
2025-2026 OFSAA TRANSFER APPEAL FORM INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Please note that there are updates for 2025-2026

For the student

If you have attended a different school in the past 12 months, you are a transfer student and you are not eligible to compete in any sports. You may appeal this ineligibility. You must fill out the OFSAA Transfer Appeal Form (attached). Please ensure that all required information is included and correct, you have chosen only one appeal reason, and the form is **signed by yourself** and **your parent** and return it to your **coach**.

For the parent

Please read through the form in its entirety. Make note of the appeal reason and check with the table on page 7 outlining which supporting documents are required. Ensure that all documents are legible copies. You may blackout information that is not required to protect your privacy.

For the coach

At your first team meeting or try-out, ask all players if they have attended a different school in the last 12 months. Any students who have attended another school must complete transfer paperwork. Student may have already completed this process. If you have any questions about whether an athlete is eligible, please contact HWDSB Athletics. If it has not been done previously, have the athlete complete the form and return it to you. Please ensure that the form is filled out correctly, the parents and athlete have signed it, and that there is supporting documentation included. At this point, please submit the completed form to your **Head of Health and Phys-Ed**. HWDSB Athletics will only receive forms from the **Head of Health and Phys-Ed**.

For the Phys-ed head

When you have received the Transfer Appeal Form from one of your coaches, please ensure the following:

- It is complete and all information is included
- Supporting documents have been included
- It has been signed by the athlete, parent and a school official (**admin only**)

Please submit the completed form to HWDSB Athletics and retain a copy for yourself. There is a list of meeting dates and submission deadlines on available through HWDSB Athletics. Appeals will be reviewed at committee meetings or conference calls. A listing of the review results is available through HWDSB Athletics.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AT ANY POINT IN THE PROCESS
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL PHYS-ED HEAD OR 'HWDSB ATHLETICS
(athletics@hwdsb.on.ca)**

OFSAA TRANSFER POLICY APPEAL FORM 2025 - 2026

Association: SOSSA Date of application to HWIAC: _____

PART A – STUDENT INFORMATION (Please print)

Name: _____ Birth Date _____
 Day / Month / Year

Residences: List all addresses used during high school career together with occupancy dates. In each circumstance indicate if the address given was the same for parent(s) or legal guardian(s) (as appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction).

PRESENT ADDRESS	DATE IN		LIVING WITH (name and relationship) Please specify.
<hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Street Apt. # City/Town </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Postal Code Home Tel. # </div>	<hr/>		
PREVIOUS ADDRESSES	DATE IN	DATE OUT	LIVING WITH (name and relationship) Please specify.
(1) <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Street Apt. # City/Town </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Postal Code Home Tel. # </div> (2) <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Street Apt. # City/Town </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Postal Code Home Tel. # </div>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

Schools: List all high schools attended in reverse order. Indicate whether each school was semestered (S) or traditional (T) when attended.

PRESENT SCHOOL	DATE OF ENTRY	T/S	SCHOOL – CITY/TOWN
PREVIOUS SCHOOLS	DATE OF ENTRY	T/S	SCHOOL – CITY, PROV., COUNTRY
(1) _____	_____	_____	_____
(2) _____	_____	_____	_____

Month and year of entry into Grade 9: _____ Number of credits earned as of last June: _____

Number of credits earned Semester I this year if applicable: _____

Sports Played at Interschool level during 12 months prior to transfer:

STUDENT’S RATIONALE FOR ELIGIBILITY: (Please print clearly. Use separate paper if necessary.)

PART B – APPEAL BASED ON (Please mark correct box)

Before determining the section of the Transfer Policy under which your appeal will be made, read the entire Policy carefully so as to ensure that you are appealing under the appropriate section and that you are able to provide the documentation required.

Every student who has been registered as a transfer from another school within the previous twelve (12) months is ineligible for OFSAA-sanctioned events, unless he/she appeals and is deemed eligible by the OFSAA Transfers Committee under one of the four following sections.

- (a) (i) There has been an accompanying change in permanent residence by the student and his/her immediate family to the designated school from any system (public, catholic or independent) according to school board boundaries (or is the closest school in the student’s choice of school system to the student’s home if no school boundaries exist). If the independent school is faith-based, the student must attend the closest independent school of that particular faith. The student must have moved out of the school board boundaries of the sending school, or if the sending school has no school board boundaries, the receiving school must be closer to the student’s new permanent residence than the sending school (**See Note 6**). Immediate family is the

parent(s) or the student's legal guardian as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. The student and his/her immediate family must completely and permanently move from the former residence. The student must provide evidence/documentation confirming that they are residing in a new permanent residence, and evidence/documentation that they have completely and permanently moved from the former residence. **See Note 8.**

- (ii) The student has transferred to an Ontario school from outside Canada and outside the United States and is attending the designated school in their choice of system (public, catholic or independent) according to school board boundaries; or is attending the closest school in the student's choice of system to the student's home if no school boundaries exist; or is attending a school assigned by the school board. If the independent school is faith-based, the student must attend the closest independent school of that particular faith. **See Note 6.**
- (iii) The student has transferred as a result of the closure of his/her former school and is attending the school designated by the School Board.
- (iv) The student has transferred as a result of a board designated placement (i.e. demitted from a program, personal safety, completed expulsion program) and is attending that designated school. The appeal must be accompanied by documentation from the school or school board confirming the designation.
- (b) (i)** the student did not participate in any sports at the interschool level for twelve months prior to the date of transfer. Written confirmation from the vice principal, principal, department head, or athletic director at the previous school is required. Students in their first year of grade 9 may not apply under this section.
- (ii) The student accepts his/her ineligibility under the Transfer Policy, but requests eligibility for the sports he/she did not participate in at the interschool level for the twelve months prior to the date of transfer. Written confirmation from the vice principal, principal, department head, or athletic director at the previous school is required. Students in their first year of grade 9 may not apply under this section.
- (iii) The student transferred to another school for a period of less than one school year and is returning to the school he/she attended prior to the transfer. The student must not have participated in any sports at the interschool level while attending the other school. Written confirmation from the vice principal, principal, department head or athletic director at the previous school is required.
- (c) (i)** The student has been placed in a school by an I.P.R.C. (Identification, Placement and Review Committee) decision. The Federation's Board of Reference shall require and receive a letter from the principal of the school from which the student has transferred, stating the reason for the placement of the student by I.P.R.C.
- (ii) The student has transferred from an independent school to a public or catholic school as the result of an educational exceptionality which the independent school was unsuccessful in accommodating. In such cases, the student was unable to access the I.P.R.C. process (Identification, Placement and Review Committee). The appeal must be accompanied by the

following information: a psycho educational assessment diagnosing an educational exceptionality; documentation from the independent school demonstrating the strategies used to attempt to accommodate the educational exceptionality; and documentation from the receiving school confirming additional and/or new methods being provided to accommodate the educational exceptionality, which were not being provided at the sending school.

- (iii) The student has completed an English Language Learner or English Dialect Learner program, and as a result, the school board is requiring the student to transfer to their designated school. The student must transfer by the beginning of the school year following completion of the program and must provide documentation from the school board confirming completion of the English Language Learner or English Dialect Learner program and confirming the student has been placed in his/her designated school.
- (iv) The student has transferred to a French Language school and has a parent/guardian who is a rights holder or has been admitted to a French-language school pursuant to a school board admissions committee process. The French-language school shall provide evidence of their admission. **See note 10.**
- (d) (i) The student has transferred prior to their grade 10 year for exceptional personal, social or academic reasons. The appeal must be accompanied by documentation from the sending school's administration and/or independent sources to confirm the exceptional reasons. The student must attend the next closest school to their home residence if remaining in the same system. If changing systems, the student must attend the designated school according to school board boundaries (or the closest school to the student's home residence if no school boundaries exist). If the independent school is faith-based, the student must attend the closest independent school of that particular faith.
- (ii) The student has changed residence to live with a custodial parent for exceptional personal reasons or the student has changed residence to live with a new court-appointed legal guardian for exceptional personal reasons. Documentation showing that there was just cause for the move must accompany the appeal. The student must attend the designated school from any system (public, catholic, or independent) according to school board boundaries (or the closest school in the student's choice of school system to the student's home residence if no school boundaries exist). If the independent school is faith-based, the student must attend the closest independent school of that particular faith.
- (iii) The student has transferred to remove him/herself from an abusive home environment. Documentation detailing the abusive situation shall be provided by the applicant from the sending school, psychologists, social workers, medical doctor or police, as the case may be. (All documentation will be reviewed with respect to confidentiality.) The student must attend the designated school from any system (public, catholic, or independent) according to school board boundaries (or the closest school in the student's choice of school system to the student's home residence if no school boundaries exist). If the independent school is faith-based, the student must attend the closest independent school of that particular faith. **See note 6.**

- (iv) The student has been forced to leave an independent school specifically due to financial hardship. The appeal must include the following information: documentation confirming change in tuition fees; documentation regarding family requests for bursary assistance to meet financial hardship; documentation regarding significant changes in the financial situation of the family; and confirmation that the student will be attending the designated school in their home catchment area. The student must attend the next closest school to their home residence if remaining in the same system. If changing systems, the student must attend the designated school according to school board boundaries (or the closest school to the student's home residence if no school boundaries exist). If the independent school is faith-based, the student must attend the closest independent school of that particular faith.
- (v) The student was the victim of bullying and after attempts to resolve the issue the sending school agreed that it was in the best interests of the student to transfer schools. The appeal must be accompanied by the following information: documentation from the sending school's administration or the police, confirming the seriousness and frequency of the bullying, including a description of the incidents and dates; documentation from the sending school's administration describing the strategies put in place to resolve the bullying and the reasons the strategies did not succeed; and a letter from the sending school's administration in support of the transfer. The student must attend the next closest school to their home residence if remaining in the same system. If changing systems, the student must attend the designated school according to school board boundaries (or the closest school to the student's home residence if no school boundaries exist). If the independent school is faith-based, the student must attend the closest independent school of that particular faith.
- (vi) The student has transferred schools as a result of the recommendation of a regulated mental health professional with education and training to assess, diagnose, and treat mental health conditions (psychiatrist, psychologist, and/or clinical psychiatric nurse). Prior to transferring, the student must have been diagnosed with a mental health condition and be undergoing treatment by the regulated mental health professional. Documentation must be provided by the mental health professional confirming the student is receiving treatment and requires a change in schools to assist with their recovery. Unless otherwise confirmed in writing by the mental health professional, the student must attend the next closest school to their home residence if remaining in the same system. If changing systems, the students must attend the designated school according to school board boundaries (or is the closest school to the student's home residence if no school boundaries exist). If the independent school is faith-based, the student must attend the closest independent school of that particular faith.

Notwithstanding any of the above, no student may participate in the same sport for more than one school in the same League or municipality in the same school year unless the student is ruled eligible by the Federation's Transfers Committee under subsection (a) of the Transfer Policy. Participate means competing in exhibition games and invitational tournaments/events, not just league play.

Notes:

1. Once a student has changed schools he/she is considered a transfer student and even if he/she returns to a school, he/she must comply with the Transfer Policy.
2. The word "participate" in section (b) of the Transfer Policy means competing for your school in that activity. This includes exhibition games and invitational tournaments/events, not just league play.

3. The Transfers Committee will not consider as reasons for transfer:
 - (i) The relative ranking of schools or the differences in delivery of courses with the same Ministry course codes;
 - (ii) That a sport or team is no longer offered at the previous school.
4. Students moving from a school in a strike/lock-out area are ineligible for all sports played in the previous 12 months from their date of entry into the new school.
5. Students who attended an alternative school or alternative program who are returning to the school they attended prior to the alternative school or alternative program, are not considered transfer students provided they did not play sports while at the alternative school or alternative program.
6. Driving distance shall be used to determine the closest school to a student's home residence.
7. Students transferring from other provinces, states or countries are ineligible for OFSAA competition if they have graduated from high school or equivalent, or if they have used their years of athletic eligibility in the province, state or country from which they are transferring. This does not apply to students who have graduated in the previous school year from secondary school in Quebec, provided they meet one of the criteria for eligibility in sections a – d of the transfer policy.
8. When applying under section (a)(i), the student must provide evidence/documentation confirming that he/she and their immediate family are residing in a new permanent residence and that they have completely and permanently moved from the former residence. When applying under section d(ii) of the policy the student must provide evidence/documentation confirming that they are residing in a new permanent residence. In both cases, such evidence/documentation may include:
 - utility service operative at the new residence
 - utility service disconnected at the former residence
 - real estate documents indicating and verifying a change of residence (e.g., sale and purchase);
 - parents'/court-appointed guardians' property tax bill listing the new residence;
 - insurance slip for home and auto insurance;
 - school documentation showing that sibling(s) attend local elementary school and/or the same high school as the transferring student;
 - Any other documentation that is requested which establishes the student and his/her immediate family is living at the new residence.
 - For a(ii) only, students may provide documentation confirming they have been processed by the school board's assessment center.

Production of evidence/documentation described above does not guarantee eligibility.

9. Prep/elite teams fall into two categories: a **school prep/elite team** and a **non-school prep/elite team**. A school prep/elite team is a team that represents the school in competition and/or is under the oversight of the school administration. If a student participates for a **school prep/elite team**, and then that student transfers schools, he/she may not apply under section b (i), and he/she is considered to have participated in the prep/elite team sport at the interschool level if applying under section b (ii) or b(iii).
10. **Students must have transferred from an English-language school to a French-language school. A French-language school means a school within the French-language public district school board or a French-language separate district school board.**
11. Refugee students, arriving to Ontario, are not considered transfer students and are eligible for all sports within the first two years from their date of entry into school. Refugees are defined as those students who have been forced to leave their country to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED TO SUPPORT EACH APPEAL:

APPLYING UNDER	TIMETABLE	TRANSCRIPTS	*COURT ORDER	IPRC LETTER	*LETTERS OF EXPLANATION/ SUPPORT/ EVIDENCE	*PROOF OF GUARDIANSHIP	PROOF OF RESIDENCE/ MOVE (SEE NOTE 8)
Section (a) (i)						X	X
(ii)					X	X	X
(iii)	X	X					
(iv)	X	X			X		
Section (c) (i)	X	X		X			
(ii)	X	X			X		
(iii)	X	X			X		X
(iv)	X	X			X		
Section (d) (i)	X	X			X		
(ii)	X	X	X		X	X	X
(iii)	X	X			X		
(iv)	X	X			X		
(v)	X	X			X		
(vi)	X	X			X		
Section b(i)(ii) or (iii)	CONFIRMATION FROM OFFICIAL AT PREVIOUS SCHOOL OF SPORTS PLAYED						
All Sections	Letters denying eligibility from previous appeals						

* If applicable (court document required). Any other pertinent documents are welcome.

*a(iv)-letter of support must be validated from a senior administrator of the school board.

To the best of my knowledge the above information is accurate. Any student submitting falsified information will be deemed ineligible for twenty-four (24) months from the date of transfer.

Signature of Student

Signature of School Official

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Name & Title of School Official