

New York State Public High School Athletic Association
SECTION IV

FOREIGN STUDENT ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

As stated in the NYSPHSAA, Inc. current handbook, FOREIGN STUDENTS:

1. All foreign students who have been graduated from the secondary school system in their country are ineligible for the interschool athletic program.
2. Foreign Students' eligibility shall be determined under the requirements of **Standard #30 – TRANSFER**. (Page 61) **NOTE: *If a foreign student has participated in an organized sports program in a particular sport, equivalent to or on a higher level than our high school programs, he/she is ineligible to participate in that sport for one year.***
3. **A bona fide foreign exchange student** may be immediately eligible the first year in residence and be limited to one year eligibility provided the student (a) is a participant in an established foreign exchange program accepted for listing by the Council of Standards for International Travel (CSIET) and (b) complies with all State Education Department and NYSPHSAA, Inc. Standards. Furthermore, there shall be no evidence that a student, school or other interested party has influenced the assignment of the foreign exchange student to a school for athletic purposes.

In addition to the aforementioned standards, the following criteria will be used to determine athletic eligibility for foreign exchange and international students.

1. Foreign Exchange Students

- a. A foreign exchange student is an international student who attends high school in the U.S. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics in the US, such student must be under the auspices of and be placed with a US host family by an international student exchange program that has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and be recognized by the US Department of State. The foreign exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures that no student, or his/her parents, school or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes. The foreign exchange student may not be selected or placed on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities.
 - b. A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and his/her parents, and to the host family.
 - (i) Neither the school the student attends, nor any person associated with the school, shall have input into the selection of the student.
 - (ii) No member of the school's coaching staff or athletic director, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family.
 - c. The foreign exchange student must possess a current J-1 Visa, issued by the US State Department.
 - d. The foreign exchange student must comply with all eligibility requirements set forth by the state high school association of which the school he/she attends is a member.
2. **Other International Students**: An international student who is not under the auspices of and placed by a CSIET listed exchange program must meet the following requirements in order to be considered for interscholastic athletics eligibility in any state:
- a. The student must possess a current F-1 Visa, issued by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service.
 - b. The student must provide to the principal of the school he/she attends an official untranslated transcript and a transcript that is translated into English, by an acceptable agent or agency, which indicated work taken in all grades in which the student was enrolled.
 - c. The international student must pay tuition to the high school he/she attends as prescribed in Section 625 of US Public Law 104-208.
 - d. No member of the school's coaching staff or athletic director, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the resident family for the student.
 - e. The international student must comply with all eligibility requirements set forth by the state high school association of which the school he/she attends is a member.

Non-compliance with one or more of the foregoing provisions shall render the international student ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any high school which is a member of the NYSPHSAA.

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FOREIGN STUDENT REPORTING FORM

Foreign Student Name _____

Country of Origin _____

Date of Birth _____

This foreign student possesses as _____ J1 visa / _____ F1 visa (circle one)

As stated in the NYSPHSAA, Inc. current Handbook, this foreign student meets the standards and criteria of the following: (Check one)

_____ A bona fide **Foreign Exchange Student**, who is a participant in the _____ CSIET approved program.

_____ An **Foreign Exchange Student** under the requirements of **Standard #30 – TRANSFER**. (This is for Foreign Exchange Students who are here through a program not listed as an approved CSIET Program)

And will participate in the following sports: _____

Athletic Director

School

Date

Cc: League Secretary