not be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities during the remainder of that school year nor during the following school year.
12. Any home study student who provides or on whose behalf others provide any false representation, documentation or verification of the student's qualifications for the purpose of meeting eligibility requirements to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be ruled ineligible to participate and shall be subject to the same penalties as other students as provided by the association.
13. A school determined to be knowledgeable of any false representation, documentation, or verification of a home study student's qualifications for the purpose of meeting eligibility requirements to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be subject to penalties as established by the LHSAA for use of an ineligible student athlete.

**1.30.7** In addition to the guidelines found in Rule 1.30.6 as determined by state law, the following guidelines are also required for a home study student to be eligible at a member school.

1. A home study student, who is a member of a school team, shall be included in the school's October 1 enrollment count for the purposes of and as it applies to athletics.
2. Participation shall be defined as the opportunity to try out for a position on the team. As with any other student at the school, even if eligible, no student is guaranteed participation, only the opportunity to try out for a position on the team.
3. A Code of Conduct/Discipline Agreement must be signed by the home study student, the student's parents, and the principal of the school. A copy of the agreement shall be kept on file at the school. The home study student shall adhere to the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as required of the students at the member school in which the home study student is participating.

**1.30.8** A student shall not be allowed to receive scholastic academic credit as a home-schooled student at the same time he/she is earning Carnegie units while attending an LHSAA member school.

**1.30.9** The LHSAA shall not honor any grades/unit(s) earned in a home-schooled program for scholastic eligibility unless the grades/unit(s) are accepted by the Louisiana State Department of Education.

### **1.31 STUDENTS IN 8th GRADE AND BELOW**

**1.31.1** A school shall not allow a student in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and below to practice or play with any of its school teams at any level in any sport unless that grade is under the official jurisdiction of the principal of the member high school as recognized by the State Department of Education.

**1.31.2** A student in elementary grades who participates on a high school team shall meet the same eligibility requirements as a high school student, excluding the scholastic rule.

**1.31.3** A bona fide student below the 9<sup>th</sup> grade shall meet the requirements of the Residence and School Transfers Rule to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at an LHSAA school under the same principal.

**1.31.4** If a student transfers to an LHSAA high school located outside of his/her attendance zone, a bona fide student below the 9<sup>th</sup> grade shall be ineligible at the LHSAA school for one calendar year from the date of his/her enrollment in the LHSAA school that is under the same principal.

**1.31.5** For a student to be ruled eligible for the first semester of the school year, he/she must pass at least three-fourths of the subjects taken during the previous school year.

**1.31.6** For a student to be ruled eligible for the second semester of the school year, he/she must pass at least three-fourths of the subjects taken during the first semester.

**1.31.7** If a student passes at least three-fourths of the academic requirements in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade and is required to repeat one of these grades because of mandates of the school system pupil progression plan, he/she shall be ineligible for the first semester of the next school year.

- 1.31.8** If a student successfully completes the academic requirements of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade and repeats one or more of these grades, he/she shall be ineligible to participate on any LHSAA team, at any level of play in all LHSAA sports during the entire school year that the student is repeating one of these grade levels.
- 1.31.9** First-year 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who take and complete the necessary requirements as outlined by the State Department of Education to receive Carnegie units of credit toward graduation prior to entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade shall not have their eight consecutive semesters of high school eligibility affected if they proceed to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade the succeeding semester or school year.
- 1.31.10** First-year 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who take and complete Carnegie unit subjects which count toward high school graduation will begin their ensuing eight consecutive semester of eligibility if they repeat the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- 1.31.11** Second-year 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who did not take and earn Carnegie units toward high school graduation during their first year in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade shall begin their ensuing eight consecutive semesters of eligibility if they repeat the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and take and complete Carnegie unit subjects which count toward high school graduation.
- 1.31.12** A “hold-back repeat student” is a student who has successfully completed the academic requirements or failed to meet the academic requirements due to excessive absences (*as defined by the Louisiana State Department of Education*) that have been established for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and who repeats one or more of these grades prior to entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. A student who successfully completes all requirements of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and who does not enroll in and attend a high school the next school year after completing the 8<sup>th</sup> grade shall be classified as a “hold back repeat student.” When a “hold-back repeat student” enters the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time, he/she shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics in the LHSAA for only the next ensuing six consecutive semesters or terms of 90 days.
- 1.31.13** Encouraging students or establishing an academic program that facilitates students who have successfully completed the academic requirements set fourth for passing the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade level to repeat one or more of these grades for athletic purposes by a school administrator, an athletic director, a coach or anyone connected with the athletic program of an LHSAA school shall be prohibited. It shall be a violation of this rule for a student-athlete who has successfully completed the established academic requirements for passing the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade to be encouraged or assisted in any manner to repeat one or more of these grades for athletic purposes. A school, student, school administrator, athletic director and/or coach found to be in violation of this rule shall be subject to disciplinary action depending upon the severity of the violation as provided in the by-laws.
- 1.31.14 The penalties for schools in violation of encouraging or assisting a student who has successfully completed the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade to repeat one or more of these grades for athletic reasons:**
1. The school may be placed on restrictive probation and ruled ineligible for championship honors in the sport(s) in which the violation occurred.
  2. The school shall be fined \$1,000 and billed for the cost of any investigation related to the violation.
  3. The student may be ruled ineligible in all LHSAA sports for one calendar year when he/she first enters the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
  4. The coach shall be penalized under Rule 5.12.
  5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

### **1.32 SUSPENSION**

- 1.32.1** A student suspended/expelled from one school shall be ineligible for athletic competition at another school until he/she presents written clearance from the school he/she has been suspended/expelled. A suspended/expelled student shall not participate in athletic contests during the length of the suspension/expulsion. *Interpretation: If a student has been suspended/expelled from school for disciplinary reasons, he/she shall be ineligible to participate or dress out with his/her school team while he/she is under suspension/expulsion.*

### **1.33 COMPETITION**

- 1.33.1** Interscholastic competition shall be permitted in all LHSAA recognized boys' and girls' sports. Boys and girls shall meet the same eligibility requirements to compete in interscholastic athletic events.
- 1.33.2** The following sports shall be recognized for boys only: boys' basketball, boys' football, boys' baseball, boys' golf, boys' cross country, boys' track, boys' gymnastics, boys' tennis, boys' soccer, boys' swimming, boys' wrestling, boys' bowling, **and boys' powerlifting.**
- 1.33.3** The following sports shall be recognized for girls only: girls' basketball, girls' golf, girls' cross country, girls' track, girls' volleyball, girls' softball, girls' gymnastics, girls' tennis, girls' soccer, girls' swimming, girls' bowling, **and girls' powerlifting.**

## Section 1-Eligibility

- 1.33.4** In order to promote as many athletic opportunities as possible for members of the female gender, if a school offers a boys' interscholastic athletic team but does not offer a girls' interscholastic team in a sport, girls in that school may play on the boys' team in that sport.
- 1.33.5** Whenever a school provides a girls' team in a particular sport but not a boys' team in that sport, the boys shall not play on the girls' team unless athletic opportunities in the total sports program for boys in that school have been limited in comparison to the athletic opportunities in the total sports program for girls in that school.
1. In order for a boy to play on a girls' team under these circumstances, permission must be secured from the Executive Director of the LHSAA, and the name of the boy playing on the girls' team along with clear and convincing evidence that athletic opportunities for boys in the total sports program in that school have been limited in comparison to athletic opportunities in the total sports program for girls in that school shall be submitted to the Executive Director's office prior to the boy playing on the girls' team.
  2. If a girl plays on a boys' team and there is a girls' team in that sport at that particular school, she is considered an ineligible player and the penalties for playing an ineligible player shall apply to the boys' team in the school and, in addition, the school shall forfeit participating in the girls' playoffs in that same sport.
  3. Boys' rules shall be used when girls play on boys' teams. Girls' rules shall be used when boys play on girls' teams where permission has been granted by the Executive Director in accordance with this rule.

### **1.34 MAINTAINING AMATEUR STATUS**

- 1.34.1** An amateur athlete is one who takes part in one or more branches of athletics for the sake of the sport alone, without receiving or expecting to receive any financial remuneration of any form. No student shall, at any time, receive any salary or financial compensation, except actual expenses.
- 1.34.2** A student who signs an athletic contract for any kind of pay shall be ineligible for further high school athletic participation in the LHSAA. Acceptance of a college grant-in-aid is acceptable and not a violation of this rule.
- 1.34.3** The following acts shall be considered violations of the amateur rule:
1. Competition or exercise in any sport under an assumed name.
  2. Directly or indirectly receiving pay or financial benefit in consideration of, or as a reward for, participating in any sport, in any public competition or exhibition, or disposing of prizes for personal gain.
  3. Directly or indirectly receiving pay or financial benefit in consideration of, or as reward for, appearing in person at any competition, exhibition, or exercise in sports, other than officiating or instructing in a recognized recreation program.
  4. Participation by a student, during the school year, in any public competition or exhibition as a team member or against a team consisting of one or more members who are professionals or former professionals in some sport, without having obtained consent, in writing, from the principal of the school he/she attends before participating.
- 1.34.4** Students may officiate or serve as instructors in recreational sports as part of regular recreation programs and receive financial remuneration for these services during the entire year.
- 1.34.5** Students may receive pay as lifeguards at swimming pools during the summer months.
- 1.34.6** If a student violates the amateur rule and returns any financial remuneration that he/she received to the applicable source prior to a penalty ruling being issued to his/her school and can document its return to the Executive Director's satisfaction, the student's eligibility shall be reinstated. Once a penalty ruling is issued to the school, the above rule shall not be applicable.
- 1.34.7 The penalties for a student in violation of the amateur rule:**
1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
  2. The school shall be fined not to exceed \$500.
  3. The school shall be required to forfeit any contest(s) in which the student participated after the violation.
  4. The student shall be suspended from all LHSAA sports for at least one calendar year.
  5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

### **1.35 HARDSHIP PROGRAM**

- 1.35.1** Prior to July 1 each year, the President shall appoint a sub-committee of six members and **two** alternates from the LHSAA Executive Committee to review and rule on the potential hardship situations of students ruled ineligible by the Executive Director. After the Executive Director considers requests for hardship rulings, this Hardship Committee shall serve as the appeal board to review the Executive Director's decision(s) made in his original rulings on these special requests. The purpose of the hardship rule shall be to provide due process.
- 1.35.2** The condition(s) causing a student not to meet the eligibility requirement(s) shall have been involuntary, unforeseeable, uncorrectable, and create a unique situation concerning the student's educational, emotional, or physical status that

exists and is beyond the control of the school, the school system, the student, and/or his parent(s) or guardian(s). The condition(s) shall have created a situation that the school, student, or parent(s) could not have reasonably been expected to comply with the eligibility rule involved and is not specifically addressed by a written expectation to the basic eligibility rule(s) in question.

- 1.35.3** When reviewing requests for hardship consideration, race, gender, or religion shall not be a factor in granting an exception to the eligibility rule.
- 1.35.4** The Executive Director **and/or Hardship Committee** shall have the authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student when, in his opinion, the rule fails to accomplish the purpose it was intended or when the rule works an undue hardship upon the student except for the eligibility rules regarding the age rule, proof-of-age rule, undue influence rule, amateur rule, independent teams rule, medical examination, and/or interscholastic competition for boys and girls rule **which shall only be appealable to the Executive Committee**.
- 1.35.5** Ordinary cases of ineligibility shall not be considered as being in the hardship category. Injury, illness, or accidents which cause the student to fail to meet one of the basic requirements may be a possible cause for hardship consideration.
- 1.35.6** Inability to participate due to illness, injury, or other medical reasons shall not be considered hardship conditions except in those cases where ineligibility exists because the student was unable to attend or prohibited from attending school for a prolonged length of time due to medical treatment.
- 1.35.7** Lack of knowledge of any eligibility rule on the part of the school, the student, and/or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall not be considered sufficient cause for setting aside the effects of the rule.
- 1.35.8** In no case shall the Hardship Committee review any ineligibility imposed upon a student who is under penalty for participating as an ineligible student or who is under penalty due to a ruling made by the Executive Director or by an LHSAA sportsmanship committee because of an unsportsmanlike act he/she committed. Such a request shall be made to the Executive Committee.
- 1.35.9** In reaching a decision on a request for relief under the hardship rule, the Executive Director and/or the Hardship Committee shall operate under the following guidelines:
1. Loss of eligibility in itself shall not be considered a hardship situation. Hardship conditions causing ineligibility shall be the basis on which the waiver of the rule is considered.
  2. To be considered a hardship condition, the student's situation shall be totally different from those which exist for the majority of the students who are confronted with similar situations and choices.
  3. Academic or athletic deficiencies in a school's curriculum or extracurricular athletic program shall not create hardship conditions.
- 1.35.10** Requests shall be considered by the Hardship Committee three times a school year without cost to the school. The dates of the Hardship Committee meetings shall be published in the LHSAA Handbook and Calendar. The meeting dates for the 2011-12 school year shall be:
1. Wednesday of the 9th calendar week **(August 31, 2011)**
  2. Wednesday of the 18th calendar week **(November 2, 2011)**
  3. Thursday of the 33rd calendar week **(February 16, 2012)**
  4. The President shall be authorized to order one additional hearing to be conducted during the school year.
- 1.35.11** Application for hardship consideration shall be made in writing using the official LHSAA Hardship Application, signed by the school principal, and contain all of the facts pertaining to the case, including sufficient data, information, and documentation making it possible to reach a decision without further investigation. Consideration shall not be given to any application that is not accompanied by the required/requested documentation.
1. The application shall contain a letter from the school principal and a letter from the parent(s) or guardian(s), each explaining in detail the reason(s) for requesting consideration for a waiver of an eligibility rule(s) under the hardship rule.
  2. The application shall be either hand-delivered to the LHSAA office, sent by return receipt registered or certified mail, through express mail. It should be mailed by the principal, and a copy of the application and all accompanying documentation shall be kept on file by the applying school.
  3. The inclusion of false information/documentation with this application may result in severe penalty to the school.
  4. The original and six complete sets of all written information and documentation shall be furnished to the Executive Director's office upon application.
  5. Hardship applications shall be received and processed by the Executive Director's office **at least 48 hours** prior to meeting dates.
- 1.35.12** In cases involving medical questions, the request for exception shall be accompanied by the statement(s) of two or more qualified medical experts explaining in detail the medical aspects of the case. When requesting an additional semester(s) of eligibility due to medical reason (illness/injury), the student shall be required to prove that he/she did everything possible

## Section 1-Eligibility

to comply with the scholastic rule to progress toward graduation from high school at the rate expected of other students in his/her class.

- 1.35.13** In cases involving legal questions, copies of official records of court action shall be attached.
- 1.35.14** In cases involving the Residence and School Transfers Rule, the principal of the sending school may write a letter in support of the request, and the principal of the receiving school shall write a letter explaining the transfer and citing other important information that may be taken into consideration by the Executive Director and/or Hardship Committee; there shall be no evidence of recruiting for athletic purposes.
- 1.35.15** In cases involving the scholastic rule, a current, official photo static copy of the student's cumulative folder showing all scholastic and attendance data since first entry into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade shall be attached to the appeal. Requests for exceptions to the scholastic rule, since it is also affected by state law, shall also be subject to the approval of the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education hereinafter referred to as BESE.
- 1.35.16** In cases involving the eight consecutive semesters rule, a current, official photo static copy of the student's cumulative folder showing all scholastic and attendance data since first entry into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade shall be attached to the appeal. A request for an additional semester(s) of eligibility because of academic remediation improvement and/or achievement alone shall not be a basis for waiving the eight consecutive semesters rule. ***When the eight consecutive semester rule is in question, the hardship application must be made within the eight semesters when the hardship situation is discovered and not after he/she has completed eight consecutive semesters. In the case of appeals for an exception to the eight consecutive semester rule, the student in question must personally appear before the Hardship Committee to represent his/her appeal and must present the LHSAA with acceptable proof of age. Consideration shall not be given to any application involving the eight consecutive semester rule when the student requesting the waiver actually participated in four athletic seasons of any sport.***
- 1.35.17** In cases involving federal desegregation, a student ruled ineligible shall not have his/her case appealed through the hardship program until he/she can provide the Executive Director with written documentation to verify that he/she has exhausted his/her remedy of relief through the school/local school system and/or the federal court system.
- 1.35.18** In all cases, the principal of the school shall be present at the hardship hearing to present the case. Other school system personnel shall also be allowed to appear before the committee. It is **strongly recommended** that the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) be present at the hearing. Persons representing appeals shall be business like in their presentations and shall refrain from socializing with members of the committee.
- 1.35.19** As advisory officer to the Executive Committee, the Executive Director shall be present at all Hardship Committee appeal hearings and shall be afforded an opportunity to explain his/her ruling and provide the committee with information relative to the case.
- 1.35.20** Each group appearing before the Hardship Committee shall be afforded a maximum of 20 minutes for appeals involving the eight consecutive semesters rule and 10 minutes for all other appeals to verbally submit their case. Committee members shall have the right to ask questions of individuals appearing. The principal and school system personnel shall also be allowed to appear before the committee. Appeals from individuals from the same school involving the same rule(s) may be considered "class action" and may be heard at the same time by the Hardship Committee.
- 1.35.21** A simple majority of the members assigned to the Hardship Committee shall be present at the hearing in order to constitute a quorum. No member shall serve on the committee while a case involving a student from his/her school or parish is being heard. All decisions made by the Hardship Committee shall require a majority vote. An appeal to the Hardship Committee shall result in an automatic motion to waive the eligibility rule(s) in question.
- 1.35.22** The committee shall hear and consider each case on an individual or **class action** basis and shall render a decision based on the merits of each separate case. No case shall have precedential value.
- 1.35.23** Once a student is granted a hardship ruling to a member school, that school shall become the student's school of eligibility and a subsequent transfer to another LHSAA member school without a corresponding bona-fide move shall cause the student to become ineligible for a period of one calendar year from the date of his/her enrollment in the school.
- 1.35.24** The decisions of the Hardship Committee **shall be final and, effective July 1, 2011, there shall be no appeal.**