Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association
Hardship Application Form

Student's Name: _____ **School:** _____ **Sport(s):** _____

Eligibility should also be submitted for the student online through the TSSAA Portal. If the student is a transfer student or homeschool student, please provide the TSSAA Portal Case Number. **Case #**_____

Article II, Section 24 (Special Cases Involving Hardship) of the TSSAA Bylaws states the following, in part:

Except for the eligibility rules in regard to age and to the number of semesters in school, TSSAA shall have the authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student when:

(a) the circumstances causing the student to fail to satisfy the eligibility rule were unforeseen and unavoidable;
(b) application of the rule to the student works an undue hardship in light of the unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances;
(c) application of the rule would not accomplish the purpose for which the rule was intended; and
(d) in the case of a change of schools, the change is for reasons unrelated to participation in athletics.

The burden of establishing each of these elements to the Executive Director's satisfaction is upon the school at which eligibility is sought.

Note: Hardship applications may only be submitted for students who meet the TSSAA Definition of *Enrolled* at your school. A student is considered "enrolled" at a school, for purposes of these Bylaws, when the student has (a) completed all paperwork required for attendance at the school; (b) paid all deposits and tuition due where applicable; and (c) either (i) attended classes for three days; (ii) engaged in three or more days of football, girls volleyball, cross country, golf, or girls soccer practice during the period on or after the TSSAA first official day of practice; or (iii) participated in an athletic contest in any Fall sport. A student may not be considered to be enrolled in more than one school at any time.

Please complete and thoroughly explain each section. You may attach additional pages.

1. Explain the circumstances that keep the student from satisfying the eligibility rule and why those circumstances were unforeseen and unavoidable (attach any supporting documentation).

2. The three primary objectives that the member schools of TSSAA attempt to achieve through their Bylaws are (a) maintaining athletics in its proper perspective as subordinate to the academic mission of the schools; (b) preventing exploitation of students for athletic purposes; and (c) fostering fair competition among the member schools. Explain why application of the eligibility rule would not accomplish these objectives.

3. Explain how the unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances justify treating the student differently than others are treated under the rule.

4. In the case of a change of schools, explain why the change of schools was unrelated to participation in athletics. Attach a letter from the principal of the previous school that gives their knowledge of the transfer and verifies that it was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons.

5. Occupation of the Father: _____

   Occupation of the Mother: _____

   Occupation of the Guardian if other than parents: _____

6. List information below for brothers and sisters of the student:

Name	Age	School They Will Attend	Living with Whom

7. Additional notes or commentary may be included in the space below.

☐ Check this box if you were unable to obtain any information from the previous school.

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Signature of Principal of School Requesting Hardship

*Please scan the completed application and any additional documentation and email it to Lauren Jones (ljones@tssaa.org) for high school students or Kim Alley (kalley@tssaa.org) for middle school students.

*The TSSAA member school at which eligibility is sought must submit the application. No application will be accepted unless signed by the school principal.