

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I need to submit to the school I want to play at?

All non-traditional students must submit the EL1 (if applicable), EL2, EL3, GA4, and official transcripts (official grade records for home education/PEP). Additionally, home education students must submit the EL7 packet. PEP students must submit an EL15 along with proof of acceptance of the scholarship. All other non-traditional student types must submit the EL16 packet.

What if I am a legally registered home education student but I take a few courses at a school? Do I have to participate at that school?

No. You are still considered a home education student and may participate at a home education cooperative, any public/charter school in the county you live in, or come to an agreement with any private school in the county you live in.

What if I receive the PEP scholarship but I am enrolled at a PEP Hybrid eligible private school? Where can I participate?

You must participate at the PEP Hybrid eligible private school, unless that school does not offer the sport. Then you would be considered a non-traditional private school student and would need to submit the EL16/EL16V to the school you wish to participate at, along with the other required paperwork.

What if I participate at a school but they do not offer all the sports I want to play?

The school where you participate at *first* is the school you must participate at in all sports, unless that school does not offer a sport. In that case, you may participate in that specific sport at another school in the county you live in, without needing to meet any transfer regulations.

What if the school I first participate at is outside of the county I live in because it is not offered in my county? May I continue to participate in all sports at that school?

No. If the school you first participate at is outside of the county you live in, you may only participate outside of the county for that sport. All other sport participation must take place at a school within the county reside.

What if I attend a school that is not a member of the FHSAA and they offer the sport I want to play, but I want to play for an FHSAA State Championship?

Since you have an opportunity to participate in the sport at the school you attend, you may not participate in that sport at an FHSAA member school.

What if schools in the county I live in offer the sport, but I do not want to play at those schools?

Students may only participate outside of the county they live in when the county they live in does not offer the sport.

What if no public or charter school in my county offers the sport, but a private school does and we do not want to participate at the private school?

If no public or charter school offers the sport and the student/family cannot come to an agreement with a private school, the student may participate at a school in an adjacent county.

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What is considered an adjacent county?

An adjacent county is a county that touches the border, including corners, of the county a student lives in.

There are no schools that offer the sport in the county we live in or any adjacent county. How do we appeal?

To appeal for participation outside of an adjacent county, the school you wish to participate at must complete an EL10.

What if we live closer to schools in an adjacent county, can we appeal to participate outside of the county we live in?

According to state law and FHSAA bylaws, a student may only appeal when the county they live in and the adjacent counties do not offer the sport. If the county the student lives in offers the sport, the student must participate in their county.

What if my mom lives in one county and my dad lives in another, do I get to participate in both counties?

No. Per FHSAA rules, a student with multiple residences will establish his/her residence at the first school he/she attends, or the first school he/she participates at (as a non-traditional student) on or after the first official start date of any sport's season.

I participated at a school in a different county prior to the new law. Can I be grandfathered in?

Yes. Non-traditional students who were on a team during the sport's official season in the 2025-26 school year at a school that is outside of the county they live in, may continue to participate at that school for the remainder of their eligibility.

- **Grandfathering in is specific to a school not a county.**
- Siblings who were not on a team during the 2025-26 school year, do not qualify.
- Grandfathering in does not apply to students who only participated at a school during off-season conditioning, or the summer prior to the signing of Senate Bill 538. The student must have participated with the team during the official season dates in the 2025-26 school year.
- If a non-traditional student was on a team at multiple schools during the 2025-26 school year, he/she may only be grandfathered in at one school.
- If the student decides to transfer or changes schools, they will lose their grandfather status.

EXAMPLE: Jill is home schooled and entered 9th grade in 2024-25. She lived in Pasco County but participated on the girls volleyball and softball teams at a 9-12th grade school in Hillsborough County for the 2025-26 school year. Given that Jill meets all other eligibility requirements, she will continue to be eligible at that school in Hillsborough County for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years.