



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** Wednesday April 7, 2021  
**To:** ASAA Member Schools  
**From:** ASAA Executive Committee  
**Re:** Transfer policy interpretation after 12-months of no participation

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Dear ASAA Member Schools:

The ASAA office has received several inquiries from members who are seeking additional clarification on how the pandemic will impact student athletic eligibility. The purpose of this memo is to clarify ASAA transfer policy intent. The following excerpt is found in Section IV – Eligibility, 11. Transfer Policy, B., i., page 49 (2021-21 policy handbook):

*Accepted reasons for approving eligibility for transfer students:*

- i. *If a student has not participated in any activity which is the same as an activity sponsored by the ASAA in their previous school for a period of 12 consecutive months before the date of transfer the receiving school's principal may use this reason to request approval of the student's eligibility. The receiving school's principal must use the online application procedures set forth in the SRS system. (A procedure guideline is available online.)*

The ASAA Executive Committee understands that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely that many students across Alberta have not participated in an ASAA sport for a period of 12-months. However, **the lack of opportunity to participate in school athletics due to COVID-19, does not qualify as “not participating” for 12-months in relation to the above policy.**

The policy noted above was written with the intent that it applies during a normal school year. The pandemic has required the ASAA to reconsider how to interpret this policy in light of its intent, and how COVID-19 has impacted school sport. The ASAA Executive Committee, in keeping with the best interests of students at all grade levels, has decided on the following

interpretation of the transfer policy, and as required in ASAA Bylaw Article V<sup>1</sup>, Duties of the Executive Committee #4, has the approval of the majority of ASAA zones for the following interpretation:

- Completion of an athletic transfer is required if the student has competed in any ASAA sport since starting Grade 10 (a transfer is not required if a student only practiced). If the student has not competed, no athletic transfer is required, and their new school simply registers that student for their first athletic opportunity.
- Students who transferred schools **before** February 15th, 2021, **will** have their transfer approved to participate in the remainder of the 2020/21 school year and beyond.
- Students who transfer **after** February 15th, 2021, will need to satisfy the requirements of the transfer policy to be eligible for athletic participation.

The date February 15th was selected as it is two (2) weeks into the new school semester or quarter. This would have allowed adequate time for a student to evaluate if they were satisfied with the educational programming at their chosen school and to move back to their previous school if desired.

The athletic eligibility of students transferring schools is subject to the comprehensive ASAA transfer policy. To establish athletic eligibility for students transferring schools, member schools are required to use the ASAA's Sport Registration System (SRS) transfer section. In the event that a student's athletic transfer is denied and the member school feels that an exemption should be made due to unique circumstances, an appeal may be submitted through the ASAA appeal process in the SRS. The athletic eligibility of the student would then be subject to the discretion of the ASAA Executive Appeals Committee following an appeal hearing.

For additional information, please contact the ASAA office.

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<sup>1</sup> ASAA Bylaw Article Article V, #4:

*The Executive Committee has the authority to rule on any issue or circumstance not covered in the official handbook of the ASAA. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Executive Committee may, under circumstances which in their absolute jurisdiction warrant it, operate the business and activities of the ASAA in a manner which accommodates any interruption of normal operating activities (e.g. adjusting seasons of play, cancelling or postponing events)*

- A. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, normal operating activities may be considered to be interrupted under any circumstance which render it impossible or inadvisable to follow the specific requirements of these bylaws or the policies of the ASAA.*
- B. Before relying on this article, the Executive Committee must pass a resolution to engage their powers under this article, citing the details of the circumstances which make it necessary to do so, and obtain the approval of no less than five of the eight zone executives for the resolution.*

