

SECTION BREAK

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SECTION 28: INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS.

A. General Rules Applicable to All Students.

To be eligible to represent the school in any VHSL, Inc. sponsored interscholastic contest a student shall meet the following requirements:

28A-1-1 - *The student shall not have reached the age of 19 on or before the first day of August of the school year in which he/she wishes to compete.*

28A-1-2 Interpretation: A student born on or before August 1, 2004, shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition in the school year 2023-24.

Notes:

(1) In case of doubt as to age, the following evidence may be accepted as proof thereof: Birth certificate from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, affidavit of the physician attending at birth, and documentary evidence such as the family record of birth in the Bible, official school record, and the affidavit of parent or guardian. Documentary proof of age other than a birth certificate will be accepted in cases of doubt only when the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state of birth reports that no record exists.

(2) If there is a discrepancy in the age recorded on the Master Eligibility Lists filed in the League office by member schools, the earliest listed date of birth shall be considered correct until proof otherwise has been submitted and accepted.

28A-2-1 BONA FIDE STUDENT RULE- *The student shall be a regular bona fide student in good standing of the school which he/she represents.*

PM 28A-2-1 BONA FIDE STUDENT RULE/Diploma (2-89)- *A student who takes classes at school "A" but gets his diploma from school "B" is ineligible at "A" since the State Department requires that a student receive his diploma from the school that carries him on its roll.*

28A-2-2 Exception: A student who through school board assignment attends a non-member public school from which he/she will graduate. Such student shall be eligible to represent the high school serving the school district in which his/her parents reside.

PM 28A-2-2 BONA FIDE STUDENT RULE/Exception (5-94)- *Students from Mount Rogers High School are permitted to participate in cross country at Grayson County High School.*

28A-2-3 Interpretations:

(1) A "regular" student is considered a full-time student who is in regular attendance and is carrying a schedule of subjects which, if successfully completed, will render him/her scholastically eligible for League participation the ensuing semester.

(2) Any student who is under penalty of suspension, or whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon his/her school, is not considered in good standing.

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(3) Any student is permitted to take course work outside the VHSL high school building provided he/she is enrolled in the high school and is eligible in all other respects.

PM 28A-2-3 (1) BONA FIDE STUDENT/Governor's School (1-93)-A student attending the Governor's School shall be eligible at the Governor's School if the Governor's School offers any type of athletic program. If no program is offered in any sport/activity, the student would be eligible at his/her home school.

PM 28A-2-3 (2) BONA FIDE STUDENT RULE/Home School (5-90)-Home School students are not eligible because they fail to meet the requirements of this rule.

28A-3-1 ENROLLMENT RULE-*The student shall have been regularly enrolled in the school which he/she represents not later than the fifteenth school day of the semester.*

28A-3-2 Exceptions:

(1) Any transfer student who was regularly enrolled within the required 15-day period in the school from which he/she transferred. (This exception refers only to transfer students who transferred with a corresponding move on the part of their parents or who meet Exception 28A-7-2 (4) of the Transfer Rule. For other situations involving transfer students, see the Transfer Rule.)

(2) Any student for whom waiver of the provisions of this rule has been granted by the District Committee to avert an obvious injustice, when enrollment within the required 15-day period was not accomplished because of circumstances beyond the control of the student. In each such case the waiver shall be requested in writing by the appropriate principal, giving all pertinent details. Each such case will be judged on its merits; however, no waiver will be granted unless it is clearly shown that the student was prevented by circumstances beyond his/her control from meeting the requirements of this rule.

(3) Any foreign exchange student, regardless of when he/she enrolls in the member school and regardless of the number of days he/she will be a student in the member school.

(4) Eighth or ninth grade students otherwise eligible but enrolled in a member school's feeder school.

28A-3-3 Interpretations:

(1) "Paper" enrollment is not considered as meeting the requirements of this rule.

(2) Enrollment is defined as official registration and attendance in classes for at least three school days thereafter. Home instruction does not constitute enrollment in a public school. Home schooling is a process through which Virginia Code compulsory education requirements may be met, as is private schooling. Home schooling is the equivalent of school enrollment for purposes of future eligibility requirements such as establishing residence for Transfer Rule purposes, and determining whether the student has met Scholarship Rule requirements of having passed five academic subjects recognized by the Virginia Department of Education in the most recent prior semester.

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(3) Engaging in a contest, regardless of whether or not said student has officially registered in the school or attended classes, shall be evidence that the student is enrolled in the school.

28A-4-1 GRADE RULE- *The student shall be enrolled in the last four years of high school.*

28A-4-2 Exceptions:

(1) Students may compete on the sub-varsity level while in the eighth grade; however, no student below the eighth grade level is eligible to participate in any VHSL interscholastic contest.

(2) Eighth-grade students who passed five 8th grade subjects the past school year (see *Note* following 28A-5-1 (6)) and reached the age of fifteen on or before the first day of August may compete on the varsity level.

(3) Eighth-grade students may participate in nonathletic events for one year only while in the eighth grade. Such participation does not affect the subsequent eligibility of the student under the Semester Rule.

(4) A student may participate in VHSL sub-varsity sports for one year only prior to entering the ninth grade.

28A-4-3 Interpretations-

(1) Eligibility is terminated when a student receives his/her diploma; however, a student may complete a spring season started prior to graduation.

(2) Eighth graders, regardless of where they are housed, may fall into two categories.

(a) If they are filed on an MEL and participate on a junior varsity high school team, they must comply with VHSL rules and regulations and are covered by the League's insurance program(s) while they are considered to be representing their high school.

(b) However, if they are competing on a level below the junior varsity (i.e. junior high or middle school), they are not covered by VHSL regulations and are not covered by the League's insurance program(s) unless such insurance has been purchased by the school or system to cover these students specifically. The grade levels of competition, eligibility rules and regulations, etc., under these non-high school circumstances are up to the local school divisions.

28A-5-1 SCHOLARSHIP RULE- *The student shall:*

(a) For the first semester be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation; and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding year or the immediately preceding semester for schools that certify credit on a semester basis; and

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(b) For the second semester be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation; and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding semester.

Note: Credit for courses must be recognized by the State Department of Education. Such credit is to be awarded for the semester in which the work is scheduled to be completed. Credit for summer school work must be applied on the immediately preceding semester or year.

PM 28A-5-1 SCHOLARSHIP RULE/Block Scheduling (5-94)-When a school offers four classes each semester (block scheduling), students must pass three of these four classes to be eligible the following semester. There is no yearly eligibility option (combine first and second semester passing grades), since this block scheduling is on a "stand alone" semester grade basis.

28A-5-2 Exceptions:

(1) Any student who is enrolled in the first semester of the ninth grade for the first time.

PM 28A-5-2 (1) SCHOLARSHIP RULE/Late 9th Grader (3-98)-A student is eligible under the Scholarship Rule when he/she enters public school for the first time as a ninth grader at the beginning of the second semester (after being home schooled).

(2) Any student who is enrolled in the first semester of the eighth grade for the first time.

PM 28A-5-2 (2) SCHOLARSHIP RULE/8th to 10th Grade (9-91)-An eighth grade student who is placed in the tenth grade is immediately eligible and has eight semesters of eligibility remaining.

(3) Any student who has been forced to withdraw from school (a) because of confining illness or (b) because no formal school was reasonably available, upon re-entry in the school at the opening of the subsequent semester, may be exempt from the provision of this rule. If the withdrawal from school was because of confining illness, a written request for the exemption must be made by his/her principal to the District Committee with an attached written statement from the attending physician stating that the illness on the part of the student was of such a nature and duration as to make it impossible for him/her to earn credit for a semester's work. If the forced withdrawal was because no formal education was reasonably available, a statement verifying the conditions shall accompany the request. In making application for such exemption the principal shall indicate the grades of the student at the time of his/her withdrawal from school. These shall be taken into consideration by the District Committee in each such case. This exemption shall be available only to a student who has been forced to withdraw from school for one of the reasons set forth in the first sentence of this exception. The District Committee has the authority to waive this rule when a student has an extended number of absences during a semester resulting from unusual circumstances such as death in the family, chronic illness, inability to provide appropriate homebound instruction, etc.

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(4) A special education student who is working toward a special diploma must make standard progress in those courses taken as determined by the student's IEP.

(5) A special education student who is working toward a standard diploma must take and pass the equivalent of five subjects in accordance with any IEP modifications. If the IEP Committee determines that a special education student working toward a standard diploma should take fewer than five subjects, he/she must pass those subjects mandated by the IEP.

(6) Students who are required by directives contained in the Standards of Quality to participate in two periods of remedial instruction will be required to take and pass the equivalent of four subjects in addition to participating in the remedial classes. Those students who take only one remedial class must still meet the five subject requirement.

PM 28A-5-2 (3) SCHOLARSHIP RULE/Special Education (5-92)-Exception 6 applies to ALL students, not just special education students.

(7) A student who transfers from a school on a 4X4 block schedule to a school on a traditional schedule too late in the semester to earn credit in an added fifth course may qualify under the Scholarship Rule's five-course requirement for the current semester at the receiving school if he/she was passing at least three credits on the block plan at the sending school at the time of the transfer. If that student receives a passing final semester grade at the receiving school in at least three courses taken on the block plan at the sending school, and takes at least five credit courses the next semester, that will meet the scholarship requirement for that next semester.

(8) A student who transfers from a school on a traditional schedule to a school on a 4X4 block schedule too late in the semester to catch up and earn a passing grade in the block courses may qualify under the Scholarship Rule for the next semester if he/she is enrolled in at least three credit block courses and was passing at least five traditional courses at the sending school at the time of the transfer.

28A-5-3 Interpretations:

(1) "Immediately preceding" semester is the last regular school semester prior to the semester in which the student desires to compete.

PM 28A-5-3 (1) SCHOLARSHIP RULE/Summer School Credit (5-92)-A student who passes two one-semester courses in summer school is considered to have passed two subjects toward eligibility; while a student who passes one annual-credit course in summer school is considered to have passed only one subject toward eligibility.

(2) "Immediately preceding" year is the last regular school year prior to the semester in which the student desires to compete.

(3) For the purpose of this rule the student's eligibility or ineligibility shall be determined on the first day of the school year and on the first calendar day following the end of the first semester according to the school board adopted calendar.

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PM 28A-5-3 (2) SCHOLARSHIP RULE/Subjects Taken (1-90)-A student remains eligible if he/she passed 6 subjects the first semester, two of which are yearly subjects that he/she subsequently drops and replaces with two other subjects for credit.

(4) A student scholastically eligible or ineligible at the beginning of a semester shall be considered eligible or ineligible under this rule throughout that semester; however, throughout any semester during which the student wishes to maintain his/her eligibility, he/she must be continuously enrolled in five subjects that, if successfully completed, will render him/her scholastically eligible for League participation the ensuing semester. (Exception: a student who receives an incomplete in a subject which causes him/her not to meet minimum scholastic requirements is ineligible until the work is satisfactorily made up and credit for that course is awarded, at which time his/her eligibility is restored.)

(5) "Equivalent" means that a course granting annual credit of less than one unit equals one subject and a course granting annual credit of more than one unit equals two subjects, etc.

(6) A student who is suspended or expelled from school and, as a result of this, does not finish a semester is ineligible throughout the following semester, since his/her record is "incomplete."

(7) The scholastic eligibility of a student who attended another school during the preceding semester may be established only by an official certificate or transcript from that school.

(8) Grade school subjects may not be counted in determining eligibility under this rule. College courses, or others taken outside the high school, may be counted provided they are accepted for credit by the high school at which the student desires to compete.

(9) A subject for which credit has previously been granted may not, if repeated, be used by any student to satisfy the requirements of this rule.

(10) If a student receives credit for a semester's work he/she is considered to have passed the work within the intent of this rule, regardless of whether his/her grades at the end of that semester were of passing quality.

Note: This interpretation is not to be considered in conflict with interpretation 8 above. Interpretation 4 is only to be considered to provide cases when students making passing grades in the fall on a subject and do not pass in the spring, but it is the policy of the school for all students to average the year's work. In such cases, when the student is given credit for the year's work—including the spring semester in that subject—he/she is considered to have passed the work within the intent of this rule. On the other hand, where passing grades are made at the end of the spring semester and no credit is allowed for the year's work due to failing work at the end of the fall semester on a subject, he/she is considered not to have passed the work within the intent of this rule.

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PM 28A-5-3 (3) SCHOLARSHIP RULE/Interpretations-Checking students' grades to determine fall semester eligibility is a tedious job, requiring complete knowledge of the VHSL Scholarship Rule, plus an understanding of the "annual basis" subjects, the "semester basis" subjects, or a combination of both. The examples below point out how a student's eligibility is affected by these grading systems as well as a reminder that the VHSL Scholarship Rule requirement is based on subjects passed, not credit passed.

Using the ANNUAL BASIS Grading System

(No semester credit courses are offered. Each subject is passed or failed for the year.)

Student John Doe	1st Semester	Subjects Passed	2nd Semester	Subjects Passed	End of Year	Subjects Passed
English 10	B	1	D	1	C	1
Geometry	F	0	D	1	F	0
PE/Driver Ed	B	1	F	0	D	1
Biology	C	1	F	0	D	1
Band	A	1	A	1	A	1
Computer Science	D	1	C	1	D	1
TOTAL		5		4		5

For the upcoming semester, John Doe is **ELIGIBLE** because he passed five annual subjects. The fact that he passed only four subjects during second semester has no bearing when the Annual Basis System is used.

Using the SEMESTER BASIS Grading System

(Credit is granted only on a semester basis.)

There is no average of first and second semester grades.)

Student John Doe	1st Semester	Subjects Passed	2nd Semester	Subjects Passed	End of Year	Subjects Passed
English 101	B	1				
English 102			A	1		
Geometry 101	F	0				
Geometry 102			C	1		
PE 10	B	1				
Driver Ed			F	0		
Biology 101	C	1				
Biology 102			F	0		
Band 101	A	1				
Band 102			A	1		
Computer Sci 101	D	1				
Computer Sci 102			B	1		
TOTAL		5		4		

For the upcoming semester, John Doe is **INELIGIBLE** because he passed only 4 subjects the preceding semester. On this system the grades for the first semester and second semester are not averaged. Each semester stands alone.

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Using a COMBINATION of Annual Basis and Semester Basis Grading (Some classes are offered on an annual basis and some on a semester basis.)

Student John Doe	1st Semester	Subjects Passed	2nd Semester	Subjects Passed	End of Year	Subjects Passed
English 10 (Annual)	B	1	D	1	C	1
Geometry (Annual)	F	0	D	1	F	0
PE 10 (1 st Sem)	B	1				1
Driver Ed (2 nd Sem)			F	0		0
Biology (Annual)	C	1	F	0	D	1
Band (Annual)	A	1	A	1	A	1
Comp Sci (Annual)	D	1	C	1	D	1
TOTAL		5		4		5

For the upcoming semester, John Doe is **INELIGIBLE** even though he passed 4 annual subjects and 1 first-semester course (PE 10) for a total of five subjects. Because he passed PE 10 during the first semester of last year, it counted toward his eligibility for the second semester of last year and may not be counted again for the upcoming semester. The same subject cannot be used twice in determining eligibility.

28A-6-1 SEMESTER RULE-*The student shall not have been enrolled in the last four years of high school for a period of more than eight consecutive semesters, beginning with the semester in which he/she was enrolled for the first time in the ninth grade. The eight consecutive semesters shall be counted continuously from that point, regardless of whether or not he/she remains continuously enrolled in school.*

PM 28A-6-1 (1) SEMESTER RULE/8th to 10th Grade (9-91)-An eighth grade student who is placed in the tenth grade is immediately eligible and has eight semesters of eligibility remaining.

PM 28A-6-1 (2) SEMESTER RULE/Foreign Exchange Students (1-90)-A foreign exchange student from a school that normally graduates after 11 years, who repeated a grade in elementary school and therefore has been enrolled 12 years, is eligible to compete as long as the Semester Rule has not been violated.

PM 28A-6-1 (3) SEMESTER RULE/Graduated Seniors-A student who is eligible for a spring sport playoff remains eligible throughout that playoff from the standpoint of the semester rule even if graduation occurs prior to the conclusion of the playoff. (*Note: This situation is not uncommon for seniors in spring sport playoffs.*)

28A-6-2 Exceptions:

(1) A student who interrupts his/her high school career in order to participate in a CSIET-approved foreign study program may have his/her eligibility extended for up to two semesters, provided the student does not participate out of country in sports he/she wishes to play upon his/her return, subject to approval by the District Committee prior to leaving for the foreign study, or upon returning and providing proof to the District Committee the student did not participate out of country, in that sport, while involved in the foreign study.

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(2) The Executive Director shall waive the Semester Rule for designated students at non-public member schools the first year such schools are members in the public school division if the student participated in varsity athletics in 8th grade or because the student repeated a high school grade and therefore is, or in the future will be, a fifth-year senior. The Semester Rule waiver will apply to each designated student throughout his or her time in high school and is not a waiver of the Age Rule or Scholarship Rule.

28A-6-3 Interpretation:

(1) For the purposes of this rule, the eighth semester as applied to those completing their eighth semester at mid-year shall be defined as terminating the last day of classes of the first semester.

28A-7-1 TRANSFER RULE- *The student shall not have enrolled in one high school and subsequently transferred to and enrolled in another high school without a corresponding change in the residence of his/her parents, parent, or guardian. The original residence must be abandoned as a residence, that is sold, rented or otherwise disposed of as a residence, and must not be used as a residence by the immediate family. The entire family must make the change and take with them the household goods and furniture appropriate to the circumstances. The change must be made with the intent that it is permanent. The sending and receiving VHSL school principals are required to complete and file the VHSL Transfer Form, acknowledging that to the best of their knowledge the student has met all aspects of the transfer rule or its exceptions. Home instruction does not constitute enrollment in a public school. Home schooling is a process through which Virginia Code compulsory education requirements may be met, as is private schooling. Home schooling is the equivalent of school enrollment for Transfer Rule purposes, and determining whether the student has met Scholarship Rule requirements of having passed five academic subjects recognized by the Virginia Department of Education in the most recent prior semester.*

Note A: The provisions of the Transfer Rule apply to students transferring from one school to another, including transfers from a private school to a public school as well as transfers from one public school to another. For the purposes of this rule only, the phrase "high school" is defined as a school providing instruction at the ninth or tenth or eleventh or twelfth grade level(s).

Note B: Any student who transfers from a non-VHSL member school (i.e., a non-member VHSL non-public school, a home school or a school from a state outside Virginia) to a VHSL non-public member school shall be eligible immediately, provided that student was continuously enrolled in the school from which he/she is transferring for one calendar year prior to such transfer.

Note C: Any student who transfers after a VHSL member receiving school's regular season, in that sport, has concluded is ineligible to participate in postseason play for that VHSL member school in postseason play, in that sport.

Note D: A student who attends one member school, transfers to another member school, and participates at the new school, is ineligible upon their return to the former school, in the same school year, for 365 days from the date of enrollment in the latter school, regardless of any move on the part of the parent/guardian.

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PM 28A-7-1 (1) TRANSFER RULE/Move Requirement (1-71)-A student who moves from one school to another with no move on the part of his parents is ineligible. This student can become eligible immediately when his/her parents established residency in the zone served by the student's new school.

Note: A student who has established residence in a school attendance zone cannot move within that same school attendance zone and meet the qualifying criteria for PM 28A-7-1 (1).

PM 28A-7-1 (2) TRANSFER RULE/State Event Qualifier (5-94)-Students who transfer to another VHSL school after qualifying to the state tournament are not allowed to participate in cross country, wrestling, indoor and outdoor track/field, tennis, golf, gymnastics, forensics and debate; parents or students may request a hardship based on the circumstances for the move.

PM 28A-7-1 (3) TRANSFER RULE/Site Designated Programs (5-15)-Students who have established eligibility in a school and subsequently change into or out of a site designated program (Academy, Speciality Program, etc.) in that school, will be ineligible for 90 school days.

28A-7-2 Exceptions:

PM 28A-7-2 TRANSFER RULE/Wise County Exception (5-11)-For the start of the 2011-12 school year only, a one-time transfer eligibility exception applies only to those students attending a Wise County school that closes due to consolidation and the student wishes to return to the school serving his/her parents' out-of-county residence. Students whose parents live in Wise County but who choose to transfer out of county without a corresponding move by their parents, or those who fail to meet the prescribed VHSL Transfer Rule or one of its Exceptions, would not be eligible and would need to file an application for VHSL Transfer Rule Waiver with the appropriate district committee. All necessary forms, appeals procedures and criteria for considering appeals are available on the VHSL website. No appeal will be heard in advance on a presumptive basis but only after a student becomes ineligible.

(1) A student shall become eligible for interscholastic competition after he/she has been enrolled in the school for 365 consecutive calendar days. Exception: If a student transfers during the summer and remains ineligible for the entire subsequent school year, he/she would become eligible beginning with the fall season of the following academic year.

(2) A student transferring from a school closed by executive or administrative order to the school serving the district in which his/her parent, parents or guardian reside.

(3) A student transferring to the high school serving the district in which his/her parents reside upon completion of the highest grade level offered by the intermediate school, middle school, junior high school or non-public high school from which he/she transfers.

(4) The first time a student transfers from a non-member high school to a member school of the attendance area of the student's parents or guardians, he/she shall be eligible immediately provided that he/she has been enrolled in the non-member school a minimum of one full year, or has never been enrolled at a member school or is returning to the member school where he/she had been enrolled and has been eligible immediately prior to his/her

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transfer to the non-member school. Additionally, he/she is only eligible for participation in one season of a particular sport each school year with a maximum of four seasons of participation in eight semesters of high school regardless of member or non-member school. For the purpose of this exception only, the student must have been a ward of the guardian for at least one semester prior to his/her transfer. If the transfer occurs during a sports season, Contest Limitation Rule (54-3-1) guidelines would be binding.

Note: If a student is returning to a member school where he/she was previously enrolled as an out of zone student, he/she will be immediately eligible provided any of the other aspects of the above exception is satisfied.

(5) A student entering the eighth grade for the first time becomes immediately eligible in the high school in which he/she enrolls regardless of his or her residence status. A student entering the ninth grade for the first time becomes immediately eligible in the high school in which he/she enrolls regardless of his or her residence status.

(6) A foreign exchange student may become immediately eligible in the high school in which he/she is placed regardless of his/her residence status by meeting the conditions of this exception; however, all other eligibility requirements shall be met. A bona fide foreign exchange student with a J-1 or F-1+ visa may be immediately eligible the first year in residence and is limited to eligibility only during that first year in residence, and only while the student remains enrolled in an established foreign exchange program accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). The foreign exchange program must comply with all applicable CSIET and federal regulations and there must be no evidence of athletic recruitment resulting in the student's attendance at the school either by school personnel or other outside parties. Once the student no longer is a participant in a foreign exchange program or subsequent to his/her first year of enrollment in such program, he/she must meet all normal requirements of the Transfer Rule and would have to meet 28A-7-2 (1), discounting any period while enrolled in the foreign exchange program, at the high school in which the student wishes to be eligible.

PM 28A-7-2 (6) TRANSFER RULE/Foreign Student (3-93)-A foreign student who is not under any foreign exchange program and who transfers to a VHSL school in January is not eligible for spring sports, unless the parents move into the school's zone.

(7) A school board or division superintendent may transfer a student, by name, within the school division without affecting that student's eligibility by specifically granting a waiver of the Transfer Rule (28A-7-1). Such waivers should be considered for the welfare of the student and/or school system and not for athletic and/or activity purposes. The Master Eligibility List of all teams which have students who have been so waived shall reference the specific school board minutes or written documentation granting the waiver.

Note: Due to Virginia law stating the powers of local school boards as to internal decisions, all individual eligibility appeals of this exception lie exclusively with the local school board.

(8) When a local school board requires students within a geographical area, or those who fall within any other category as distinguished from individuals by name, to attend a high school other than the one the students have been attending, such students shall become eligible in the high school to which they are required to transfer at the time the transfer becomes effective.

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(9) In the case of a school reorganization or consolidation which results in the discontinuance of one or more high schools in which students had been or would be eligible under this rule, these students become eligible in the school designated by the school board to receive pupils from the discontinued school at the time set for the reorganization or consolidation and only in the high school so designated.

(10) If the city or county school board redistricts the city or county for high school purposes, students who by this action are required to transfer to another high school are immediately eligible at the school to which they are reassigned.

(11) A student under the care and guidance of any department of welfare, any department of corrections or an orphanage who is required to change residence by court order, unless that order was sought to enable the student to participate in extracurricular activities, or who is legally adopted, is eligible to participate in League activities in the school district in which he/she is placed.

(12) In cases of court-ordered custody, a copy of the appropriate legal custody document, signed by the presiding judge of the appropriate jurisdiction, shall be submitted to the Executive Director for review and approval. Approval is contingent upon the receiving school's principal attesting that there is no evidence that the transfer was for athletic and/or activity purposes. A student, 18 years of age or older, who would be subject to a transfer of custody if he/she were less than 18 years of age may petition the Executive Director through the student's principal for eligibility, and the Executive Director has authority to grant such eligibility immediately.

(13) If the District Committee of the district in which the student wishes to participate approves such eligibility, a student may, for the first time only, transfer from one school to another as the result of a move from one parent to another parent or from a guardian to a parent, when the parents are residing in different school attendance zones, and become eligible at the beginning of the next school year.

(14) The eligibility of students transferring to a Governor's School or a magnet school shall be determined by the policies approved by the respective Governor's School or magnet school's Board of Directors. The eligibility of students transferring from a Governor's School or magnet school back to the home school of the student shall be approved by the home school division superintendent.

(15) Students who qualify under the McKinney Vento Homeless Education Act are eligible provided the school has on file all required documentation substantiating the student's status and provided the student is eligible in all other respects.

(16) If a student transfers into a school to live with a relative or guardian due to the fact the parent(s) or legal guardian is deployed overseas and/or to a combat assignment by orders of the United States Military, or temporarily assigned in excess of 90 days, the student will be granted immediate eligibility. Student must meet all other eligibility requirements. A copy of the Special Power of Attorney stating the guardian, residence of guardian, and school to be enrolled must be provided to the school the student is transferring into. A copy of Military Orders of Deployment must be provided to the school the student is transferring into. Student must not have any other parent (with custody) or legal court ordered guardian available.

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(17) If a student previously attended the school and (i) moved with a parent, as defined in §22.1-1, out of the school's attendance area because that parent is a full-time active duty member of the uniformed services of the United States, including service in the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §§ 1209 and 1211, and received orders to relocate and (ii) moved back to and currently lives in the school's attendance zone.

28A-7-3 Interpretations:

(1) Enrollment is defined as official registration and attendance in classes for at least three consecutive school days thereafter.

(2) Engaging in a contest, regardless of whether or not said student has officially registered in the school or attended classes, shall be evidence that the student is enrolled in the school.

(3) Once a student becomes eligible in a school, he/she may complete his/her eligibility at that school even though his/her parents or guardians may change address, as long as he/she remains continuously enrolled there. However, if a student remains enrolled in that school beyond the third day of the fall semester after the parents' or guardians' move, he/she forfeits the right to transfer to the school serving the district to which his/her parents or guardians have moved without first meeting 28A-7-2 (1).

(4) A student who attends a school other than the one serving the school district in which his/her parents reside must comply with one of the exceptions in 28A-7-2 to establish his/her eligibility, unless the student residing in a VHSL member school attendance zone attends a virtual academy recognized by the Department of Education. Such a student, with the approval of that school district's superintendent, may, for the first time only, receive permission to participate for the school district in which the parent(s) reside. Also, a student who has established his/her eligibility at a school other than the one serving the school district in which his/her parents reside must comply with one of the exceptions in 28A-7-2 to establish his/her eligibility if he/she returns to the school serving the school district in which his/her parents reside. However, a student residing in a VHSL member school attendance zone who attended a virtual academy recognized by the Department of Education, may, for the first time only and upon receiving approval of that school district's superintendent, be eligible to participate in the school district in which the parent(s) reside.

(5) The appointment of a legal guardian will not render a student immediately eligible in the school to which he/she transfers except in the case of the death of his/her parents, parent or guardian, and then only if the new guardianship is made legally and without delay. A student who has neither parents nor legal guardian must meet 28A-7-2 (1) in the school to which he/she transfers, unless the family with whom he/she lives has been given custody ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction in which case he/she becomes eligible immediately.

(6) If the parents of a student who has previously enrolled in the high school grades move from a district served by one high school into a district served by another high school and the student enters a high school other than the one serving the district into which his/her parents move, he/she is not eligible in the high school of his/her choice until after meeting 28A-7-2 (1) in that school.

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(7) Residence is defined as the domicile of an individual, meaning that the individual lives in a locality with the intent to make it a fixed and permanent home. Domicile requires more than bodily presence as an inhabitant in a given place; it requires bodily presence and an intention to make such a place a fixed and permanent home. Other indicia of domicile include automobile registration, voter registration and the reporting of a mailing address change to the appropriate agencies, such as the post office, utility companies, creditors and employers. Under no circumstances can a family or student participant have two residences for eligibility purposes. It is the obligation of the school to know the complete residence status of each student participant and to see that all comply with these requirements. Any change in residence must be bona fide. Determination of what constitutes a bona fide change of residence depends upon the facts of each case.

(8) For purposes of transfer, VHSL does not recognize student emancipation by age 18 or through marriage.

(9) Upon seeking membership in the League and subsequently prior to reclassification, a non-public high school may define its attendance zone as one of the following options:

(a) The attendance zone of the VHSL member public school in which the non-public school is located; or

(b) The attendance zone (a) above and one additional public school attendance zone contiguous to the public school attendance zone in the same county or city in which it is located; or

(c) The attendance zone (a) above and one additional public school attendance zone contiguous to the public school attendance zone in which it is located but that is not in the same county or city in which the school is located.

(10) The first time during high school that a student transfers without a corresponding parent move between a member public school and a member non-public school in the non-public school's declared attendance zone, the student is exempted from the normal one-year eligibility delay for such transfers.

28A-8-1 TRANSGENDER POLICY (12-14)-Students who wish to participate in a VHSL gender-specific sports team that is different from the gender identity listed on the student's official birth certificate or school records are advised to address the gender identification issue with the local school district well in advance of the deadline for athletic eligibility determinations for a current sports season. Students should not be permitted to participate in practices or to try out for gender-specific sports teams that are different from their publicly identified gender identity at the time or to try out simultaneously for VHSL sports teams of both genders.

When a school identifies a transgender student who seeks to participate in VHSL sports and/or activities, the school principal should submit a letter requesting an appeal to the district chairman and the VHSL executive director. The letter should be responsive to the conditions in the policy below.

Privacy Statement: All discussions and documents at all levels of the process either by a member school, appeals panel, and/or the VHSL shall be kept confidential unless specifically requested by the student and family.

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Note: VHSL honors and respects all individuals based on gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, sexual orientation and creed while striving to provide safe and equitable competition.

VHSL rules and regulations allow transgender student-athlete participation under the following conditions:

1. The student/or parents shall contact the school principal or their designee indicating that the student has a consistent gender identity different than the gender listed on the student's official birth certificate or school registration records, and that the student desires to participate in activities in a manner consistent with his/her gender identity.

2. The first level of review shall be the District Committee. All documentation supporting the appeal shall be forwarded to the District Chairman. The District Chairman does not have to call a meeting until the request and all materials are filed with the District Chairman. The District Committee (three members only) shall review the case within three working days. The student/appellant is entitled to be present at hearing. If they choose not to attend, a conference call shall suffice. The District Committee must confer with the Executive Director or VHSL Assistant Director for Compliance before rendering a final decision. Within 24 hours, the District Committee will provide the student/appellant in writing the Committee's recommendation as to whether eligibility should or should not be granted. Within 24 hours, the District Chairman will provide the Executive Director with a copy of the District Committee's recommendation plus a copy of the student/appellant's application and documentation.

3. The second level of review shall be the Executive Director and/or Compliance Officer. If the Executive Director concurs with a favorable District Committee decision that eligibility should be granted, the student shall become eligible immediately. In all other cases, the Executive Director will advise the student/appellant of his decision regarding the case, and the student/appellant has the option of requesting in writing that the appeal advances to the Executive Committee. The Executive Director will send a written notice to the student/appellant and the District Chairman.

4. If the recommendation of the District Committee or the decision of the Executive Director is not to grant eligibility, the student/appellant may file a written application for appeal to the Executive Committee. Within 10 working days after the written request and all materials are filed at the VHSL office, the Executive Committee will hear all cases advanced by the Director. The Director will inform all parties of the date, time and site of hearing. The student/appellant is entitled to be present. At least two-thirds favorable vote is required for a waiver. The Executive Committee may not grant retroactive eligibility. The Executive Director will provide the decision in writing to the student/appellant and the District Chairman.

5. Documentation: The student/appellant must provide the principal or their designee and the VHSL with the following documentation and information:

- A written statement from the student affirming the consistent gender identity and expression of which the student relates;
- Documentation – preferably no more than one or two letters – from individuals such as, but not limited to, parents, friends and/or teachers, which affirm that the actions, attitudes, dress and manner demonstrate the student's consistent gender identification and expression;

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- A complete list of all the student's prescribed, non-prescribed or over the counter, treatments or medications;
- Written verification from an appropriate health-care professional (doctor, psychiatrist, and psychologist) of the student's consistent gender identification and expression; and
- Any other pertinent documentation or information which the student or parent(s) believe relevant and appropriate.

Note: The VHSL discourages submission of documents providing medical or psychological information that is unrelated to a student's gender identity and/or transgender transition.

6. The school principal or their designee is expected to provide a current transcript and school registration information as well as a statement that he/she has determined that the expression of the student's gender identity is bona fide and not for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in competitive athletics (or indicate that he/she does not believe such is the case).

7. At each level of review, the goal is to determine if the evidence and documentation submitted is sufficient to establish that the expression of the student's gender identity is bona fide and not for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in competitive athletics. In the second and third levels of review (to the Executive Director and the Executive Committee), consultation with medical professionals from the VHSL Frank C. McCue Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) or those familiar with World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) protocols for transitioning (the process by which a transgender person lives consistently with their gender identity) is encouraged.

8. As a general matter, after the issue of gender identity has been addressed by the student and the VHSL appeals process, the determination shall remain consistent for the remainder of the student's high school sports eligibility and does not need to be renewed every sports season or school year.

B. Regulations Governing Athletes Only.

In addition to meeting the foregoing individual eligibility requirements, a student shall meet the following additional requirements to be eligible to represent the school in any VHSL sponsored interscholastic athletic contest:

28B-1-1 ALL-STAR PARTICIPATION RULE-*Only students of member schools who have completed their eligibility in a sport may participate in all-star games in that sport. (See also 27-1-1 and 27-1-2.)*

Underclassmen are only eligible to participate in All-Star games which meet one of the following two criteria:

(1) There is a "tryout" process which determines the team composition and selection of team members.

(2) The event has no connection with the VHSL and the school (in name, use of equipment or travel expense).

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PM 28B-1-1 (1) ALL-STAR PARTICIPATION RULE/Junior Nationals (5-95)-Athletes participating in USOC-sponsored Junior National events are not in violation of this rule.

PM 28B-1-1 (2) ALL-STAR PARTICIPATION RULE/Olympic Teams-Athletes trying out for USOC teams are not in violation of this rule.

28B-1-2 Exception: A student involved in an event designated by the Executive Committee as one involving competition with international ramifications.

28B-1-3 Interpretation: An All-Star team is a team composed of players selected from two or more existing or previous high school teams. An All-Star game is a game played between two teams consisting of "selected" players. Whenever teams are formed of players selected from two or more existing or previous high school teams, any game in which they participate against another team is All-Star in nature regardless of how the game is labeled. Such games are often listed as "bowl" or "charity" but are interpreted as All-Star under the All-Star Participation Rule.

28B-1-4 Penalty: Any student adjudged guilty of participating in all-star contest shall be ineligible from the time he/she participates until the end of one calendar year subsequent to such time of participation.

28B-2-1 AMATEUR RULE-*A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived therefrom and is not paid to participate in athletics.*

28B-2-2 Exception: Accepting a fee for instructing, coaching, supervising or officiating in an organized youth or recreation, playground, or camp activities program shall not jeopardize amateur status.

28B-2-3 Interpretations:

(1) An individual loses amateur status and thus shall not be eligible for interscholastic competition in a particular sport if the individual:

(a) Uses his or her athletics skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport other than the exceptions cited herein;

(b) Accepts a promise of pay for participation in that sport even if such pay is to be received following completion of interscholastic athletics participation;

(c) Signs a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any consideration received, in that sport;

(d) Enters into a professional draft or an agreement with an agent or other entity to negotiate a professional contract in that sport;

(e) Accepts payment for expenses beyond actual and necessary travel, room and board expenses for practice and competition in that sport;

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(f) Accepts preferential treatment, benefits or services (e.g., loans with deferred pay-back) because of the individual's athletics reputation or skill or pay-back potential as a professional athlete in that sport. An award of a country club or sports club membership is prohibited. Receipt of a benefit by student-athletes or their relatives or friends is not a violation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to students or their relatives or friends determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability;

(g) Accepts merchandise, prizes or awards having a retail value greater than that permitted by the amateur athletic governing body regulating amateur status in that sport. If that governing body has no limit, the maximum value of merchandise, prizes or awards shall be \$500 per event.

(h) Plays in any contest (school or non-school) in that sport under a name other than his/her own name.

(2) **Road Racing**- "Road racing" is essentially the same as cross country or track competition and cannot be separated effectively from those sports for the purposes of this rule. Therefore, a student-athlete who accepts pay in any form for participation in such a race is ineligible for interscholastic cross country or track competition.

(3) **Institutional Fund-Raising Activities involving the Athletics Ability of Student-Athletes**-Institutional fund-raising activities that involve the use of athletics ability by student-athletes to obtain funds (e.g., "swim-a-thons") are permitted only if:

(a) The total money is contributed to the institution; and

(b) The student-athletes receive no compensation or prizes for their participation.

(4) Scholarships to institutions of higher learning may be accepted provided the amount of the scholarship is paid by the donor(s) directly to the college/institution of choice.

28B-2-4 Name, Image and Likeness (NIL)-Students may receive compensation for the commercialization of their own name, image and likeness (NIL).

Common NIL activities include, but are not limited to commercials, product endorsements, personal appearances, autograph sessions, merchandise or apparel sales, group licensing, and acting as a social media influencer.

Schools and teams may not use NIL opportunities to incentivize a student's enrollment at a school or membership on a team.

A student may not receive compensation, endorsements or gifts of monetary value for Intellectual Property of the VHSL or any member school. Intellectual Property includes, but is not limited to, a school's district's, region's and VHSL name, uniform, mascot, and logo.

(a) This provision is not intended to restrict the right of any student and their family to engage in NIL activities for financial gain, except as prohibited by this guidance.

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(b) Student-athletes are prohibited from engaging in the following while participating in NIL activities.

- Making any reference to a school team, school, district, region or VHSL.
- Appearing in the uniform of the student's school. Students may not utilize the marks, logos, etc. of their school team or any school's team during NIL activities.
- Endorsing or promoting goods or service of any third-party NIL partner during school-based team activities and events, including but not limited to wearing third-party apparel, displaying a third-party logo or brand, and displaying insignia or identifying mark unless it is part of the standard school uniform for that sport.

(c) Students may not engage in any NIL activities involving, displaying or endorsing the following categories of products and services:

- Adult entertainment products and services
- Alcohol products
- Tobacco and electronic smoking products and devices
- Opioids and prescription pharmaceuticals
- Controlled dangerous substances
- Casinos and gambling, including sports betting
- Weapons, firearms and ammunition

(d) No school or anyone employed by or affiliated with a member school, including booster clubs, coaches, administrators, alumni or an NIL Collective*, may solicit, arrange, or negotiate compensation for a student's NIL , other than their own child.

***NIL Collective:** A group of alumni, supporters parents, or other people who form a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, non-profit organization foundation, or other entity to provide NIL opportunities to student-athletes of a specific school.

(e) Students must notify the Principal or Athletic Director in writing of the student's school upon entering into any type of NIL contract within 72 hours of entering into the contract.

28B-2-5 Penalty: A pupil who has lost his/her amateur standing through violation of this rule shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition. Such student may be reinstated as an amateur by the Executive Committee, provided his/her principal requests in writing his/her reinstatement as an amateur and certifies that the student has not during that one-year period violated this rule, and that the student is not now under contract to, or owned by, any professional athletic organization.

28B-3-1 ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION/PARENTAL CONSENT/PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE-*The student shall have submitted to the principal or their designee of his/her school, prior to becoming a member of any school athletic squad or team, League Form No. 2 (Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination Form), completely filled in and properly signed, attesting that he/she has been examined and found to be physically fit for athletic competition, and that his/her parents consent to his/her participation. (See 30-4-3.)*

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- (1) The physical examination shall be required before any student is accepted as a squad member or is permitted to engage in tryouts or practice. Any person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy may conduct the physical examination and may sign the form, as can a licensed nurse practitioner or a physician assistant under the regulations of the state Boards of Medicine and Nursing and under the supervision and direction of a licensed physician.
- (2) Students taking part in athletic contests should be in fit physical condition. This condition can be attained only through properly conducted and systematic training procedures. It is recommended that coaches and physical education directors insist upon strict observance of the accepted rules of training as a requisite for squad membership.
- (3) Students who have been examined once during the period of May 1 of the current year through June 30 of the succeeding year (14 months) do not have to be examined again during that period unless they have had a serious injury or a serious illness. In case of a serious illness or serious injury, the medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy treating the student may specify in his/her release of the patient that the student is approved for athletic participation for the remainder of the school year.

PM 28B-3-1 (1) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE/Emancipated Student (8-96)-An emancipated student may sign the parental section of VHSL Form No. 2.

PM 28B-3-1 (2) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE/Licensed Nurse Practitioner (9-93)-LNPs under the supervision of a chiropractor are not authorized to sign the physical form.

PM 28B-3-1 (3) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE/Transfer Student (10-90)-When an out-of-state student who has received a current physical examination elsewhere transfers to Virginia and attaches proof of that physical examination to the League's Form No. 2, the student is in compliance with physical examination requirements.

28B-3-2 Penalty: A student who has failed to fulfill the requirements of this rule shall be ineligible for practice or competition until such time as the requirements have been met. Schools failing to require strict adherence to this regulation may be subject to such disciplinary action as the appropriate District Committee may impose.

28B-4-1 AWARDS RULE-*Students may accept permissible awards presented or approved by the student's school.*

PM 28B-4-1 (1) AWARDS RULE/Gifts (10-92)-A student is not in violation of the Awards Rule by accepting tennis shoes for participation in outside competitions or for being selected as an outstanding member of a high school team.

PM 28B-4-1 (2) AWARDS RULE/Grants-in-Aid (1-72)-Even though grants-in-aid at various colleges are open competitively to students of more than one school, they are not in violation of the League's Awards Rule.

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PM 28B-4-1 (3) AWARDS RULE/State Wrestling (2-94)-Awards for most valuable wrestler(s) and those given by non-school groups are not allowed.

PM 28B-4-1 (4) AWARDS RULE SANCTION/Waiver (5-75)-An officials' association may present awards to a school or individual at the district and regional levels, but not at a state event.

28B-4-2 Interpretations:

(1) It is intended by this rule that control of awards to school athletes be in the hands of the school principal. Outside agencies or organizations which desire to present awards or recognitions to students for achievement in some phase of the school's activities program must first secure the concurrence of the school principal or the Executive Director.

(2) Permissible awards include trophies, medals, plaques, certificates, cups, ribbons, pins, letters, pictures, event T-shirts, event hats, game balls, jackets and suitably inscribed rings or watches which are symbolic (no intrinsic value) in nature.

(3) Cash or any other type of negotiable document or other monetary compensation are not permissible awards. Gift certificates may not be exchanged for cash, even in part.

(4) A banquet for a school team (or seniors, letter winners, etc.), sponsored by other than the school, shall not constitute a violation if arranged with the approval of the school.

28B-4-3 Penalty: A student who accepts an award in violation of this regulation shall be ineligible in the specific sport from the date of discovery for a minimum of 50% of the contest limitations of the specific sport. Such numbers shall include all contests in which the school participates subsequent to the date of violation. The penalty as applied to the student involved under this rule shall be applied and shall be counted consecutively from the date of discovery. The penalty as applied to the school under Section 30-5-1 (1) of this *Handbook* shall be effective from the date of violation. The penalty may extend into the next school year, but in no case will the penalty extend beyond one calendar year.

28B-5-1 COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RULE- *The student shall not have been a member of a college team in the sport in which he/she desires to represent his/her high school.*

28B-6-1 INDEPENDENT TEAM RULE- *Student responsibility for sports participation. During the sports season for the relevant sport, a student may, while a member of a school squad or team engaged in interscholastic sports become a member of or participate with an organized team in the same sport which is independent of the school's control so long as such participation does not conflict with the scheduled activities of the school squad or team. No school or student shall be declared ineligible for participation in interscholastic sports because of participation by a student as a member of an organized team in the same sport which is independent of the school's control during the sports season for the relevant sport.*

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PM 28B-6-1 INDEPENDENT TEAM RULE/Boys Home (10-92)-Alleghany County has students who live at Boys' Home and who want to play on the Boys' Home team when Alleghany is not scheduled. The Executive Committee agreed that they not be permitted to play on the Boys' Home team when it engages in competition with VHSL schools.

C. Special Rules Applicable to All Students.

28C-1-1 DUE PROCESS RULE-*Whenever a principal or their designee has information that a student who wants to represent the school in a League-sponsored activity may be ineligible to do so because of failure to qualify under one or more of the individual eligibility regulations in Section 28 of the Handbook, he/she shall promptly conduct an informal hearing within three working days to resolve the question. The student shall be entitled to be present at the hearing and to offer information about his/her eligibility. If, subsequent to the hearing, the principal or their designee determines that the student is ineligible, he/she shall inform the student by letter of his/her ineligibility and the specific individual eligibility regulations involved. Excluding those exceptions listed under 28C-1-2, the student or parent may appeal the principal's or their designee's declaration of ineligibility to the District Committee by writing to the district chairman. The District Committee shall review the case within five working days after receiving notice of the appeal. The student shall be entitled to be present at the District Committee hearing and to offer information about his/her eligibility. The District Committee may set aside a rule only for these specific cases: Enrollment Rule 28A-3-2 (2), Scholarship Rule 28A-5-2 (3) and Transfer Rule 28A-7-2 (13). All other decisions of the District Committee shall be recommendations only. Any decision of the District Committee may be appealed by the student, parent or member school principal to the Executive Director and subsequent levels of appeal in accordance with Section 33 of the Handbook.*

Whenever a District Committee or an interDistrict Committee has information that a student previously certified as eligible by the principal or their designee may not be eligible because of failure to qualify under one or more of the individual eligibility regulations in Section 28 of the Handbook, the committee shall promptly, within five working days, conduct an informal hearing to resolve the question. The student and the principal or their designee shall be entitled to be present and to offer information about the case, and the District Committee shall consult the Executive Director as required in Section 21-3-1 of the Handbook. The District Committee may set aside a rule only for these specific cases: Enrollment Rule 28A-3-2 (2), Scholarship Rule 28A-5-2 (3) and Transfer Rule 28A-7-2 (13). All other decisions of the District Committee shall be recommendations only. If, subsequent to the hearing, the committee determines that the student is ineligible, it shall notify the student and the principal of the ineligibility and the specific individual eligibility regulations involved. The student, parent or member school principal, in keeping with Section 33 of the Handbook, may appeal the committee's decision to the Executive Director and subsequent levels of appeal in accordance with Section 33 of the Handbook.

28C-1-2 Exceptions-A student who is denied participation in League activities (a) because of local rules authorized in Section 27-8-10, or (b) because of any rule or regulation of any local school board or division superintendent.

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28C-1-3 Interpretations:

(1) Upon receipt of information that a student may be ineligible, or that a district or interDistrict Committee is considering the eligibility of a student, the principal may temporarily suspend that student's participation in League activities until the required hearing has been completed and the question resolved. If the principal or their designee permits the student to continue participation until the hearing, and the student is subsequently found to have been ineligible, the provisions of Section 30-3-1 of the *Handbook* shall apply.

(2) The failure of any person entitled to be present at a hearing under this rule shall not prevent the conduct of the hearing if the person has been previously invited to appear.