



Loyola Marymount University - Athletics

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Extensions of the Five-Year Clock

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An application for an extension of the five-year clock is rare and more difficult to attain. For an extension request to be successful, the institution requesting it on behalf of the student-athlete must prove that the student-athlete was deprived of no less than two seasons of competition for reason beyond his or her control. For example, a student-athlete could have been forced to withdraw from school for two years to help support his family or to care for an ailing parent. More commonly, the basis for an extension request is incapacitating injury. In cases of injury, the institution must show that the student-athlete suffered injuries or illnesses that prevented him or her from competing for two seasons. An example of a successful application of a student-athlete's five-year clock would be as follows:

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Season of Competition/Situation</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
1999-2000	Competed in the 2nd and 3rd contest before suffering a season ending injury.	Medical hardship granted by conference office. Still has four seasons of eligibility, Year #1.
2000-2001	Competed for entire season	Season #1, Year #2
2001-2002	Completed for entire season	Season #2, Year #3
2002-2003	Competed in first two contests before suffering a season ending injury	Medical hardship was granted by the conference. Still has two seasons of eligibility remaining but only one year left on five-year clock.
2003-2004	Competed	Season #3, Year #5
2004-2005	Sixth season of eligibility granted by the NCAA based on missing the equivalent of two seasons of competition for reasons beyond the student-athlete's and the institutions's control.	

In some cases a year listed as a "redshirt" is not actually within the institution's or student-athlete's control because, for example, the student-athlete may have been injured for a portion of the season that eventually was used as a "redshirt" year. In such cases, the NCAA will review all documentation to determine whether a student-athlete had the opportunity to participate when he or she could have competed in limited competition at some point during the season before or after the injury occurred. In determining if a student-athlete had the opportunity to participate, the NCAA committee will apply a similar analysis to that utilized under the medical hardship provisions

For example, a student-athlete had a participation opportunity if he or she could have competed in two contests or more than 20 percent of the institution's completed contests (whichever is greater). If an institution indicates that a student-athlete was able to return to competition after the second contest they would, therefore, not meet the NCAA threshold. If the student-athlete was not able to return until the 10th or 11th game in the season then the extension could be granted.

Annually, each NCAA member institution will file numerous requests for medical hardships for its student-athletes and conferences normally approve the majority of them (provided the student-athlete meets the criteria outlined in NCAA Bylaw 14.2.4) because institutions know the circumstances and evidence that requisite for success. Institutions maintain meticulous records related to medical treatment and competition and, therefore, when a student-athlete presents circumstances that merit a medical hardship or an extension, institutions are likely to apply for them.

For more questions about extension of the five-year clock, consult with the LMU Compliance Office.

ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!