



Ohio High School Athletic Association
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**Information required to evaluate requests for exceptions for:
Students with disabilities or students retained in grades K-3
Bylaws 4-2-1 and 4-2-2, exceptions 1 and 2 – age
Bylaw 4-3-3 – exception 2 - eight semester**

The **principal** or **other senior administrator** must supply the following in a narrative format:

For application for Exception 1 of Bylaws 4-2-1, 4-2-2 and Exception 2 of Bylaw 4-3-3 (student with a disability)

1. **A statement that clearly identifies the reason** why the student's disability has impacted his or her failure to meet the requirements of the bylaw in question.
2. **A copy of the student's ETR** (Evaluation Team Report), which includes information pertinent to the disability, if the student is applying for either Exception 1 of Bylaws 4-2-1, age (high school) or 4-2-2, age, 7-th-8th grade or exception 2 of Bylaw 4-3-3, Semesters .
3. **A copy of all IEP's** from the time of diagnosis to the present time of the request, if the student is applying for either Exception 1 of Bylaws 4-2-1, age (high school) or 4-2-2, age, 7-th-8th grade or Exception 2 of Bylaw 4-3-3, semesters.

For application for Exception 2 of Bylaws 4-2-1 and 4-2-2 (student who has repeated a grade(s) from K-3)

1. **A narrative indicating which grade(s) the student** has repeated from Kindergarten through grade 3
2. **Evidence of the recommendation** of the student's teachers or other educational professionals for the repetition of said grade (s)
3. **Affirmation** that the repetition was for purely academic reasons.

For all applicants:

1. **A narrative** that describes specifically how the student meets each one of the four criteria expressed in the bylaw. It is not acceptable to simply repeat each criterion and respond with a "yes" or a "no" to each item. A summary with definitions of terms and examples of each of those items is provided for your reference. Please see the *Handbook* for the complete text of each criterion.

- a. **Safety risk to self or others** - This item means that the student is not of the size, physical and/or developmental maturity that might predispose him or her to place others at risk or him or herself at risk if an additional year of participation were granted. Please include information about the student's physical characteristics including height and weight when addressing this issue.
 - b. **Advantage as to physical, mental or athletic maturity** – It is not the intention of this exception to grant an additional year of eligibility to student's who have enjoyed significant participation at the varsity level, have earned school, league, district or state honors for athletic accomplishments, or have been varsity letter winners. Physical, mental and athletic maturity relates to students who have achieved full development as athletes and who have shown prowess and impact in their selected sport or sports.
 - c. **Competitive equity** – This term refers to the notion of keeping the playing field as even as possible by preventing students who have had an additional year of experience in a sport or who have had the advantage of age and maturity from participating against students who have had neither of those advantages. The OHSAA will not grant exceptions to students whose past performance in a sport or sports has been of such a high caliber that further eligibility would be unfair to the opponents of the member school the student in question attends. To this end, the applicant shall provide **statistical information about the student's playing time, honors achieved, places in competition earned and varsity letters earned in each sport.**
 - d. **Red shirting** – “Red shirting” refers to a deliberate attempt to retain a student in a grade for the purpose of gaining an extra year of eligibility and thus obtaining an athletic advantage. Students who are identified as a “child with a disability” during their last year of eligibility at the high school will be carefully scrutinized in terms of this issue.
2. **A list of names and email addresses** (please no telephone numbers) of persons in the school's league or competitive area who could speak to the athletic abilities of the student and provide another opinion about whether or not an exception should be granted. Please do not provide these persons with a form letter or invite them to send their comments to the school that is applying for the exception. **Correspondence from persons who have not been solicited by the OHSAA shall not be accepted.**

Please allow 30 days for this process to be completed and note that not all applicants are granted additional eligibility. Each case is evaluated individually by the OHSAA staff. The OHSAA will not accept incomplete applications. Please forward all materials to the contact persons listed below.

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