



2026

**Annual Ballot
Background
Information**

2026 MSHSAA ANNUAL BALLOT

TALLY SHEET FOR PREPARATION ONLY: ACTUAL VOTING TAKES PLACE ONLINE

PROPOSAL 1	Coach and Director Requirements	Yes	No
To be voted on by:	All member schools	()	()
PROPOSAL 2	Transfer Exception for Children of Active-Duty Military Personnel	Yes	No
To be voted on by:	All member schools	()	()
PROPOSAL 3	Transfer Exception for Children of Non-Resident Parent Educator	Yes	No
To be voted on by:	All member schools	()	()
PROPOSAL 4	Transfer Exception for Refugee/Political Asylum Students	Yes	No
To be voted on by:	All member schools	()	()
PROPOSAL 5	Non-School Competition Exception	Yes	No
To be voted on by:	All member schools	()	()
PROPOSAL 6	Cooperative Sponsorship Allowance	Yes	No
To be voted on by:	All member schools	()	()
PROPOSAL 7	Team Tennis Jamboree Allowance	Yes	No
To be voted on by:	All member combined and high schools registered for Tennis	()	()
PROPOSAL 8	Speech and Debate Additional Contest After April 1	Yes	No
To be voted on by:	All member combined and high schools registered for Speech and Debate	()	()
PROPOSAL 9	Speech and Debate Start Time	Yes	No
To be voted on by:	All member combined and high schools registered for Speech and Debate	()	()
PROPOSAL 10	Scholar Bowl Contest Limitations	Yes	No
To be voted on by:	All member schools registered for Scholar Bowl	()	()
PROPOSAL 11	Dance Team Contest Limitations	Yes	No
To be voted on by:	All member schools registered for Dance	()	()

2026 MSHSAA ANNUAL BALLOT

ANNUAL BALLOT: The purpose of this ballot is to offer amendments to the MSHSAA Constitution and By-Laws that have been proposed through the MSHSAA advisory committee process and/or have been proposed by the Board of Directors. **PROPOSAL FORMATTING:** Underlined wording represents wording that would be added to the by-law. Wording that has been stricken (~~example~~) represents wording that would be removed. Wording in **boldface** is being emphasized. The symbol (...) indicates that there is standing by-law language in the Official Handbook that has been excluded from the proposal in an effort to save space, but which is *not directly related* to the issue at hand.

This ballot must be completed by the **PRINCIPAL OR SUPERINTENDENT**. **You are strongly urged to inform members of your staff who are engaged in the activity programs addressed by these ballot items and to get their input on those items that will affect their specific programs before you complete the ballot.** Please note that if your school is not within the membership category allowed to vote on a particular item, you will not be able to view that item on the website Ballot tool. Please refer to the Background Information to view all by-law wording. You are also encouraged to compare the proposed language to the current language in the MSHSAA Handbook. Thank you for your participation in this process.

Proposals, if passed, would become effective July 1 unless specifically noted in the Proposal and Background Information.

If you have COMMENTS regarding an item on the Ballot, please email them to: email@mshsaa.org. If you have a QUESTION, please call the MSHSAA office.

Run-time: Monday, April 13 to Friday, April 24

By-Laws – Sections 3 and 4 (1)

PROPOSAL 1 Coach/Director Requirements

To be voted on by: All member schools

Submitted by: Board of Directors

Effective date if passed: July 1, 2026

Required for passage: Simple majority

Applicable By-Law(s): 3.1 and 4.1

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact expected on MSHSAA. A fiscal impact may occur for member schools, similar to the costs associated with the current provisional assistant coach.

BACKGROUND: The proposal will maintain the recognition of individuals with a professional teacher's certificate as having the foundation of an education-based coach/director and only be required to maintain periodic training for health and safety topics.

The proposal will eliminate the coaching and directing categories of head, assistant, provisional, and student. All requirements to be a school coach or director will qualify an individual to be approved, regardless of the title or role. Head and assistant designations will be maintained within the website for communication and responsibility purposes. Please note, state statute could alter requirements.

The proposal would allow for individuals without a professional teacher's certificate to be approved as a coach/director at any level given completion of one-time course requirements over a 5-year period. **Individuals will be approved immediately each year provided the given year's requirements have been completed.**

Periodic Health & Safety Trainings (All may not apply to all activities or subsets of activities)

- Sports First Aid Training

- AED/CPR Training
- Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training
- Heat Illness Prevention/Recognition Training
- Concussion Training and review of current concussion information

One-Time Trainings to be Completed over the course of a few years (Alternative course evaluation and approval may be requested)

- NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course
- NFHS Coaching/Directing "Sport/Activity" Course for any sport/activity for which an individual will be coaching, if available
- NFHS Teaching Sports Skills Course
- NFHS Bullying, Hazing and Inappropriate Behavior Course
- NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior
- NFHS Protecting Students from Abuse
- NFHS Engaging Effectively with Parents Course
- NFHS Coaching Mental Wellness
- NFHS Adolescent Development: Centering Athlete Needs
- NFHS Developing Youth Through Sport

By-Laws:

3.1 ATHLETICS COACHING REQUIREMENTS

3.1.1 School Requirement to Contract an Athletics Coach: For each sport in which a school registers with MSHSAA, a school must contract at least one head coach who meets the requirements to be an approved for the head coach level, and the school must have the coach approved by MSHSAA. This requirement must be met prior to any interscholastic competition in that sport. This By-Law shall apply to both junior high and high schools.

3.1.2 (...)

3.1.3 (...)

3.1.4 Coach - Requirements and Approval: Prior to coaching, any athletic coach must meet the requirements ~~for the applicable "level" of coaching that is intended~~, be contracted by the school for the role, and must be approved by the MSHSAA office. Editor's Note: The MSHSAA approval process takes place on the membership side of the MSHSAA website. When completed, approval status for each athletic coach will appear on the school's "Coaches and Directors" page.

3.1.5 Coaching Levels and Minimum Requirements: ~~a. Head Coach – Minimum Requirements:~~ As per By-Law 3.1.1, each interscholastic team must have a ~~head~~ coach who meets the following requirements and who, then, may fill the duties and obligations of a ~~head~~ coach for the team, both under the sport rule code and in regard to the by-laws.

~~1. A Four-Year College Degree OR Serving as an Approved Assistant Coach (3.1.5.b) for a minimum of TWO school years.~~

~~2. A Professional Teacher's Certificate OR NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course (online) passed prior to coaching. This course is not sport-specific. This is a one-time requirement.~~

~~3. Successful completion of a Sports First Aid/CPR/AED training course prior to coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1)~~

a. An individual with a Professional Teacher's Certificate (includes all certifications recognized as professional by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) must:

1. ~~4.~~ Background Check including Sex-Offender's Registry Clearance prior to coaching.

2. ~~5.~~ Board of Education or Board of Governance Approval prior to coaching.

3. ~~6.~~ Successful completion of a Concussion in Sports Course, and review of current concussion information yearly.

4. ~~7.~~ Successful completion of the MSHSAA Sport-Specific Online Rules Review and Test each season.
 5. ~~8.~~ Successful completion of a Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention training prior to approval and renewed every two years.
 6. ~~9.~~ Successful completion of a course in Heat Illness Prevision/Recognition, which must be renewed every two years. **Editor's Note:** The free NFHSLearn.com training may be used or schools may select their own.
 7. ~~3.~~ Successful completion of a Sports First Aid/CPR/AED training course prior to coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1)
- b. All other individuals must complete one-time or biennial requirements prior to coaching as outlined below:
1. Background Check including Sex-Offender's Registry Clearance prior to coaching.
 2. Board of Education or Board of Governance Approval prior to coaching.
 3. Successful completion of a Concussion in Sports Course, and review of current concussion information yearly.
 4. Successful completion of the MSHSAA Sport-Specific Online Rules Review and Test each season.
 5. Successful completion of a Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention training prior to approval and renewed every two years.
 6. Successful completion of a course in Heat Illness Prevision/Recognition, which must be renewed every two years. **Editor's Note:** The free NFHSLearn.com training may be used or schools may select their own.
 7. Successful completion of a Sports First Aid/CPR/AED training course prior to coaching and renewed every two years.
 8. Assignment of a Mentor Coach/Administrator (3 years of experience or more) for a period of 3 years.
 9. Preseason meetings which include, but are not limited to, specific discussion of school policies, equipment responsibility, behavior expectations, procedures to follow in case of an emergency, etc. is satisfactorily completed.
 10. In-season meetings to discuss athlete or parent interactions
 11. Post season meetings to evaluate coaching experience
 12. Prior to the **first year's season** of coaching, the following must be completed:
 - i. NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course
 - ii. NFHS Coaching "Sport" Course for any sport for which an individual will be coaching, if available
 13. Prior to the **second year** of coaching, the following must be completed:
 - i. NFHS Teaching Sports Skills Course
 - ii. NFHS Bullying, Hazing and Inappropriate Behavior Course
 14. Prior to the **third year** of coaching, the following must be completed:
 - i. NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior
 - ii. NFHS Protecting Students from Abuse
 15. Prior to the **fourth year** of coaching, the following must be completed:
 - i. NFHS Engaging Effectively with Parents Course
 - ii. NFHS Coaching Mental Wellness
 16. Prior to the **fifth year** of coaching, the following must be completed:
 - i. NFHS Adolescent Development: Centering Athlete Needs
 - ii. NFHS Developing Youth Through Sport

Editor's Note1: Please reference Diagram 3.1 for approved courses and avenues for completion

Editor's Note2: Specific course requirements are subject to change due to availability or new course development.

b. ~~Approved Assistant – Minimum Requirements:~~

- ~~1. Completion of 60 or more college credit hours prior to coaching OR serving as a Provisional Assistant for THREE school years.~~
- ~~2. A Professional Teacher's Certificate OR NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course (online) passed prior to second year of coaching. This course is not sport specific. This is a one-time requirement.~~
- ~~3. Successful completion of a Sports First Aid/CPR/AED training course prior to second year of coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1)~~
- ~~4. Background Check including Sex Offender's Registry Clearance prior to coaching.~~
- ~~5. Board of Education or Board of Governance Approval prior to coaching.~~
- ~~6. Successful completion of a Concussion in Sports Course, and review of current concussion information yearly.~~
- ~~7. Successful completion of the MSHSAA Sport Specific Online Rules Review and Test each season.~~
- ~~8. Successful completion of a Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention training prior to second year of coaching and renewed every two years.~~
- ~~9. Successful completion of a course in Heat Illness Prevention/Recognition prior to the second year of coaching, which must be renewed every two years. Editor's Note: The free NFHSLearn.com training may be used or schools may select their own.~~

c. ~~Provisional Assistant – Minimum Requirements:~~

- ~~1. Successful completion of the MSHSAA Sport Specific Online Rules Review and Test each season.~~
- ~~2. Prior to the first season of coaching, the following must be completed: [*=One-Time Requirement]~~
 - ~~a) NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course*~~
 - ~~b) NFHS Coaching "Sport" Course for any sport for which an individual will be coaching if available~~
 - ~~c) Background Check including Sex Offender's Registry Clearance prior to coaching*~~
 - ~~d) _____ Board of Education or Board of Governance Approval prior to coaching*~~
 - ~~e) Successful completion of a Concussion in Sports Course* and/or review of current concussion information annually.~~
 - ~~f) Assignment of a Mentor Coach (3 years of experience or more):~~
 - ~~a. i. Preseason meetings which include, but are not limited to, specific discussion of school policies, equipment responsibility, behavior expectations, procedures to follow in case of an emergency, etc. is satisfactorily completed.~~
 - ~~b. ii. In-season meetings to discuss athlete or parent interactions~~
 - ~~c. iii. Post season meetings to evaluate coaching experience~~
- ~~3. Prior to the second season of coaching, the following must be completed:~~
 - ~~a) NFHS Teaching Sports Skills Course*~~
 - ~~b) A Sports First Aid/CPR/AED training course, which must be renewed every two years~~
 - ~~c) Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention training, which must be renewed every two years~~
 - ~~d) Successful completion of a course in Heat Illness Prevention/Recognition, which must be renewed every two years.~~
- ~~4. Prior to the third season of coaching, the following must be completed:~~

- a) NFHS Bullying, Hazing and Inappropriate Behavior Course*
- b) NFHS Engaging Effectively with Parents Course*
- c) NFHS Protecting Students from Abuse*
- d) NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior*

Editor's Note: Specific course requirements are subject to change due to availability or new course development.

d. **Student Teacher – Minimum Requirements:** A student teacher serving in an approved teacher preparation program through a college or university and who is teaching at a school may serve as an assistant coach if the following minimum requirements are met.

- 1. Completion of 60 or more college credit hours prior to coaching.
- 2. Successful completion of a Concussion in Sports Course, and review of current concussion information.
- 3. Successful completion of the MSHSAA Sport Specific Online Rules Review.

3.1.6 (...)

4.1 COMMON REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ACTIVITIES IN THIS SECTION

4.1.1 (...)

4.1.2 **Activity Director/Coach Level and Minimum Requirements: a. Director/Head Coach – Minimum Requirements:** As per By-Law 4.1.1.a, each interscholastic activity team/group must have a head director/coach who meets the following requirements and who, then, may fill the duties and obligations of a head director/coach for the activity team/group, both under the by-laws and per the activity rules. [*=One-Time Requirement]

- a. An individual with a Professional Teacher's Certificate (includes all certifications recognized as professional by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) must:
 - 1. Board of Education or Board of Governance approval prior to activity related contact.
 - 2. Background Check including Sex-Offender's Registry Clearance prior to activity related contact.
 - 3. Successful completion of the MSHSAA Activity-Specific Online Rules Review and Test prior to approval.
 - 4. Successful completion of a Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention training prior to approval and renewed every two years.
 - 5. Successful completion of a Concussion Course, and review of current concussion information yearly.
 - 6. Successful completion of a First Aid/CPR/AED course prior to coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1) **Editor's Note:** The free NFHSLearn.com training may be used or schools may select their own.
 - 7. Music:
 - i. Regularly employed and paid by the Board of Education or Board of Governance of the school as a teacher.
 - ii. ~~Public School Directors must hold a valid professional Teacher's Certificate approved by the State Department of Education.~~
 - iii. Directors of Marching Band and Auxiliary Groups Only: Successful completion of a course in Heat Illness Prevention/Recognition, which must be renewed every two years.
- ~~b. Speech/Debate/Theatre:~~
 - i. ~~A Four Year College Degree OR serving as an Approved Assistant for a minimum of TWO school years.~~
- ~~c. Scholar Bowl:~~
 - i. ~~A Four Year College Degree OR serving as an Approved Assistant for a minimum of TWO school years.~~

8. Spirit (Sideline Cheer and Dance Teams):

- ii. ~~A valid Professional Teacher's Certificate approved by the State Department of Education OR has completed and passed the online NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course prior to coaching.*~~
- iii. Successful completion of a course in Heat Illness Prevention/Recognition, which must be renewed every two years. [See also By-Law 4.2.10]

d. ~~Emerging Activities:~~

- i. ~~Completion of 60 or more college credit hours prior to coaching/directing OR serving as an Approved Assistant for a minimum of TWO school years.~~

b. All other individuals must complete one-time or biennial requirements prior to coaching as outlined below:

1. Board of Education or Board of Governance approval prior to activity related contact.
2. Background Check including Sex-Offender's Registry Clearance prior to activity related contact.
3. Successful completion of the MSHSAA Activity-Specific Online Rules Review and Test prior to approval.
4. Successful completion of a Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention training prior to approval and renewed every two years.
5. Successful completion of a Concussion Course, and review of current concussion information yearly.
6. Successful completion of a First Aid/CPR/AED course prior to coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1) *Editor's Note: The free NFHSLearn.com training may be used or schools may select their own.*
7. Prior to the **first season** of coaching/directing ~~serving~~, the following must be completed: [*=One-Time Requirement]
 - i. NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course*
 - ii. NFHS Coaching "Activity" Course for any activity for which an individual will be coaching or approved substitute
 - (a) Music – NFHS Introduction to Interscholastic Music
 - (b) Speech and Debate – NFHS Coaching Speech and Debate
 - (c) Theatre – NFHS Directing Plays
 - (d) Scholar Bowl - None available
 - (e) Spirit – Coaching Cheer and Dance
 - iii. Assignment of a Mentor Director/Coach (3 years of experience or more).
 - (a) Preseason meetings which include, but are not limited to, specific discussion of school policies, equipment responsibility, behavior expectations, procedures to follow in case of an emergency, etc. is satisfactorily completed.
 - (b) In-season meetings to discuss student or parent interactions
 - (c) Post season meetings to evaluate experiences
8. Prior to the **second season of coaching/directing**, the following must be completed:
 - (a) NFHS Bullying, Hazing and Inappropriate Behavior Course*
 - (b) NFHS Engaging Effectively with Parents Course*
9. Prior to the **third season of coaching/directing**, the following must be completed:
 - (a) NFHS Protecting Students from Abuse*
 - (b) NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior*
10. Prior to the **fourth year** of coaching/directing, the following must be completed:
 - (a) NFHS Understanding Copyright and Compliance
 - (b) NFHS Coaching Mental Wellness

11. Prior to the **fifth year** of coaching/directing, the following must be completed:

- (a) NFHS Student Leadership
- (b) NFHS Sportsmanship

a. Approved Assistant – Minimum Requirements:

1. General Requirements for All Activities Assistant Directors/Assistant Coaches:

- (a) Board of Education or Board of Governance approval prior to activity related contact.
- (b) Background Check including Sex-Offender's Registry Clearance prior to activity related contact.
- (c) Successful completion of the MSHSAA Activity Specific Online Rules Review and Test prior to approval.
- (d) Successful completion of a Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention training prior to second year of coaching/directing and renewed every two years.
- (e) Successful completion of a Concussion course, and review of current concussion information yearly.
- (f) Successful completion of a First Aid/CPR/AED course prior to second year of coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1)

Editor's Note: The free NFHSLearn.com training may be used or schools may select their own.

2. Music:

- (a) Regularly employed and paid by the Board of Education or Board of Governance of the school
- (b) Directors of Marching Band and Auxiliary Groups Only: Successful completion of a course in Heat Illness Prevention/Recognition prior to the second year of teaching Marching Band, which must be renewed every two years.

2. Speech/Debate/Theatre:

- (a) Completion of 60 or more college credit hours prior to coaching/directing OR serving as a Provisional Assistant for THREE school years.

3. Scholar Bowl:

- (a) Completion of 60 or more college credit hours prior to coaching/directing OR serving as a Provisional Assistant for THREE school years.

4. Spirit (Sideline Cheer and Dance Teams):

- (a) A valid Professional Teacher's Certificate approved by the State Department of Education OR has completed and passed the online NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course prior to coaching.*
- (b) Successful completion of a course in Heat Illness Prevention/Recognition prior to the second year of coaching, which must be renewed every two years.

5. Emerging Activities:

- (a) Completion of 60 or more college credit hours prior to coaching/directing OR serving as a Provisional Assistant for THREE school years.

b. Provisional Assistant – Minimum Requirements:

- 1. Successful completion of the MSHSAA Activity Specific Online Rules Review and Test each season.
- 2. Prior to the first season of serving, the following must be completed: [*=One-Time Requirement]
 - (a) NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course*
 - (b) NFHS Coaching "Activity" Course for any activity for which an individual will be coaching if available*
 - (c) Background Check including Sex-Offender's Registry Clearance prior to coaching*
 - (d) Board of Education or Board of Governance Approval prior to coaching*

- ~~(e) Successful completion of a Concussion course, and review of current concussion information yearly.~~
- ~~(f) Assignment of a Mentor Director/Coach (3 years of experience or more):~~
 - ~~i. Preseason meetings which include, but are not limited to, specific discussion of school policies, equipment responsibility, behavior expectations, procedures to follow in case of an emergency, etc. is satisfactorily completed.~~
 - ~~ii. In-season meetings to discuss student or parent interactions~~
 - ~~iii. Post season meetings to evaluate experiences~~
- ~~3. Prior to the second season, the following must be completed:~~
 - ~~(a) NFHS Bullying, Hazing and Inappropriate Behavior Course*~~
 - ~~(b) NFHS Engaging Effectively with Parents Course*~~
 - ~~(c) Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention training, which must be renewed every two years~~
 - ~~(d) Successful completion of a First Aid/CPR/AED course and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1)~~
 - ~~(e) Music (Directors of Marching Band and Auxiliary Groups) and Spirit Only: Successful completion of a course in Heat Illness Prevention/Recognition, which must be renewed every two years. [See also By-Law 4.2.10]~~
- ~~4. Prior to the third season, the following must be completed:~~
 - ~~(a) NFHS Protecting Students from Abuse*~~
 - ~~(b) NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior*~~

Editor's Note: Specific course requirements are subject to change due to availability or new course development.

- ~~c. Student Teacher – Minimum Requirements: A student teacher serving in an approved teacher preparation program through a college or university and who is teaching at a school may serve as an assistant director/coach if the following minimum requirements are met:~~
 - ~~1. Completion of 60 or more college credit hours prior to assisting.~~
 - ~~2. Successful completion of a Concussion Course, and review of current concussion information (Spirit only).~~
 - ~~3. Successful completion of the MSHSAA Online Rules Review for the activity.~~

BALLOT QUESTION: Are you in favor of amending By-Law 3.1 and 4.1 to simplify the initial requirements for any coaching/directing role and establishing annual course requirements for five years for those without a professional teaching certificate? (Y/N)

By-Laws – Sections 3 (2)

PROPOSAL 2 Transfer Exception for Children of Active-Duty Military Personnel

To be voted on by: All member schools

Submitted by: Board of Directors

Effective date if passed: July 1, 2026

Required for passage: Simple majority

Applicable By-Law(s): 3.10.4

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact expected on MSHSAA. No fiscal impact is expected for member schools.

BACKGROUND: This proposal originated from a submission to the Ad Hoc Committee on Residence & Transfers. Member schools have expressed concerns regarding delays in the transfer process for students who are the children of

active-duty military personnel relocating due to Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders. In some cases, the process is delayed when the sending school does not respond in a timely manner.

This by-law proposal creates a transfer exception for children of active-duty military personnel. This exception would allow the receiving school to complete and submit the transfer form for review without requiring information from the sending school. The receiving school would be required to submit the following documentation:

- Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders
- Transcript from the sending school
- Proof of residence

The proposed ballot item also includes a reorganization of the transfer by-laws to improve clarity, consistency, and usability. The reorganization does not create new transfer regulations but restructures the existing provisions into a more logical format, grouping related sections and standardizing language throughout the by-law. This effort is intended to make the transfer rules easier for member schools, administrators, and stakeholders to understand and apply.

**** Ballot Proposals Number 3 and 4 could affect the numbering. Final numbering will be dependent upon the outcomes of the various proposals.**

By-Laws:

Section 3: Athletic By-Laws

(...)

3.10 Residence and Transfer Definitions (...)

3.10.4 Transfer of Enrollment Requirements: Students who transfer schools or do not meet the requirements of residency upon enrollment at the school as outlined above are ineligible for 365 days unless their cases meet the standards under the EXCEPTIONS THAT FOLLOW:

(...)

XXX. Military Exceptions:

XX. (Originally under Hardship Exception) A military officer who is deemed by the Department of Defense as “mission essential” and who is further required to live within the boundaries of the military base, may upon arrival enroll his/her child(ren) in a school district that is contiguous to the school of residency (as defined in By-Law 3.10.2) and such child(ren) shall be considered eligible under this exception. Once the child attends a school, he/she would then be eligible only at that school.

XX. A student who is a child of an active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces who transfers due to a parent’s Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders may be granted an exception to the transfer process. The receiving school will complete the transfer form and provide the following documentation:

XX. PCS orders for the parent or guardian.

XX. Transcript from the sending school.

XX. Proof of residence within the receiving school district.

BALLOT QUESTION: Are you in favor of amending By-Law 3.10.4 to add a transfer exception for children of active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces who transfer due to a Parents Permanent Change of Station? (Y/N)

By-Laws – Section 3 (3)

PROPOSAL 3 Transfer Exception for Children of Non-Resident Parent Educator

To be voted on by: All member schools

Submitted by: Board of Directors

Effective date if passed: July 1, 2026

Required for passage: Simple majority

Applicable By-Law(s): 3.10.4

Questionnaire Results: 91.1% in favor, 8.9% against of adding a special transfer exception for students of non-resident parent employee

47.92% favored restricting it to certified/contracted professional positions

52.1% favored restricting to regular employees as defined by RSMo Section 167.151

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact expected on MSHSAA. No fiscal impact is expected for member schools.

BACKGROUND: Currently, a student who transfers to a school district where a parent is employed, but where the student does not reside within the district boundaries, may only receive full eligibility if the transfer qualifies under an existing exception.

This proposal would establish a transfer exception for children of school district personnel who accept employment in a district in which they do not reside. The intent of the proposal is to provide an employment-related benefit that may assist member schools in recruiting and retaining qualified staff. Under this exception, eligible students could enroll and participate at the school where the parent is newly employed.

The proposed exception would apply to regular employees as defined in Missouri statute—individuals who work at least 20 paid hours per week fulfilling employment requirements or providing services for the benefit of a school district and whose position is covered by a retirement system created under Chapter 169 (Section 167.151, RSMo).

To qualify, the student must transfer simultaneously with the parent beginning employment in the district, or at the start of the next academic semester if the parent’s employment begins during the school year.

In districts with multiple high schools, the exception would not apply to transfers between schools within the same district. The intent of the proposal is limited to employment-related transfers involving a change from one district to another.

The proposed ballot item also includes a reorganization of the transfer by-laws to improve clarity, consistency, and usability. The reorganization does not create new transfer regulations but restructures the existing provisions into a more logical format, grouping related sections and standardizing language throughout the by-law. This effort is intended to make the transfer rules easier for member schools, administrators, and stakeholders to understand and apply.

**** Ballot Proposals Number 2 and 4 could affect the numbering. Final numbering will be dependent upon the outcomes of the various proposals.**

By-Laws:

Section 3: Athletic By-Laws

(...)

3.10 Residence and Transfer Definitions (...)

3.10.4 Transfer of Enrollment Requirements: Students who transfer schools or do not meet the requirements of residency upon enrollment at the school as outlined above are ineligible for 365 days unless their cases meet the standards under the EXCEPTIONS THAT FOLLOW:

(...)

XXX. Non-Resident Parent Employee: A student shall be granted full eligibility upon transfer to a member school when the student’s parent or legal guardian accepts employment with the school district in which the student enrolls, provided the student does not reside within the district boundaries.

XX For purposes of this provision, the parent or legal guardian must qualify as a regular employee of the school district as defined in Section 167.151, RSMo—an individual who devotes at least twenty (20) paid hours per week fulfilling employment requirements or providing services for the benefit of a school district and whose position is covered by a retirement system created under Chapter 169 or a comparable retirement system applicable to the employing school.

XX To qualify for this exception, the student must transfer at the same time the parent, with whom they have established residence with the previous 365 days, begins employment with the district, or at the beginning of the next academic semester if the parent’s employment begins during the school year.

XX In school districts with multiple high schools, this exception shall not apply to transfers between schools within the same district. The provision applies only to transfers associated with employment in a different school district.

BALLOT QUESTION: Are you in favor of amending By-Law 3.10.4 to add a transfer exception for children of non-resident parent educator who is considered a regular employee per RSMo Section 167.151 who transfer at the time of employment of the parent or the next semester if the employment occurs during the school year? (Y/N)

By-Laws – Section 3 (4)

PROPOSAL 4 Transfer Exception for Refugee/Political Asylum Students

To be voted on by: All member schools

Submitted by: Board of Directors

Effective date if passed: July 1, 2026

Required for passage: Simple majority

Applicable By-Law(s): 3.10.4

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact expected on MSHSAA. No fiscal impact is expected for member schools.

BACKGROUND: This proposal would establish a transfer exception for students whose transfer occurs due to verified humanitarian relocation from a foreign country. Under the proposal, a student may be granted eligibility through this transfer exception when the relocation results from humanitarian displacement recognized by the United States government.

This exception would apply to students who provide a Federal I-94 Arrival/Departure Record indicating refugee or asylee status, which would be used to verify the student’s immigration classification and confirm that the relocation occurred under humanitarian circumstances.

Students who do not have an I-94 indicating refugee or asylee status would still have the opportunity to seek eligibility through one of the other transfer exceptions.

The intent of this proposal is to provide a clear transfer exception for students displaced by international conflict or persecution while maintaining safeguards that prevent athletically motivated transfers.

The proposed ballot item also includes a reorganization of the transfer by-laws to improve clarity, consistency, and usability. The reorganization does not create new transfer regulations but restructures the existing provisions into a more logical format, grouping related sections and standardizing language throughout the by-law. This effort is intended to make the transfer rules easier for member schools, administrators, and stakeholders to understand and apply.

**** Ballot Proposals Number 2 and 3 could affect the numbering. Final numbering will be dependent upon the outcomes of the various proposals.**

By-Laws:

Section 3: Athletic By-Laws

(...)

3.10 Residence and Transfer Definitions (...)

3.10.4 Transfer of Enrollment Requirements: Students who transfer schools or do not meet the requirements of residency upon enrollment at the school as outlined above are ineligible for 365 days unless their cases meet the standards under the EXCEPTIONS THAT FOLLOW:

(...)

XXX. Refugee/Political Asylum Student: A student will have full eligibility when the transfer is due to verified humanitarian relocation from a foreign country, and the student has a Federal I-94 record indicating refugee or asylee status. A copy of the Federal I-94 shall be submitted for review of the school’s transfer request.

BALLOT QUESTION: Are you in favor of amending By-Law 3.10.4 to add a transfer exception for a student who transfers due to verified humanitarian relocation from a foreign country, and the student has a Federal I-94 record indicating refugee or asylee status? (Y/N)

By-Laws – Section 3 (5)

PROPOSAL 5 Non-School Competition Exception

To be voted on by: All member schools

Submitted by: Board of Directors

Effective date if passed: July 1, 2026

Required for passage: Simple majority

Applicable By-Law(s): 3.13.2

Vote on Questionnaire: 85.9% in favor, 14.1% opposed to all non-school competition exception expanded to spring season

83.5% in favor, 16.5% opposed to all non-school competition exception for all seasons

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact expected on MSHSAA. No fiscal impact is expected for member schools.

BACKGROUND: The Fall Non-School Competition Exception allows students to continue participation in non-school competition and practice through the day prior to the first allowable contest, provided approval is granted by a school administrator. Girls soccer was granted an exception that mirrors the Fall Non-School Competition Exception last year, due to the fact there is no accepted national season for the sport and boys soccer, as a fall sport, had access to the fall exception.

Four other sports from the fall that have access to the fall exception are in the spring: golf, tennis, softball and volleyball. There has been concern expressed that the soccer exception should have been extended to these four sports due to the equity of the fall season to the spring.

Expanding the Non-School Competition Exception to all spring sports would align spring opportunities with those currently available in the fall and for girls soccer, while still maintaining school administrative oversight. The discussion should consider competitive equity, student-athlete workload, season preparation, and consistency across sports when evaluating whether such an expansion is appropriate.

Through the area meeting and questionnaire process, membership has indicated positive response to expanding the exception for all seasons.

By-Laws:

Section 3: Athletic By-Laws

(...)

3.13.2 Organized Non-School Competition

a. (...)

1. **Fall Non-School Competition Exception:** For all fall sports, students may continue in non-school competition and practice through the day before the first allowable contest with prior approval by a school administrator.
2. **Swimming/Diving:** (...)
3. **Cross Country, Golf, Tennis, Track and Field, and Wrestling:** (...)
4. ~~**Girls Soccer Non-School Competition Exception:** For girls soccer, students may continue in non-school competition and practice through the day before the first allowable contest, with prior approval by a school administrator.~~
 - a. ~~Priority shall be given to all school team practices and competition. Should a non-school competition be in direct conflict with the school scheduled practice/competition the school practice/competition shall take priority. Prior approval by the school administrator may grant an exception to a student to participate in the non-school competition if in direct conflict with the school program.~~
 - b. ~~No school time shall be missed to compete, practice or travel to the site of such non-school competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.~~
 - c. ~~In order to remain eligible under this exception to the non-school competition rule, the student must join the team at the start of the season and attend all scheduled school practices and contests, unless attending a non-school competition with prior approval by a school administrator. Absences not related to non-school competition will be handled locally.~~
 - d. ~~After the first allowable practice date, no school coach of the applicable sport in season may provide any coaching or instruction to any student while that student is participating in a non-school competition during the school sport season. **Editor's Note:** Outside of the school sport season, coaching contact restrictions apply.~~
5. **4.5. Non-School Team Tryout:** (...)

BALLOT QUESTION: Are you in favor of amending By-Law 3.13.2 to adjust the Fall Non-School Competition Exception to include all sports in all seasons during the period between the first allowable practice date and the first allowable contest date, with prior approval by a school administrator? (Y/N)

By-Laws – Section 3 (6)
PROPOSAL 6 Cooperative Sponsorship Allowance

To be voted on by: All member schools

Submitted by: Board of Directors

Effective date if passed: July 1, 2026

Required for passage: Simple majority

Applicable By-Law(s): 3.14.6, 3.14.7, 3.14.8, 3.15.3, and 3.15.4

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact expected on MSHSAA. No fiscal impact is expected for member schools.

BACKGROUND: As approved cooperative sponsorships have increased, it has come to the attention of the membership that some by-laws need to be expanded to include students of those approved cooperative sponsorships.

By-Law 3.14.6 outlines the parameters for Out-of-Season Sports Conditioning. Under the Allowable Participants, the non-host school students in an approved cooperative sponsorship are not included; therefore, not allowing them to

participate in out-of-season sports conditioning with the teammates and coaches from the host school. These students are also not included as allowable participants in By-Law 3.14.7 Out-of-Season Sport-Specific Practice Periods and 3.15.3 and 3.15.4 Limits on Contact (Summer).

The proposed language would allow those students from an approved cooperative sponsorship to participate with their teammates and coaches during the out-of-season sports conditioning, out-of-season sport-specific practice periods, and summer contact periods.

By-Laws:

Section 3: Athletic By-Laws

(...)

3.14.6 Out-of-Season Sports Conditioning (...)

- a. **Allowable Participants – High School Programs:** Only students who meet one of the following categories may participate in a high school’s out-of-season sports conditioning program:
 1. Students who are fully enrolled or resident participant students in the school administering the program.
 2. Students who are fully enrolled or resident participant students of an approved cooperative sponsorship.
 3. 2. Eighth grade students (...)
 4. ~~3.~~ Eighth graders enrolled (...)
 5. ~~4.~~ Eighth graders enrolled in a junior high school that is participating in a cooperative sponsorship (By-Law. 1.4) may participate in the out-of-season sports conditioning program at any high school to which any junior high in the coop directly feeds, with the permission of the principal of the high school to which his/her junior high directly feeds. (Editor's Note: K-8 districts do not directly feed any one high school, and therefore, students may not participate in high school OOSSC programs. Students who would qualify as resident participant students who live in a K-8 district may not participate in high school OOSSC programs for the same reason. However, eighth graders enrolled in K-8 districts who coop with a non K-8 district have the same access as the non-K-8 district students.)
- b. **Allowable Participants – Junior High School Programs:** ~~Only~~ Students who are fully enrolled in the junior high school or are resident participant students at the junior high school administering an out-of-season sports conditioning program may participate. Students who are fully enrolled or resident participant students of an approved cooperative sponsorship may participate.
- c. (...)

3.14.7 Out-of-Season Sport-Specific Practice Periods (...)

- a. Out-of-Season Practice periods (...)
- b. Such practices may be sport (...)
- c. The opportunity to participate is open to enrolled students at the high school or resident participant students for that school only (no 8th graders). Students who are fully enrolled or resident participant students of an approved cooperative sponsorship may participate.
- d. Use of these (...)
- e. Times other than (...)
- f. Football Restrictions(...)
- g. Open Facilities (...)

3.14.8 The seven days prior to the first allowable practice date for the season shall be a seasonal no-contact period in which no “contact” as defined in By-Law 3.15.1.c takes place between school coaches/~~directors~~ of MSHSAA sponsored winter or spring activities, respectively, and students enrolled in the member school, or who will be enrolled in the member school during the upcoming school year, resident participant students, or students of an approved cooperative sponsorship.

3.14.9 Penalty (...)

3.15 SPORTS PARTICIPATION AND CONTACT – DURING THE SUMMER

3.15.1 Definitions (...)

3.15.2 During the summer (...)

3.15.3 Limits on Contact – High School: For High Schools (Grades 9-12), a limit of 20 contact days is allowed per sport, per gender during the summer (as defined in By-Law 3.15.1.a). Sports contact, as defined above, between any coach for a particular sport and gender and any student enrolled at the member school, any student who meets the requirements as a resident participant student at the member school, any student or resident participant student of an approved cooperative sponsorship, any student who will be enrolled in and attending the member school that fall, ~~or any student who will meet the requirements as a resident participant student at the member school that fall,~~ or any student or resident participant student of an approved cooperative sponsorship that fall will count as one day of contact toward the limit of 20 days for that sport. Summer contact days shall be documented and available upon request to other member schools and/or the MSHSAA office. By-Laws 3.13 (fall sports) and 3.14 (winter and spring sports) shall govern contact taking place after “summer” has concluded. (See also By-Law 3.15.7 for enrollment requirements, and By-Law 3.1, Coaching Requirements.)

3.15.4 Limits on Contact – Junior High: A maximum of 20 contact days are allowed per sport, per gender during the summer (as defined in By-Law 3.15.1.a). Sports contact, as defined above, between any coach for a particular sport and gender and any student enrolled at the member school, any student who meets the requirements as a resident participant student at the member school, any student or resident participant student of an approved cooperative sponsorship, any student who will be enrolled in and attending the member school that fall, ~~or any student who will meet the requirements as a resident participant student at the member school that fall,~~ or any student or resident participant student of an approved cooperative sponsorship that fall will count as one day of contact toward the limit of 20 days for that sport. Summer contact days shall be documented and available upon request to other member schools and/or the MSHSAA office. By-Laws 3.13 (fall sports) and 3.14 (winter and spring sports) shall govern contact taking place after “summer” has concluded.

BALLOT QUESTION: Are you in favor of amending By-Laws 3.14.6, 3.14.7, 3.14.8, 3.15.3, and 3.15.4 to include students of an approved cooperative sponsorship as allowable participants? (Y/N)

By-Laws – Section 3 (7)

PROPOSAL 7 Team Tennis Jamboree Allowance

To be voted on by: All member schools registered for Tennis

Submitted by: Board of Directors

Effective date if passed: July 1, 2026

Required for passage: Simple majority

Applicable By-Law(s): 3.16.7

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact expected on MSHSAA. No fiscal impact is expected for member schools.

BACKGROUND: By-Law 3.16.7 and related Board Policies govern the conduct of preseason jamborees for designated team sports, allowing schools the opportunity to participate in structured preseason events under specific guidelines prior to the start of the regular season.

At the time By-Law 3.16.7 was adopted, tennis was not included among the list of approved team sports for preseason jamborees. Historically, tennis has been viewed as both an individual and team sport within MSHSAA, but it was not explicitly addressed when the original language and policies were established.

The MSHSAA Tennis Advisory Committee has recommended that team tennis be included within the scope of By-Law 3.16.7 and the related Board Policies governing preseason jamborees. The committee believes that including team

tennis alongside other approved team sports would provide clarity for member schools, address an unintended omission, promote consistency in rule application, allow tennis programs the same preseason preparation opportunities afforded to other team sports, and reflect the current structure of interscholastic tennis in Missouri.

By-Laws:

3.16 ATHLETIC DEFINITION

(...)

3.16.7 Preseason Jamboree: An optional practice event in the team sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, team tennis, and volleyball may be conducted as per conditions outlined below. Play occurs only under partial game conditions as defined by each sport (see Board Policy on Preseason Jamboree - Team Sports) The following conditions are in place for all Preseason SECTION 3 2025-26 MSHSAA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK Page 89 Jamboree events:
(...)

BALLOT QUESTION: Are you in favor of amending By-Law 3.16.7 to allow team tennis the opportunity to participate in a preseason jamboree? (Y/N)

By-Laws – Section 4 (1)

PROPOSAL 8 Speech and Debate Additional Contest After April 1

To be voted on by: All member schools registered for speech and debate

Submitted by: Board of Directors

Effective date if passed: July 1, 2026

Required for passage: Simple majority

Applicable By-Law(s): 4.3.2

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact expected on MSHSAA. No fiscal impact is expected for member schools.

BACKGROUND: Students have been allowed to participate in one interscholastic Speech & Debate competition after the April 1st deadline, prior to the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend. This has historically been used for last-chance NSDA national qualifying tournaments. The Speech & Debate Advisory Committee would like an additional allowable competition in this time frame to allow for participation in more than one national tournament circuit (NSDA, Tournament of Champions, National Catholic Forensic League, etc.)

By-Laws:

4.3 SPEECH/DEBATE

(...)

4.3.2 Season Limits - High School: No senior high school interscholastic speech/debate events shall be held before the Friday of Standardized Calendar Week Number 14 or later than April 1, other than the allowances listed below:

- a. The MSHSAA state tournament.
- b. A school may participate in ~~two~~ one interscholastic events after April 1 and prior to the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. Such an event shall count as one of the school's allowable regular season events as per By-Law 4.3.1 (Limits on Participation).
- c. Teams or individuals representing a school may participate in interstate, interscholastic events which may begin no earlier than the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, only if the school has advanced from a qualifying event that takes place during the aforementioned season or if the event's selection procedure has been approved by the MSHSAA Board of Directors.

BALLOT QUESTION: Are you in favor of amending By-Law 4.3.2 to allow one additional competition for a total of two after April 1 and prior to the Friday of Memorial Day weekend? (Y/N)

By-Laws – Section 4 (2)

PROPOSAL 9 Speech and Debate Start Time

To be voted on by: All member schools registered for speech and debate

Submitted by: Board of Directors

Effective date if passed: July 1, 2026

Required for passage: Simple majority

Applicable By-Law(s): 4.3.4

Vote on Questionnaire: 90.1% in favor, 9.9% opposed to changing the allowable start time for Speech and Debate competitions
 33.0% in favor of changing the start time on Fridays from 2:00 pm to 12 pm, 67%
 in favor of eliminating the start time limitation on school days

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact expected on MSHSAA. No fiscal impact is expected for member schools.

BACKGROUND: The current earliest allowable start time of 2:00 p.m. on Fridays for Speech & Debate competitions can create competition scheduling challenges, often causing events to extend late into Friday night and continue through much of the day on Saturday. The Speech & Debate Advisory Committee initially proposed moving the permissible Friday start time earlier to 12:00 p.m.

However, during area meetings, both this proposal and the possibility of removing the start time restriction entirely were discussed. Feedback from the questionnaire indicated that the membership generally favored eliminating the restriction and allowing local schools to determine their own start times.

By-Laws:

4.3 SPEECH/DEBATE

(...)

4.3.4 Speech/Debate Event Regulations: Any interscholastic competitive/evaluative speech/debate event or other interscholastic competitive/evaluative function involving speech/debate abilities in which member school speech/debate organizations or individual students participate during the school year (from the opening day of classes to the official closing day at the end of the academic year) shall meet the following standards:

- a. See By-Law 4.1.10 for definitions of allowable awards.
- ~~b. No interscholastic speech event shall start before 4:00 p.m. on a school day, except that events may start as early as 2:00 p.m. on Friday. The MSHSAA District and State Tournaments shall be exempted from this regulation and a school may participate in one regular season contest (which may be the NSDA District Tournament) per school year that begins as early as 8:00 a.m. on a school day.~~
- b. e. Shall be in accord with all other provisions contained in the Speech and Debate By-Laws.
- c. d. See By-Law 1.1.5 for all competitive/evaluative event regulations and sanctioning requirements.

BALLOT QUESTION: Are you in favor of amending By-Law 4.3.4 to eliminate the start time restriction for Speech and Debate and allow this to be a local school decision? (Y/N)

By-Laws – Section 4 (3)

PROPOSAL 10 Scholar Bowl Competition Limits

To be voted on by: All member schools registered for Scholar Bowl

Submitted by: Board of Directors

Effective date if passed: July 1, 2026

Required for passage: Simple majority

Applicable By-Law(s): 4.4.2

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact expected on MSHSAA. No fiscal impact is expected for member schools.

BACKGROUND: The Scholar Bowl season runs from October through May. The current by-law no longer aligns with modern tournament formats or the needs of participating schools. Multi-day tournaments are no longer offered, and most events are now conducted as single-day competitions. As a result, schools are often forced to decline participation opportunities because doing so would exceed the current competition limits.

Changing the competition limits from duals and tournament to competition dates would provide greater clarity and flexibility for coaches and athletic directors to set schedules that best meet the needs of their schools, conferences, and regions. It also aligns scholar bowl participation limits with those of other sports and activities.

By-Laws:

4.4 SCHOLAR BOWL

(...)

4.4.2 Limits on Participation in Scholar Bowl: The options for contests permitted for each school team and each individual participant are shown below.

- a. **High School Contest Limitations:** Maximum of 20 Competition Dates ~~Scheduling options / contests allowed. The options below are exclusive of any MSHSAA sponsored tournament series.~~
 1. ~~20 duals and 2 Tournaments~~
 2. ~~2-10 duals and 8 Tournaments~~
 3. ~~3-0 duals and 14 Tournaments~~
- b. **Junior High School Contest Limitations:** Maximum of 12 Competition Dates
 1. ~~12 duals and 1 Tournament~~
 2. ~~7 duals and 5 Tournaments~~
 3. ~~0 duals and 11 Tournaments~~

BALLOT QUESTION: Are you in favor of amending By-Law 4.4.2 to change the allowable number of scholar bowl competitions from specific number of duals and tournaments to a specific number of competition dates? (Y/N)

By-Laws – Section 4 (4)

PROPOSAL 11 Dance Team Competition Limits

To be voted on by: All member schools registered for dance

Submitted by: Board of Directors

Effective date if passed: July 1, 2026

Required for passage: Simple majority

Applicable By-Law(s): 4.5.10

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact expected on MSHSAA. No fiscal impact is expected for member schools.

BACKGROUND: Currently, dance teams are allowed a maximum of five in-state or out-of-state contests (competitive events) during the school year (from the opening day of school to the official closing day at the end of the academic year).

This proposal seeks to increase the number of competitions to seven. The Spirit Advisory Committee made this recommendation based on the number of schools now offering competitions has increased. Allowing additional competitions expands opportunities for dance teams.

By-Laws:

4.5 SPIRIT (SIDELINE CHEER AND DANCE TEAMS)

(...)

4.5.10 Dance Team – Contests: Dance teams shall be allowed a maximum of seven ~~five~~ in-state or out-of-state contests (competitive events) during the school year (from the opening day of school to the official closing day at the end of the academic year)...

BALLOT QUESTION: Are you in favor of amending By-Law 4.5.10 to increase the number of allowable dance competitions from five competitions to seven competitions? (Y/N)