



March 8, 2021

Mr. Blain Novak
Board President, Minnesota High School League
2100 Freeway Boulevard
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Via electronic delivery: bnovak@nymills.k12.mn.us

Dear Mr. Novak,

We are writing to request the MSHL Board, at its earliest opportunity, waive the rules pertaining to student transfer eligibility for the current and upcoming school year.

Since last March, under the Governor's emergency powers and in response to the pandemic, the landscape of education, and high school extracurricular activities has been dramatically altered in ways neither administrators, parents, nor students could possibly appreciate as we began this now near year-long process.

While the transfer rule is intended to preserve the integrity of athletic competition, the new landscape requires accommodation. Parents and students have been forced to make choices to find the learning model and educational setting best suited to the needs of the child. Students seeking the most appropriate learning model, should not then be punished through a rule that could not possibly envision the type of upheaval our schools and families would see this past year.

As you know, in general, the transfer rule is one year from the first day of attendance. If a student transferred in October 2020, they would be ineligible for varsity competition at the new school until October 2021. If the student transfers back to their original school in September 2021, the student would then be subject to another year of ineligibility for varsity sports.

Under these rules, students could miss two years of varsity athletic competition, which is so important for many athletes physical and mental health. Students have already had so many disruptions to their lives this past year. Please waive the transfer rules for these two school years so students can have the benefits of athletic competition.

We are not asking for a permanent revocation or change to these rules, but for a temporary waiver that will allow our students to regain some sense of normalcy and community. As you know the NCAA has already taken a similar step, by allowing all transfers to retain eligibility for men's and women's basketball in the 2020-21 season.

We look forward to your prompt consideration of this request and we look forward to your favorable response. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Rep. Kristin Robbins

Rep. Heather Edelson

Rep. Sondra Erickson

Rep. John Hout

Rep. Ron Kresha

Cc: Erich Martens, Executive Director (EMartens@mshsl.org)