**Home School Rule / TSSAA Handbook**

**Section 25.**This bylaw establishes the minimum eligibility requirements for a home school student desiring to participate in extracurricular athletics at a member school:

1. **Definitions**
   1. A “home school” is a school conducted by a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for their own child. To be a “home school” for the purposes of this bylaw, the child must be registered with the LEA that the child would otherwise attend if he/she were not being home schooled. The home school must be operating in compliance with state law.
   2. “Director of Schools” shall mean the chief administrative official of a public school system. In the case of a private school, the responsibilities of the Director of Schools are to be carried out by the Head of School or chief administrative official in that school.
2. **Minimum Eligibility Requirements**
   1. The student shall be enrolled in a home school conducted by his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
      1. The student must be taking a minimum of five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent administered by the parent(s) or guardian(s) which count toward graduation.
      2. The student must notify the Director of Schools (or Head of School, if a private school) by August 1 of the current school year.
   2. The participating student must have a legal residence within the school district where he/she is registered, if registering with a public school. If registering with a private school, the student must have a legal residence within 20 miles of the private school and meet all tuition and financial aid requirements.
   3. By August 15 of the school year, the parent or guardian must make application for participation in athletics to the principal of the member school in which the home school athlete wishes to try out and possibly participate.
   4. The home school athlete shall meet the same academic and conduct standards required of a member school student-athlete to participate in the athletic program.
      1. The Director of Schools (Head of School for private schools) or their designee shall confer with the parent(s) or guardian(s) conducting the home school to determine that the home school student is academically eligible.
      2. If a home school student’s course of study does not include five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent, which are being administered by the parent/guardian, then the Director of Schools (Head of School, for a private school) or their designee and the parent/guardian shall develop an alternative measure of academic progress and submit it to the TSSAA for approval.
      3. In no event shall a home school student be eligible who is not receiving the minimum four (4) hours per day of instruction administered by their parent/guardian.
      4. In no event shall a home school student be eligible who has fallen three (3) or more months behind the student’s appropriate grade level.
   5. The home school student must provide proof of basic primary medical insurance coverage and liability insurance coverage which names the TSSAA as an insured party in the event the school’s insurance provider does not extend coverage to students enrolled in home school programs.
   6. The LEA may impose a participation fee for each sport in which a home school athlete participates. Such participation fee shall not exceed the fees or costs charged to or borne by students enrolled at the school and shall be paid in full prior to the first regular season contest.
      1. A home school student participating at a private school must pay full tuition and abide by all financial aid rules. For the purpose of this rule, “full tuition” is defined as the same amount paid by all other students enrolled and in regular attendance at the school.
   7. The home school student must meet all other TSSAA eligibility requirements.
   8. Eligibility issues may be appealed in accordance with the Bylaws of the TSSAA.
   9. The home school athlete must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other participants of the team.
   10. Ultimate decisions on team rosters are left to the member schools.

**Transfer:**

1. After participation at the first member school, any changes within member schools shall be governed by the transfer rule.
2. Any student who withdraws from a regular school program, which for the purpose of this policy is defined as a member school, to enroll in a home school education program and who is ineligible at the time of withdrawal from the regular school program due to his/her failure to meet academic or behavioral eligibility standards shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition as a home education athlete until such time as he/she has satisfied this home school bylaw as well as all other eligibility bylaws of TSSAA.