

Interps & Guidelines 1.9.3: STUDENT VISA ELIGIBILITY

The UHSAA recognizes the concerns of its member schools related to displacement of Utah students by students from foreign countries as well as recruiting of foreign players to be placed with Utah high schools. These rules are intended to preserve interscholastic competitive opportunities for Utah students and promote the unique competition fostered by the UHSAA.

A. Foreign Exchange Students with J-1 Visas:

1. A foreign exchange student with a J-1 visa is an international student who attends high school in the U.S. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics in the U.S., such a student must be under the auspices of, and be placed with, a U.S. 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 U.S. State Department, or be on a program approved by the USBE (Utah State Board of Education). The foreign exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures 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.
2. 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 parents and to the host family.
 - a. Neither the school, the student nor any person associated with the school shall have input into the selection of the student.
 - b. No member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family.
3. The foreign exchange student must possess a current J-1 visa, issued by the U.S. State Department.
4. 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. Conditions of eligibility for competition in UHSAA sanctioned athletics include:
 - a. Must be on a CSIET (Council on Standards for International Educational Travel) or USBE (Utah State Board of Education) approved placement program.
 - b. Student cannot participate if he/she has completed twelve (12) years of school (excluding kindergarten) prior to attending a Utah high school.
 - c. UHSAA age rule applies (cannot reach 19 years of age prior to September 1).
 - d. Student must be in an approved placement program that is at least 90 days in length.
 - e. Foreign exchange students are eligible for a maximum of one year.
 - f. **Student is only eligible at the school where he/she is placed.**
 - g. Student must meet all other UHSAA eligibility policies required of student athletes competing in UHSAA sanctioned athletics.
 - h. Student must complete online the Foreign Exchange Student Transfer Application in Aktivite (Register My Athlete) to compete which includes:
 - Transcript of credits in English (to be evaluated and/or interpreted by USBE if necessary):
 - 12 year stipulation (item c above)
 - UHSAA scholastic rule requirement
 - Date of birth
 - Type of visa issued and the title of foreign placement program
 - Reason for coming to this particular school; sports preferred
 - Signatures: student, principal, agent and host family, with disclaimer certifying that no sports recruiting occurred
5. Noncompliance with one or more of the foregoing provisions shall render the foreign exchange student ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any UHSAA member high school.

B. International Students with F-1 Visas:

1. **An international student with an F-1 visa issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service is a student who attends high school in the U.S. An international student with an F-1 visa is only eligible for non-varsity level competition unless the following condition is met: a member school may choose to compete with an F1 student at the varsity level, but the member school is not eligible for post-season competition. Such member school must declare the use of an F1 student at the varsity level prior to the competition start date for that given sport and receive approval from the UHSAA.**
2. An international student who is not living with a parent or legal guardian must meet the following requirements in order to be considered for interscholastic athletic eligibility:
3. 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 indicates work taken in all grades in which the student was enrolled.
4. The international student must pay tuition to the high school he/she attends as prescribed in Section 625 of U.S. Public Law 104-208 and receive an I-20 endorsement from the district or school before admission. **Proof of payment must be provided by the member school upon request by the UHSAA.**
5. No member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the resident family for the student.
6. To participate in competition pursuant to the rule, 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. Conditions of eligibility for competition in UHSAA sanctioned athletics include:
 - a. Student cannot participate if he/she has completed twelve (12) years of school (excluding kindergarten) prior to attending a Utah high school.
 - b. UHSAA age rule applies (cannot reach 19 years of age prior to September 1).
 - c. Student must meet all other UHSAA eligibility policies required of student athletes competing in UHSAA sanctioned athletics.
 - d. International students must complete online the International Student Transfer Application in Aktivite (Register My Athlete) to compete.
7. Noncompliance with one or more of the foregoing provisions shall render the international student with an F-1 visa ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any UHSAA member high school.

C. International Students with Visas Other than J-1 or F-1 Visas :

1. **An international student with a visa other than a J-1 visa or an F-1 visa is a student who attends high school in the U.S. An international student with a visa other than a J-1 visa or an F-1 visa must follow regular UHSAA transfer procedures.**
2. An international student who is not living with a parent or legal guardian must meet the following requirements in order to be considered for interscholastic athletic eligibility:
3. 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 indicates work taken in all grades in which the student was enrolled.
4. The international student must pay tuition to the high school he/she attends as prescribed in Section 625 of U.S. Public Law 104-208 and receive an I-20 endorsement from the district or school before admission. **Proof of payment must be provided by the member school upon request by the UHSAA.**
5. No member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the resident family for the student.

6. *To participate in competition pursuant to the rule, 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. Conditions of eligibility for competition in UHSAA sanctioned athletics include:*
 - a. *Student cannot participate if he/she has completed twelve (12) years of school (excluding kindergarten) prior to attending a Utah high school.*
 - b. *UHSAA age rule applies (cannot reach 19 years of age prior to September 1).*
 - c. *Student must meet all other UHSAA eligibility policies required of student athletes competing in UHSAA sanctioned athletics.*
 - d. *International students must complete online the International Student Transfer Application in Aktivate (Register My Athlete) to compete.*
7. *Noncompliance with one or more of the foregoing provisions shall render the international student with a visa other than a J-1 visa or an F-1 visa ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any UHSAA member high school.*