



SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

2025 OFFICIAL AMENDMENT BALLOT

The deadline for the return of this ballot is **May 31, 2025**. In order to pass, a proposal must receive a 60% favorable vote. Please refer to the accompanying document for the text of the amendment and the rationale that was given at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

To Amend Chapter II, Part I, Section 1, Subsections A and N of the SDHSAA By-Laws

☒ Yes

☐ No

Brookings School District

Name of Member School

5/12/25

Date

Signature (Superintendent or Principal)

Signature (School Board President)

Unless there are TWO signatures, this ballot will be unacceptable and declared void.

BALLOTS DUE: May 31, 2025

**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
AMENDMENT #4**

Amend Chapter II, Part I, Section 1, Subsections A and N of the SDHSAA By-Laws as follows:

A. To be eligible at the beginning of a semester for participating in interscholastic athletics of the SDHSAA, a transfer student must be enrolled at the beginning of the semester. ~~For Students not enrolled at the beginning of the semester shall become eligible on the 15th calendar day following enrollment provided all other SDHSAA regulations are met, with the first day of attendance as the first day included in determining the fifteenth day.:~~

- ~~Transfer students enrolled in a SDHSAA member school which operates a five (5) day week shall become eligible on the eleventh scheduled day of school provided all other SDHSAA regulations are met.~~

- ~~Transfer students enrolled in a SDHSAA member school which operates a four (4) day week shall become eligible on the ninth scheduled day of school provided all other SDHSAA regulations are met. The first day of attendance is the first day included in the count to determine the ninth and eleventh day. However, if a student participates in one or more SDHSAA tournaments or play-off games at the sub-state level at the school previously attended, said student would be ineligible at the new school in that sport even though the parents move.~~

NOTE- The term "Transfer students" this section refers only to changes of schools under Chapter II, Part I, Section 1, Subsections B, H, J, and L (Bona-fide move, Guardianship to include termination of parental rights, school closure, and divorce) of the By-Laws. Change of schools completed under Chapter II, Part I, Section 1, Subsection N (open enrollment) would be subject to the sit-out time periods listed in that section (immediate if over the summer, 63 calendar day sit-out period once school starts or team membership is established in a fall sport prior to school starting).

N. **TRANSFER OF ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY FOR SDHSAA OPEN ENROLLMENT STUDENTS.** Any student who transfers from a member high school to another member high school shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics provided such student has met the standards for SDHSAA athletic open enrollment as defined in the following paragraph: **(Amended 6-8-17)**

1. SDHSAA athletic open enrollment students transferring from one high school to another must have the school (s)he leaves file a transcript of credits with the principal of the school to which (s)he is transferring. Until such transcript is filed the student is ineligible.

In order for SDHSAA athletic open enrollment students to be eligible immediately for participation in interscholastic athletics of the SDHSAA, the student must both: (1) be enrolled on the first day of the school year at the school they are open enrolling to, and, (2) have not competed in any SDHSAA sanctioned athletic contest at the school they are open enrolling from during that school year's athletic season, and (3) have not established team membership on any athletic team during that school year's athletic season. Member schools must have the necessary athletic open enrollment papers filed with the SDHSAA office prior to allowing athletic open enrollment students the opportunity to play. Until such athletic open enrollment paperwork is filed, the student is ineligible.

2. ~~For s~~Students who do not meet these criteria in Section N, Subsection 1 would become eligible on the 64th calendar day following enrollment at the school, provided all other SDHSAA regulations are met. The students may practice but not compete during the 63 calendar day sit-out period. Member schools must have the necessary athletic open enrollment papers filed with the SDHSAA office prior to allowing athletic open enrollment students the opportunity to play. Until such athletic open paperwork is filed, the student is ineligible.:

- a. ~~SDHSAA athletic open enrollment students enrolled in a SDHSAA member school which operates a five (5) day week shall become eligible on the forty-sixth (46th) scheduled day of school provided all other SDHSAA regulations are met. Member schools must have the necessary athletic open enrollment papers filed with the SDHSAA office prior to allowing athletic open enrollment students the opportunity to play. Until such athletic open enrollment paperwork is filed, the student is ineligible.~~

~~b. SDHSAA athletic open enrollment students enrolled in an SDHSAA member school which operates a four (4) day week shall become eligible on the thirty-seventh (37th) scheduled day of school provided all other SDHSAA regulations are met. Revised 2005 Member schools must have the necessary athletic open enrollment papers filed with the SDHSAA office prior to allowing athletic open enrollment students the opportunity to play. Until such athletic open enrollment paperwork is filed, the student is ineligible.~~

3. In addition, all such students must meet all other eligibility requirements.
4. For purposes of this Bylaw "standards for open enrollment" shall mean such standards authorized by a public school board as required by SDCL §13-28-40 through and including SDCL §13-28-47. In the case of a non-public school, such comparable standards and time-lines, as set forth in SDCL §13-28-40 through and including SDCL §13-28-47 would be applicable to such school.
5. In such cases, eligibility is applicable to the initial SDHSAA athletic open enrollment transfer only. Any subsequent SDHSAA athletic open enrollment transfer to another high school shall render the student ineligible for one year with one exception.

The exception: In the event a student returns to: (1) his/her former school; or (2) where his/her parents reside, the student will not be eligible until the beginning of the following school year.

Rationale: The changes in both sections change the wording of scheduled days of school, which is different for schools with 4 day weeks and 5 day weeks, to calendar days. The initial intent was a 9-week sit out period (45 school days in a 5 day week school, 36 school days in a 4 day week school). However, some 4-day week schools have weeks where they go to school 5 days, which means a student in a 4-day school could potentially become eligible faster than a student in a 5-day school week. This change levels that out and changes it to calendar days. It also accounts for days over holidays, which aren't currently counted.

The other change in Section N is stipulating that establishment of team membership for fall sports counts as establishing team membership even though school has not started, and a student who transfers after establishing team membership would be subject to the sit-out period listen in Section N Subsection 2 the same as a student who established team membership on a winter or spring sports team would be subject to the sit-out period. This prevents students from testing out teams in the fall and switching schools before a game has been played or school has started without a sit-out period.