

The Irish Interpreter

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Athletic Compliance Office

Initial Eligibility Requirements

A student-athlete who wishes to participate in NCAA intercollegiate athletics must meet certain academic requirements as certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center in order to be eligible for financial aid, practice and competition. Students register with the Eligibility Center during their high school career and must be “cleared” as meeting all requirements—within 14 days of beginning practice activities as a college freshman, if they are a recruited student-athlete, or within 45 days if they are a non-recruited student-athlete.

To meet NCAA requirements and be deemed a “qualifier” a student must graduate from high school (meeting all graduation requirements as defined for all students by his or her high school or secondary school) and present the following academic qualifications:

- Successful completion of a required core curriculum consisting of a minimum of 16 courses in specified subjects;
- Specified minimum grade point average in the core curriculum; and
- Specified minimum SAT or ACT score.

(For a chart detailing the sliding scale for test scores and grade point average, click [here](#).)

The core course curriculum consists of: 4 years of English, 3 years of math (algebra I or higher), 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by the high school), 1 extra year of English, math or natural or physical science, 2 years of social science, 4 years of extra core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy).

A prospective student-athlete must graduate on schedule (in eight semesters) and complete the 16 core course curriculum with his or her incoming ninth grade class. There is one exception: if the prospective student-athlete graduates from high school within the described time frame, he or she may use one core course completed in the year after graduation. This requirement is relatively new and is designed to encourage prospective student-athletes to take academic courses each year of high school to ensure timely graduation, and to discourage prospective student-athlete’s from intentionally delaying high school graduation solely to meet NCAA eligibility requirements

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Initial Eligibility continued...

while not preparing for the academic rigors of college.

If a student-athlete is a “nonqualifier” due to either not graduating from high school, not completing the core curriculum or not presenting the core curriculum gpa or SAT/ACT score required for a qualifier—he or she must fulfill an academic year in residence in order to be eligible for practice, competition and athletically related financial aid.

If a prospective student-athlete does not meet the academic requirements

to be a qualifier, an Initial Eligibility Waiver may be filed on their behalf by the collegiate institution in which they are enrolling. The Academics Cabinet of the NCAA has the authority to authorize waivers based on evidence which demonstrated circumstances in which a student’s overall academic record warrants a waiver of the normal application of NCAA legislation. Waiver types include learning disability, foreign student, core course, grade point average, test score, transcript change and proof of

graduation. Information that will be reviewed during the consideration of a waiver request include: prospect’s prior notice and knowledge of NCAA academic requirements, extenuating circumstances that precluded compliance with NCAA requirements, the prospect’s recruited or nonrecruited status and the prospect’s overall academic record.

For more information on NCAA Initial Eligibility Standards, visit the Eligibility section of the NCAA website: <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/ncaa?ContentID=273>

NCAA
Definition to know... Waiver:
an action exempting an individual or institution from the application of a specific regulation. A waiver requires formal approval based on evidence of compliance with the specified conditions or criteria under which the waiver is authorized or extenuating circumstances.

Social Networking Websites and Recruiting

Electronically transmitted correspondence that may be sent to a prospective student-athlete, or their parents or legal guardians, is limited to electronic mail and facsimiles (You may recall new legislation that was passed in 2007 prohibiting text messaging and instant messaging as permissible forms of electronically transmitted correspondence.). NCAA legislation allows an institution to send electronically transmit-

ted correspondence to a prospect beginning September 1 at the beginning of the prospect’s junior year in high school.

In an attempt to address new technologies and their use during the recruiting process, the NCAA has issued an Educational Column regarding institutional staff members’ interaction with prospects via social networking Web sites. Excerpts follow:

E-mail is not limited to a traditional e-mail service provided by an institution, Web site or Internet service provider. Therefore, it is permissible for an athletics department staff member to send electronically transmitted correspondence to a prospective student-athlete using a social networking Web site’s (e.g., MySpace, Facebook) e-mail feature. All other electronically transmitted correspon-

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Social Networking Websites and Recruiting, cont...

dence including, but not limited to, text messaging, Instant Messenger, chat rooms or message boards (e.g., a user's wall) within a social networking Web site or through other services or applications remain impermissible.

For example, a coaching staff member with a MySpace or Facebook account may send electronically transmitted correspondence to a prospective student-athlete's MySpace or Facebook account using the e-mail inbox feature located on that user's profile page. However, a coaching staff member may not send electronic correspondence to a prospective student-athlete via the comments feature on MySpace or the wall-

to-wall feature on Facebook.

Institutions should also note that in accordance with Bylaw 13.10.2, before the signing of a prospective student-athlete to a National Letter of Intent or an institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid, a member institution may comment publicly only to the extent of confirming its recruitment of the prospective student-athlete. The institution may not comment generally about the prospective student-athlete's ability or the contribution that the prospective student-athlete might make to the institution's team; further, the institution is precluded from commenting in any manner

as to the likelihood of the prospective student-athlete's signing with that institution.

Accordingly, it is permissible for a prospective student-athlete's name and/or picture to appear on an athletics department staff member's profile page of a social networking Web site to identify the prospective student-athlete as a "friend" of the athletics department staff member. Institutions should note that the identification of the prospective student-athlete as a "friend" on an athletics staff members profile page confirms only the institution's potential recruitment of that individual. However, institutions are reminded they may not make any

public comments about the prospective student-athlete's ability, the contribution that the prospective student-athlete might make to the institution's team or the likelihood of the prospective student-athlete's signing with that institution.

A coaching staff member may not send electronic correspondence to a prospect via the comments feature on MySpace or the wall-to-wall feature on Facebook.

Test Your Knowledge

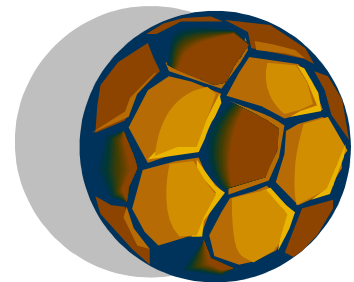
Goal Lee is a prospective student-athlete who will be enrolling this fall at College USA to participate on the soccer team. Goal completed all of the course work required by her high school for graduation, earning a 4.0 cumulative GPA. However, Goal has not yet taken and passed

the required state exit exam.

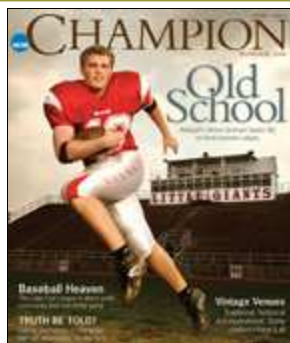
Because Goal has completed all the required course work for her high school, is she considered a high school graduate?

No. **NCAA Bylaw 14.3.5.2** states that in order to be considered a high school graduate, a

prospective student-athlete shall meet all graduation requirements, including academic and nonacademic (e.g., state exit exams, community service, senior project) requirements, as defined for all students by his or her high school or secondary school. (*Adopted: 4/23/08*)



Ask Before You Act!



Check out Champion Magazine, a relatively new publication from the NCAA.

“Champion magazine illuminates its readers about the most important issues facing intercollegiate athletics while also promoting the thousands of quality people who support college sports each day.”

<http://www.ncaachampionmagazine.org/>

Around the NCAA (click on article title for link):

[Board Fills Governance Committee Vacancies](#) — NCAA News, 8/13/08 (including Notre Dame’s own Missy Conboy who has been appointed to the Committee on Infractions)

[National Coaching Report Stresses Importance of Qualified Coaches](#) — NCAA News, 8/6/08

[Higher Education Act to Boost Pell Grants, Simplify Financial Aid](#) — NCAA News, 8/6/08

[AVCA Honors Record Number of Scholars](#) — NCAA News, 7/31/08

August Recruiting Calendar

Baseball

August 1-31: Contact Period

Men’s Basketball

August 1-31: Quiet Period

Women’s Basketball

August 1-31: Quiet Period

Cross Country/Track and Field

August 1-9: Quiet Period

August 10-31: Contact Period

Football

August 1-31: Quiet Period

Men’s Lacrosse

August 1-4: Contact Period

August 5-11: Quiet Period

August 12-31: Dead Period

Women’s Lacrosse

August 1-31: Seven contact days selected at the institution’s discretion and designated in writing. Those days not designated for contact purposes are in a Quiet Period.

Softball

August 1-31: Contact Period

Women’s Volleyball

August 1-31: Contact Period

Definitions

Contact period - permissible for authorized athletic department staff members to make in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts and evaluations

Dead period - not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on- or off-campus or permit official or unofficial visits

Evaluation period - permissible for authorized athletics department staff to be involved in off-campus activities to assess academic qualifications and playing abilities; no in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts with a prospective student-athlete are permitted

Quiet period - permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts only on the member institution’s campus