

# **CIF/CENTRAL COAST SECTION**

## **FOREIGN STUDENT ELIGIBILITY BULLETIN**

students who are transferring from a foreign country without valid change of residence of their entire family

This Bulletin contains information pertaining to the residential eligibility rules for students transferring **FROM** anywhere outside of the U.S., a U.S. Territory, a U.S. Military Base or Canada **TO** a CIF member school without a valid change of residence of the student's entire family.

Students who transfer from a foreign country as described above have residential eligibility according to the following:

### **CIF BYLAWS, ARTICLE 2**

#### **209. FOREIGN STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

##### **A. Foreign Exchange Students**

###### **(1) Definition of a Foreign Exchange Student**

a. A foreign exchange student is an international student who attends high school in the United States and is enrolled in a foreign exchange program per the conditions in 209.A.(2)a.-d.

###### **(2) Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics in the United States:

a. Such student must be under the auspices of, and be placed with a United States host family by, an international student exchange program that has been:

- (i) Accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET); AND
- (ii) Approved by the CIF; AND
- (iii) Recognized by the U.S. State Department and the California Attorneys' General Office; AND

**NOTE:** A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and his/her parents, and to the host family.

###### **b. INPUT ABOUT SCHOOL PLACEMENT**

Neither the school the student attends, nor any person associated with the school, shall have input into the selection of the student; AND

###### **c. HOST FAMILIES**

It is recommended that no member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, serve as the host family; AND

###### **d. J-1 VISA REQUIREMENT**

A foreign exchange student must possess a current J-1 visa, issued by the U.S. State Department; AND

###### **e. ELIGIBLE UNDER ALL OTHER RULES**

A foreign exchange student must comply with all eligibility requirements set forth by the CIF and the CIF Section having jurisdiction; AND

###### **f. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY STATUS WHEN ENROLLED IN A PROGRAM IN VIOLATION OF CIF APPROVAL CRITERIA**

A foreign exchange student involved in an approved foreign exchange program where placement is not in accordance with State CIF conditions for exempt status is subject to loss of his/her residential eligibility (waiver of the transfer rule); AND

###### **g. STUDENT WHO HAS GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL**

A foreign exchange student who graduated from high school is ineligible to participate in CIF competition, unless the educational program in the student's country completes high school (graduation) after the student's 10th or 11th year of regular schooling (not including pre-school or kindergarten classes), in which case the student may have CIF athletic eligibility through the 12th consecutive year of regular school attendance after initially enrolling in the first grade (not pre-school or kindergarten classes); AND

h. **MAXIMUM 8-SEMESTERS OF SCHOOLING**

A foreign exchange student participating in a CIF approved foreign exchange program must comply with the maximum of eight consecutive semesters bylaw. A foreign exchange student who is not in compliance with the eight consecutive semesters bylaw may apply for a waiver under the bylaws established by the State CIF and the respective CIF Section of the student's current CIF school; AND

i. **ALL OTHER ELIGIBILITY RULES**

A foreign exchange student must be eligible under all other CIF and Section bylaws.

(3) **Waivers of CIF Transfer Bylaws**

A student who participates in an interscholastic athletic contest or is enrolled in and/or attends a school for 15 school days or more shall be considered to have been "enrolled" in that school and shall be classified as a transfer student if the student subsequently enrolls at another school.

A waiver of the transfer bylaw may be granted to a foreign exchange student in accordance with the following:

a. **Pre-enrollment Contact Affidavit for Foreign Exchange Students**

All foreign students in CIF approved foreign exchange programs shall submit the appropriate waiver application(s) as required by their respective CIF Section under Bylaw 206 with a CIF Pre-enrollment Contact Affidavit (CIF Form 510) signed by the student and a host parent (part 1), and the enrolling school official(s). Foreign students in CIF approved foreign exchange programs need not obtain signatures of officials from their former school; AND

b. **Approved Foreign Exchange Programs**

Upon written application, a waiver of the transfer rule may be granted to students in approved foreign exchange programs, provided the student has been placed with a host family in compliance with this bylaw and CIF Bylaw 510 (undue influence). The student will have the choice of attending either:

- (i) The public school in the host family's public school attendance area; OR
- (ii) A private school located in the host family's public school attendance area. To gain residential eligibility at any other school, the student must receive written approval from both the principal of the public school located in the host family's attendance area and the principal of the other school; OR
- (iii) In the event of a change of placement by the CIF approved foreign exchange program, a different public school or private school with written approval from the principal of the new school.

c. **CIF-approved Foreign Exchange Programs:**

- (i) An approved foreign exchange program that fails to fulfill the State CIF conditions for exempt status shall be subject to immediate suspension of its exempt status and subject to permanent loss of its exempt status after due process has been fulfilled.

Academic Foundation for International Cultural Exchange - AFICE	Face the World Foundation
AFS - USA, Inc.	Foundation for Worldwide International Student Exchange - WISE
American Councils for International Education	Global Insights
ACTR/ACCELS	
American Institute for Foreign Study - AIFS	International Student Exchange
American Intercultural Student Exchange	IntoEdVentures – EV-USA
American Scholastic Associates International, Inc - ASAI	Learning and Achievement Foundation
American Secondary Schools for International Students and Teachers - ASSIST (Private Schools Only)	NorthWest Student Exchange
Aspect Foundation	Organization for Cultural Exchange Among Nations – OCEAN
ASSE International Student Exchange Program	Pacific Intercultural Exchange – PIE
AYUSA International	Rotary Yes/Scanex
Center for Cultural Interchange	STS Foundation
Council for Educational Travel, USA - CETUSA	Student American International
Council on International Educational Exchange - CIEE	Terra Lingua USA
Cultural Academic Student Exchange - CASE	World Experience
Cultural Homestay International - CHI	World Heritage

**Revised May 24, 2007.** Any programs approved after this date will be posted on the State CIF web site ([www.cifstate.org](http://www.cifstate.org)).

**NOTE:** Only foreign exchange programs registered with the California Attorneys General office and the U.S. State Department may place foreign exchange students in a California School (Government Code Section 12620 et seq.). The list above reflects the list approved by both the CIF and those registered with the California Attorney General, Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and the U.S. State Department. No other exchange programs will be recognized by the CIF as approved exchange programs for 2007-08.

**B. All Other International Transfer Students**

**(1) International Student Eligibility Requirements**

An international student who is not under the auspices of, and placed by, a CSIET listed exchange program must meet the following requirements in order to be considered for interscholastic athletic eligibility:

- a. The student must possess a current F-1 visa, issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service; AND
- b. The student must provide to the principal of the school he/she attends an official untranslated transcript and a transcript that is translated into English, by an acceptable agency, which indicates work taken in all grades in which the student was enrolled; AND
- c. The international student must pay tuition to the school/school district he/she attends as prescribed in Education Code Section 48052 et seq.; AND
- d. It is recommended that no member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, serve as the resident family for the student.

(2) The CIF Section must approve any other international transfer student's eligibility. See below

**(3) Pre-enrollment Contact Affidavit for International Students**

All international transfer students not in CIF-approved foreign exchange programs shall submit a fully completed CIF Pre-enrollment Contact Affidavit (CIF Form 510) with the appropriate waiver application(s), as required by their respective CIF Section under Bylaw 207.

**(4) Appeals**

Appeals of eligibility involving international students should be in accordance with Bylaw 1100.

(2) The CIF Section must approve any other international transfer student's eligibility.

**CCS RESIDENTIAL FOREIGN TRANSFER ATHLETIC  
ELIGIBILITY POLICY**

**FOREIGN STUDENTS NOT ENROLLED IN A CIF APPROVED FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM WHO HAVE  
NOT MADE A VALID CHANGE OF RESIDENCE WITH THEIR ENTIRE FAMILY**

**USE CIF/CCS FORM 207—attached**

ALSO SUBMIT [COMPLETED CIF/CCS FORM 510 PRE-ENROLLMENT CONTACT AFFIDAVIT](#)

Foreign students who are transferring from outside the U.S. a U.S. Territory, a U.S. Military Base or Canada and who are not affiliated with a CIF-approved foreign exchange program as identified in CIF Bylaw 209, HAVE NO RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY (no frosh/soph, jv or varsity eligibility). Request for waivers granting residential eligibility will be considered under the following provisions:

1. Demonstration and substantiation of a hardship as described in CIF Hardship Bylaw 208 (See below)  
OR
2. The transfer student comes from a country which has no access to ANY foreign exchange program (use [CCS Form 209 FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT APPLICATION](#) & [CIF/CCS FORM 510 PRE-ENROLLMENT CONTACT AFFIDAVIT](#))  
OR

3. The transfer student enrolls in a CCS member high school under a formal “sister city” program that can be documented to have been formalized through the cities involved not for the purpose of athletic participation. Should a city have more than one high school, the student in the sister city program shall only be eligible at the school in whose attendance area, his/her host family resides unless a hardship can be documented meeting the criteria in 2.F- Family Hardships that applies to his/her need to attend a different school in that same city.  
(Use [CCS Form 209 FOREIGN EXCHANGE APPLICATION](#) & [CIF/CCS FORM 510](#))

### **CIF BYLAW 208. HARDSHIP WAIVERS**

The California Interscholastic Federation recognizes that, in certain circumstances, students may transfer from one school to another due to a compelling need or situation beyond a student’s control. In such cases the Section may waive the transfer limitation imposed on a student when the case meets the definition of a hardship. (See A. below.) Consideration of any hardship request under this bylaw requires documented proof of the hardship circumstance, and all facts to be considered must be submitted at the time of application. Consideration will be given to those situations in which there is no evidence of athletic motivation, undue influence, pending disciplinary action or falsification of information (See also Bylaw 202).

- A. A hardship is defined as an unforeseeable, unavoidable and uncorrectable act, condition or event that causes the imposition of a severe and non-athletic burden upon the student or his/her family. Sections may only waive the transfer limitation if the conditions of hardship are met, and there is sufficient documentation to support the hardship claim. Sections may not waive the applicable rule if the conditions of hardship are not met.
- B. Consideration of any hardship request to a Section requires documentation. Such documents may include, but not be limited to copies of current transcripts, financial documents, medical statements and/or supportive statements from the previous school attended.

Also see [CIF Bylaw 208 Q & A’s](#) located in the 2007-2008 CIF Bylaws or on their web page at [www.cifstate.org](http://www.cifstate.org)

**RETURN APPROPRIATE COMPLETED FORMS VIA REGULAR U.S MAIL**

**TO: Nancy Lazenby Blaser, CCS Commissioner  
6830 Via Del Oro, Suite 103  
San Jose CA 95119**