ARIZONA INTERSCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
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AGE RULE
HARDSHIP APPEAL

INFORMATION REQUIRED TO EVALUATE REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS TO THE AGE LIMITS RULE (BYLAW 15.6.1) FOR A STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY/DISABILITIES

The **PRINCIPAL** or **AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE** must supply the following in a narrative format:

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.

3. **A copy of all IEP's** from the time of diagnosis to the present.

4. **A narrative** that specifically addresses in detail each one of the following four criteria. **It is not acceptable to simply repeat each criterion and respond with a "yes" or a "no" to each item**.

   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 but not limited to 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 students 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 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 AIA 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 yea of eligibility and thus obtaining and 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.

5. **A list of names and email addresses** (please no telephone numbers) of persons in the school's 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 AIA shall not be accepted.**

Please allow at least 30 days for this process to be completed.

The AIA will not accept incomplete applications.

Please forward all materials to the designated contact person listed below:

Chuck Schmidt
Chief Operating Officer
cschmidt@aiaonline.org

Name of Student _____

Sending School _____

Principal or Authorized Designee _____ **Date**