

Rule 24 – Coaches and Players Linked:

The linked rule is intended to discourage students from changing school districts to follow a trainer and/or coach for athletic purposes. Students who move or transfer into a school district to follow a coach/trainer are linked to that coach/trainer and must sit out of varsity participation for one calendar year from the first day of attendance. This rule applies to **new** students (grades 9-12 who have established athletic eligibility) in a school district beginning in the fall of 2024 and every new student to a district is subject to this rule. The timeline to look back and establish a “link” to a coach is 365 days from the first day of school attendance. Students who attended a new school district in the spring of 2024 will **not** be subject to the rule. If a student can answer yes to any of the following questions, they may be subject to the link rule:

1. I am a new student in a school district for the fall of 2024 and this school district has hired a coach or trainer from my previous school district.
2. I am a new student in a school district for the fall of 2024 and this school district has hired an adjunct coach I have played for or trained with in the last 365 days from the start of the fall 2024 school year.
3. I am a new student in a school district for the fall of 2024 and I participated in a camp, clinic or on a team with a coach who is employed as a coach in my new school district.

Q&A

1. A student from school A transferred to school B in the Spring semester of 2024. School B is hiring a coach from school A for the 2024-25 school year. Will the student who transferred in the spring of 2024 be subject to the linked rule?
*Answer: No, only **new** students in a school district beginning in the fall of 2024 are subject to the linked rule.*
2. A student from school A moves or transfers into school district B after school district B ends the academic year for the 2023-24 school year, but prior to July 1. Is this student subject to the link rule at school B?
Answer: Yes, any new student (Fall 2024) to a district is subject to the link rule.
3. If a student and a coach from school A both subsequently end up at school B, but the coach **didn't** coach the student at school A and **won't** coach him/her at school B, is there a link rule violation?
Answer: No, the rule states that the student must have been coached and/or trained by the coach for a link to exist between the student and coach.

4. If a student and a coach from school A both subsequently end up at school B, but the coach **did** coach the student at school A but **won't** coach him/her at school B, is there a link rule violation?

Answer: Yes, the coach and athlete are linked from the previous school and the student would have to file a hardship to gain eligibility.

5. Does the Link rule apply to students in 7th and 8th grade?

Answer: No, the link rule applies to students after establishing their eligibility at the ninth grade or above.