1. A student’s eligibility for interscholastic athletics shall be in the public school district of the parent’s domicile. The AAA recognizes only one domicile for eligibility. A change in domicile consists of a complete and bona fide move from one domicile to another.

2. A student may meet the domicile requirement at another AAA member school after attending said member school for one calendar year (365 days from initial enrollment).
3. A student shall also meet the domicile requirement if the student receives a legal transfer (school board to school board) from one public school to another. Board to board transfers must take place by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-10.

4. For eligibility purposes, all transfers must take place by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-10 and require that CSAP forms be signed.

5. Students transferring after July 1 prior to entering the 10th grade year shall not be eligible for one calendar year (365 days) unless there is a complete and bona fide move from one public school district into the public school district that the student will be attending.

6. Any student who attended a public school district that has been consolidated or annexed by Act 60 of the 2003 Extraordinary Session and is approved for attendance under school choice in another school district shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities under the transfer rule providing they apply for school choice by July 1 of the calendar year in which their resident district files notice of annexation or consolidation.

Complete and Bona Fide Change of Domicile

Under the domicile rule, a complete (total) and bona fide change of domicile (move in good faith) shall occur when a student’s parent(s) abandons their former home as a domicile and makes a permanent move into a home that is their sole domicile in another school district/attendance zone. A change of domicile shall be made with the intent that it is permanent.

Two legal domiciles shall not be allowed for eligibility purposes under the complete and bona fide change of domicile rule.

A change of domicile for the purpose of creating interscholastic athletic eligibility shall not be considered a complete and bona fide change of domicile and the student shall be declared ineligible at all AAA schools for one (1) calendar year.
Under the domicile rule, when a complete and bona fide change of domicile is made, the student may remain at the AAA school he/she has been attending and shall retain his/her eligibility, if he/she has been in attendance at the school for at least one (1) calendar year and has not enrolled in another school during this time.

Determination of what constitutes a complete and bona fide change of domicile shall depend upon the facts of each case, but in order for a change of domicile to be considered complete and bona fide at least the following facts shall exist:

1. The original domicile shall be abandoned as a domicile. It shall be either sold, in the process of being sold, or rented to a non-family member on a long-term lease (1 year).
2. It shall not be used as a domicile by any member of the family.
3. If the original domicile is not in the process of being openly advertised for sale or rent, the family shall have all the utilities disconnected in this domicile.
4. The parent(s) shall take all personal belongings, household goods, and furniture unless the original domicile is rented furnished and a legal lease agreement shall state exact furniture/items to remain in the domicile.
5. The parent(s) shall change their mailing address to the new address, assess property in the new district, register to vote in the new district, change all records to the new address, secure insurance covering property at the new address, place utilities in their name at the new address, register automobiles and/or boats at the new address, change their drivers license to the new address, stop mail delivery at the previous address, and completely abandon their relationship to the previous domicile.
Transfers

Same Sport Season:
A student changing schools for any reason who has been a member of
an athletic team may not participate in the same sport at the receiving
school during the same defined sport season.

CSAP Forms

1. A Changing Schools/Athletic Participation (CSAP) document
stating that the student was not recruited and did not change
schools for athletic purposed must signed PRIOR TO
PARTICIPATION by:
   a. The superintendent or designated adm of the previous school
   b. The superintendent or designated adm of the new school
   c. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s), witnessed by the new
      (receiving) school’s adm or a notary public.

2. CSAP forms may only be used for eligibility of public school
students and boarding school students who are enrolled in the
receiving school by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-10
A student meeting all eligibility requirements except the transfer requirements shall be eligible to participate in junior varsity competition as long as the JV CSAP form is signed by both school administrations before the student participates interscholastically.

**JUNIOR/SUB-VARSITY CSAP FORM**

**ATHLETIC RELEASE FORM**
Return to Resident District

A student who transfers back to the public school district of his parent's domicile within the first eleven days of the fall or the spring semester of that district shall become eligible after attending one day of classes if the student would not be in violation of the Same Sport Season rule.

Public Charter School

For athletic eligibility purposes, a public charter school student must be enrolled by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-10 and requires that CSAP forms be signed. Students enrolling after July 1 prior to entering the 10th grade shall not be eligible for one calendar year (365 days).

Home School

In accordance with ACT 1469 of 2013, a home school student shall be given the opportunity to try out for an athletic or non-athletic competitive activity or team in their resident public school district if the following criteria are met:

1. Inform the principal of the resident school district in writing of their request to participate in the interscholastic activity before the signup, tryout, or participation deadlines established for students enrolled in the resident school district.

2. Inform the principal in the request that the student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining: a minimum test score of the thirtieth percentile on The Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally recognized norm-referenced test in the previous (12) months, or a minimum score on a test approved by the State Board of Education.
3. In order to be eligible to participate, the student must be enrolled within the first (11) days of the fall or spring semester.

4. Meets the same requirements as enrolled students in regards to practice times, required drug testing, permission slips, waivers, physical exams, and participation fees.

5. The student cannot be required to be enrolled in more than (1) period per school day.

6. Be transported by the resident school district to and from interscholastic activities as the resident school district transports other students who are enrolled in the resident school district.

7. If the student withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association member school to be home-schooled, the student shall not participate in an interscholastic activity in the resident school district for a minimum of (365) days after the student withdraws from the member school.

House Bill 1474:

A home-schooled student may participate in interscholastic activities at a public school other than the home-schooled student’s resident public school by mutual agreement between the resident public school and any other public school where the home-schooled student wishes to participate.

1. The home-schooled student may participate in an interscholastic activity that is not an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate.

2. The home-schooled student may participate in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity one (1) calendar year after being approved to participate.

3. The home-schooled student may begin participating in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate if the home-schooled student is approved to participate by July 1 of the school year the home-schooled student will be enrolled in the 7th grade.
Home School

House Bill 1481:
A home-schooled student may participate in interscholastic activities at private schools if:
1. The home-schooled student lives within a twenty-five mile radius of the private school.
2. If the home-schooled student is enrolled at the private school for at least one (1) period per school day.
3. The home-schooled student may begin participating in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate if the home-schooled student is approved to participate by July 1 of the school year the home-schooled student will be enrolled in the (A) the 7th grade, (B) the lowest grade offered by the private school.

Eligibility in Other Situations

Foreign Student Eligibility:
A foreign student attending an AAA member school may be eligible for competitive interscholastic participation for a maximum of one school year or two consecutive semesters under ONE, but not both, of the following circumstances.

A foreign student who holds a valid J-1 Visa and who is in a recognized exchange program must meet all eligibility rules except the domicile requirement, which shall be waived the first year of school attendance in the United States. Recognized exchange programs are those listed for the current year on the Council of Standards for International Education Travel (CSIET) Advisory List. Such students shall be eligible for only one school year beginning with their initial enrollment.
F-1 VISA

A foreign student who holds a valid F-1 Visa and who attends an AAA member school shall not be eligible for interscholastic competitive participation until he meets the domicile rule requirement established after attending said member school for one calendar year (365 days from initial enrollment). Such students shall be eligible for only the next two consecutive semesters. The student must also meet all other eligibility requirements.

Legal Adoption

A student legally adopted and attending school in the district in which his adoptive parents reside meets the domicile requirement.

Parental Custody

A student whose parents are divorced or legally separated meets the domicile requirement in the district in which the parent having primary custody resides.

In the case of joint custody, the student is eligible in the district of the parent with whom the student is living at the beginning of the school year.
Arkansas Virtual Academy

The eligibility for interscholastic athletics and activities for students of Arkansas Virtual Academy shall be in the public school district of the parent's domicile provided the student meets all AAA eligibility rules with the exception of the bona fide student rule.

Transfers Involving Non-public or Non-member Schools

1. A student transferring from a public school to a non-public school may meet the domicile requirement and be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletic participation at the second non-public school if the student enrolls by July 1 before entering the 7th grade. When a non-public school does not offer enrollment for grades 7 and/or 8, the student may become immediately eligible by enrolling by July 1 prior to the lowest grade offered by that school provided the CSAP form is signed. Students enrolling in a non-public school after the period provided for immediate eligibility above shall be ineligible for 365 days.

2. After July 1 prior to entering the 7th grade, a student whose parents live outside a 25-mile radius of a non-public school must make a complete and bona fide move to within a 25-mile radius of the school that the student will attend to become eligible.

From Public to Non-public School

1. A student transferring from a public school to a non-public school may meet the domicile requirement and be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletic participation at the second non-public school if the student enrolls by July 1 before entering the 7th grade. When a non-public school does not offer enrollment for grades 7 and/or 8, the student may become immediately eligible by enrolling by July 1 prior to the lowest grade offered by that school provided the CSAP form is signed. Students enrolling in a non-public school after the period provided for immediate eligibility above shall be ineligible for 365 days.

2. After July 1 prior to entering the 7th grade, a student whose parents live outside a 25-mile radius of a non-public school must make a complete and bona fide move to within a 25-mile radius of the school that the student will attend to become eligible.
1. A student transferring from one non-public school to another non-public school may meet the domicile requirement and be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletic participation at the second non-public school if the student enrolls by July 1 before entering the 7th grade. When a non-public school does not offer enrollment for grades 7 and/or 8, the student may become immediately eligible by enrolling by July 1 prior to the lowest grade offered by that school provided the CSAP form is signed. Students enrolling in a non-public school after the period provided for immediate eligibility above shall be ineligible for 365 days.

2. After July 1 prior to entering the 7th grade, a student whose parents live outside a 25-mile radius of a non-public school must make a complete and bona fide move to within a 25-mile radius of the school that the student will attend to become eligible.

From Non-Member to AAA Member School

1. A student attending a non-member school (including a homeschooled student) who returns to the public school district of his parents’ domicile shall become eligible immediately after attending one day of classes.

2. A student meets the domicile requirement upon transferring to a non-public member school if the student has attended one full year at the non-member school and if the transfer occurs by July 1 of that school year.
Bona Fide Student

A student participating in interscholastic activities must be a bona fide student of the school; a bona fide student is one who has not graduated from a high school and who is enrolled in and regularly attending at least four academic courses in the high school. These courses shall be from those identified in the Arkansas Department of Education Standards of Accreditation.

Dropouts

A student dropping out of or leaving school, suspended with no credit, or expelled from school at any time during a semester must re-establish eligibility by returning to an Arkansas Activities Association member school and meeting the scholarship requirements for one full semester.

If, however, the last semester attended was completed, eligibility shall be based on that semester.

Semesters

Junior High:
A student has six semesters of opportunity for eligibility. A student repeating either the seventh or eighth grade for any reason shall not have the opportunity for eligibility during the complete year that is repeated.

Senior High:
A student is limited to eight consecutive semesters of opportunity for eligibility beginning with the student’s first enrollment in the ninth grade (or earlier as defined in Rule 7, Age, Note).
**Age**

**Junior High:**
A junior high student is not eligible for junior high competition if the student’s 16th birthday is on or before August 1.

- **NOTE:** In the year a student in junior high school becomes too old for junior high participation, the student may be allowed to participate for the senior high if all other eligibility rules are met.

**Senior High:**
A senior high student is not eligible for interscholastic participation if the student’s 19th birthday is on or before August 1.

- **Rationale** – The age rule and the semester rule are both attempts to equalize competition among athletes in AAA member schools as well as to encourage athletes to graduate with their class.

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**Junior High Scholarship (Academics)**

A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets the academic eligibility (scholarship) requirements. A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets the academic eligibility requirements for the first semester.

The second semester eighth grade student and the first semester ninth grade student meet the academic eligibility requirements for junior high by successfully passing four (4) academic courses, as specified by the Arkansas Department of Education, the previous semester.
Junior High Scholarship (Academics)

First semester ninth grade students must pass four academic classes to be eligible second semester of the ninth grade.

Ninth grade students must meet senior high academic eligibility by the end of second semester in order to be eligible to participate the fall of their tenth grade year.

Senior High Scholarship (Academics)

The requirement for senior high (10-12) eligibility shall include:

• Passing four academic courses; and
• A minimum GPA of 2.0, based on the previous semester.

Ineligible Coaches

The use of any ineligible coach in any interscholastic contest will result in one or more of the following actions based upon facts and finds:

A. Forfeiture of the contest
B. The specific sport during which the ineligible coach was used will be placed on probation status for up to one (1) calendar year
C. The ineligible coach may be suspended from further competition and any activity as determined by the Executive Director
D. The school may be fined up to $500
Ineligible Coaches

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C. The ineligible coach may be suspended from further competition and any activity as determined by the Executive Director
D. The school may be fined up to $500

Penalty For Use of Ineligible Player

The use of any ineligible participant/student in any interscholastic contest will result in one or more of the following actions based upon the facts and findings:

A. Forfeiture of the contest
B. The specific sport during which the ineligible player was used will be placed on probation status for up to one (1) calendar year.
C. The ineligible participant/student may be suspended from further competition and any activity, as determined by the Executive Director.
D. The school may be fined up to $500.00

In determining the penalty concerning the use of an ineligible participant/student, the Executive Director may consider whether the participant/student had a significant impact on the game. What is a significant impact will vary with the sport and circumstances of the contest; however, such facts as follows will be among the items considered:

A. Amount of participation
B. Whether the ineligible participant/student scored points or participated in other plays that had an impact on the winning or losing of the game.
C. What the school could have or should have known
D. Whether a school self reports
Penalty For Use of Ineligible Player

If the ineligible participant/student has provided the school false information upon which the student was certified to have been eligible, a penalty against the school may be set aside or modified. However, in the cases of transfer students, where legitimate errors or omissions in the official school transcript as received are proved, such player must be withdrawn from participation upon discovery of the error without penalty to the school.

Ineligible players may not dress out for interscholastic competitions.

Ejections

A. A participant is prohibited from participation (ineligible) from the point of ejection plus:
   1. Football — next four (4) consecutive full quarters of comparable events.
   2. All other sports — next comparable event

B. Second offense in same season:
   1. Football – next eight consecutive full quarters of comparable events.
   2. All other sports – next two comparable events.

C. Third offense in same season: Prohibited from participation for the remainder of same sport season and school placed on probation or warning. If there are fewer than 3 comparable games remaining in the season, the prohibition of participation carries over to the next same sport season to total at least 3 games.

Ejections

Comparable event is defined as an event that has already been scheduled and is at the same level of competition (Varsity, JV, Girls, Boys). Comparable events may be events for the following same sport season.

NOTE 1: Ejected student-athletes may attend but may not participate in the next comparable event while serving the ejection penalty.

NOTE 2: Ejected coaches may not be present at the next comparable event venue or perform any coaching duties during the comparable event while serving the ejection penalty.
**Ejection Appeal**

An appeal of ejection must be filed through the school’s authorized representative in writing on the ejection appeal form to the Executive Director. The Executive Director or designee will review the video on the next business day after the appeal is filed. A ruling on the appeal will be made within three business days of the filing. The ruling of the Executive Director or designee is final and may not be appealed to the Board of Directors. All periods of ineligibility (suspensions) remain in effect until such time that a ruling is rendered by the Executive Director or designee in writing. The school’s authorized representative must also provide video or access to the video specific to the ejection. Video from outside sources may be utilized but must be submitted through the school’s authorized representative. Submitted video should include only clips specific to the ejection. Full game films submitted will not be reviewed.

**Ejection Appeal Video Review**

- Only video involving an ejection may be reviewed.
- Reviewable ejections are limited to physical actions.
- Video review may be used to properly identify and eject the participant in a situation where it is possible that misidentification occurred.
- Video review may be used to properly identify participants in situations involving multiple participants involved in a fight, confrontation or ejection where circumstances prevent accurate reporting of the individuals involved. This could include identifying and ejecting individuals not previously identified or reported, including contest participants, non-participants, or coaches who enter the playing area during the incident.
- Video review may be used to assess the level of involvement in an incident.
- Video review must provide indisputable evidence to overturn the ejection.

**Recruitment**

**Rule 3. RECRUITMENT**

A. Recruitment of students or attempted recruiting of students for athletic purposes, regardless of their residence, is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of the AAA By-Laws and is expressly prohibited.

B. “Athletic recruiting” is defined as the use of undue influence and/or special inducement by anyone connected directly or indirectly with an AAA member school in an attempt to encourage, induce, pressure, urge or entice a prospective student of any age to transfer to or retain a student at a school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

C. Recruiting for athletic purposes is not only a violation by the student who has been recruited, but is also a violation by the school and/or the school personnel who recruited the student. It is a violation to recruit for athletic purposes regardless of a student’s age or grade level. If proof is established that a school has secured an athlete under any of the conditions set forth in this section, the superintendent shall be required to appear before the Executive Committee and the Executive Director to answer the allegations against his/her school and the student(s) is automatically ineligible to participate in athletics for at least one calendar year.
Recruitment

D. If a student, parent, or any person regarding a student athlete transferring to a district contacts a coach or teacher, they must be referred to a school administrator immediately. A coach shall refrain from making any comments or gestures regarding a student athlete transferring to the district and participating in athletics.

E. A coach may not contact or be contacted by a student or the student’s parents prior to enrollment in the school. If a student is to attend a camp, clinic, or tryout or participate on a non-school team with a school or school coach other than his or her domicile school, the student must have written permission from the coach and administrator of both schools using the AAA’s Athletic Release Form.

F. It shall be a violation of this rule for a student athlete to receive or be offered remuneration or special inducement of any kind that is not made available to all applicants who apply to or enroll in the school.

G. A student transferring from one AAA member school to another may be ruled ineligible for one calendar year from the date of enrollment because of “undue influence” if it is determined that a coach, including non-faculty, of the receiving school coached an out-of-school team on which the athlete played; or it is determined the coach, including non-faculty, at the receiving school acted as a private athletic instructor for the transferring athlete, regardless of whether the coach was paid for his/her services and/or expertise.

H. The penalties for illegal recruiting of students may be one or more of the following:

1. The school may be placed on probation in the sport(s) in which the violation occurred.
2. The school may be fined not to exceed $1,000 and billed for the cost of any investigation related to the violation.
3. The school may be required to forfeit any contest(s) in which the student participated after the violation as determined by the executive director.
4. A student found to be recruited in violation of this rule may be ineligible to participate in athletics for up to one calendar year (365 days).
5. A coach or other licensed school personnel may be subject to a complaint for a violation of the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators.
6. Other penalties may be imposed on the school to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

I. Guidelines

Evidence of undue influence or special inducement of a student or the parents or guardians of a student by anyone connected directly or indirectly with an AAA member school includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Offer or acceptance of money or other valuable considerations such as free or reduced tuition during the regular school year and/or summer school.
2. Offer or acceptance of room, board, clothing, or financial allocation for clothing.
3. Offer or acceptance of pay for work that is not performed or is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service.
4. Offer or acceptance of employment or assistance in securing employment or contractual arrangement of any kind for which compensation may be paid for the parents/guardian in order to entice the parent/guardian to move to a certain community. It makes no difference who makes the offer. The school is guilty because it plans to use the student to build a stronger team.
Recruitment

5. Offer or acceptance of a residence
6. Offer or acceptance of free or reduced rent for parents’ or student’s housing, vehicles or other items.
7. Offer or acceptance of cash or like items, such as credit cards, debit cards, gift cards, gift certificates or coupons.
8. Offer or acceptance of gift of clothing, equipment, merchandise or other tangible items.
9. Offer or acceptance of loans or assistance in securing a loan of any kind.
10. Offer or acceptance of free transportation by any school connected person.
11. Offer or acceptance of a privilege(s) not afforded to other students.
12. Offer or acceptance of payment for moving expenses of parent(s) or assisting parent(s) with a move.
13. Offer or acceptance of help in securing a college athletic scholarship.
14. Offer or acceptance of free admission to AAA interscholastic activities in which the school is participating where an admission is being charged.
15. Offer or acceptance of payments of fees to take the ACT and/or SAT examinations.
16. Offer or acceptance of any other privileges or consideration made to induce or influence the student to transfer from one school to another because of his/her athletic ability.

J. Other inducements or attempts to encourage a prospective student to attend a school for the purpose of participating in athletics, even when special remuneration/inducement is not given, shall be a violation. It shall be a violation for a school to offer and/or grant special favors, privileges or inducements of any kind including payment of fees to a student-athlete(s) under any circumstances not offered and/or granted to a non-student-athlete(s) who attends the school.

Recruitment

8. Members of the school’s alumni association
9. Any independent person, business, or organization acting at the request or direction of the school to include students, parents, junior high coaches, former students, and other such individuals
10. Any independent person, business, or organization that is otherwise involved in promoting the school’s interscholastic athletic program
11. Any independent person, business, or organization that is representative of the school’s athletic interests when a member of the school’s administration or athletic department staff knows or should know that the person, business, or organization is promoting the school’s interscholastic athletic program
12. Any independent person, business, or organization that makes financial or in-kind contributions to the athletic department or to an athletic booster organization of that school
13. Any independent person, business, or organization that contributes money to a school that is used to provide legal financial assistance to a student-athlete attending the school.
Specifically prohibited contact by school employees, athletic department staff members, and representatives of the school's athletic interests with a student who does not attend that school includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Visiting or entertaining the student or any of his/her relatives in an attempt to pressure, urge, or entice the student to attend the school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
2. Sending, or arranging for anyone else to send, any form of written or electronic communication to the student or any of his/her relatives, in an attempt to pressure, urge, or entice the student to attend the school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
3. Suggesting or going along with any effort by any person, whether a school employee or other representative of the school's athletic interests, or any other person such as an alumnus of the school, a coach or other person affiliated with a non-school athletic program (e.g., AAU team, club team, travel team, recreational league team, etc.), a coach of or recruiter for a collegiate athletic team, or a scout for a professional team, to pressure, urge, or entice the student to attend the school to participate in interscholastic athletics, or to direct or place the student at the school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
4. Making a presentation or distributing any form of advertisement, commercial or material that promotes primarily or exclusively the school's athletic program or implies the school's athletic program is better than the athletic program of any other school or suggests that the student's athletic career would be better served by attending that school.
5. Answering an inquiry by the student or any of his/her relatives about athletic participation opportunities at the school with any response that pressures, urges or entices the student to attend that school. The student or his/her relatives instead should be immediately referred to the principal.
6. Providing transportation to the student or any of his/her relatives to visit the school, to take an entrance examination for the school, to participate in an athletic tryout at the school, or to meet with a school employee, athletic department staff member or other representative or the school's athletic interests as part of an effort to pressure, urge to facilitate the student's attendance at that school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
7. A coach may not contact or be contacted by a student or the student's parents prior to enrollment in the school.
8. School-connected individuals shall refrain from statements to prospective students athletes such as, “we would like to have you play for us,” “you would look good in our uniform,” “you could make a difference for our team,” etc. These types of statements are not normal or appropriate and could be considered recruitment.
9. Any prospective student or parent/guardian who visits an AAA member school may only meet with the school's administration or guidance counselor. Athletic directors and coaches, paid or voluntary, may not conduct tours of school facilities.

NOTE: This rule attempts to provide a thorough explanation of the AAA recruiting rule. While there are many examples involved, this rule does not cover every conceivable example of recruiting.
Recruitment

K. The following individuals shall be considered school-connected:

1. Employees of the school, including but not limited to the superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, assistant principal(s), athletic director(s), guidance counselor(s), faculty coaches, and teachers

2. Non-faculty coaches (paid or voluntary) that coach any sport at the school

3. A student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program, such as a team manager, student trainer, etc., at that school

4. The parents, guardians, or other relative of a student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school

5. Relatives of a coach or other member of the athletic department staff at that school

6. A volunteer worker in that school or that school's athletic program

7. Members of the school’s athletic booster club(s)