



Summary of NCAA Regulations – NCAA Division I

For: Student-athletes.

Purpose: To summarize NCAA regulations regarding eligibility of student-athletes to compete.

TO: STUDENT-ATHLETE

This summary of NCAA regulations contains information about your eligibility to compete in intercollegiate athletics.

This summary has two parts:

1. Part I is for **all** student-athletes.
2. Part II is for **new** student-athletes only (those signing the Student-Athlete Statement for the first time).

If you have questions, ask your director of athletics (or his or her official designee) or refer to the 2009-10 NCAA Division I Manual. The references in brackets after each summarized regulation show you where to find the regulation in the Division I Manual.

PART I: FOR ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES.

This part of the summary discusses ethical conduct, amateurism, financial aid, academic standards and other regulations concerning your eligibility for intercollegiate competition.

1. Ethical Conduct – All Sports.

- a. You must act with honesty and sportsmanship at all times so that you represent the honor and dignity of fair play and the generally recognized high standards associated with wholesome competitive sports. [NCAA Bylaw 10.01.1]
- b. You are **not eligible** to compete if you knowingly: provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition; solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team; accept a bet on any team representing the institution or solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) that has tangible value. [Bylaw 10.3]

- c. You are **not eligible** to compete if you knowingly participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling. [Bylaw 10.3]
- d. You are **not eligible** to compete if you have shown dishonesty in evading or violating NCAA regulations. [Bylaw 14.01.3]

2. Amateurism – All Sports.

- a. You are **not eligible** for participation in a sport if you have ever:
 - (1) Taken pay, or the promise of pay, for competing in that sport;
 - (2) Agreed (orally or in writing) to compete in professional athletics in that sport;
 - (3) Played on any professional athletics team as defined by the NCAA in that sport; or
 - (4) Used your athletics skill for pay in any form in that sport, except that prior to collegiate enrollment, you accepted prize money based on place finish or performance in an open athletics event from the sponsor of the event and the amount of prize money did not exceed your actual and necessary expenses to participate in the event. [Bylaws 12.1.1 and 12.1.2.4.1]
- b. You are **not eligible** in a sport if you ever have accepted money, transportation or other benefits from an agent or agreed to have an agent market your athletics ability or reputation in that sport. [Bylaw 12.3]
- c. You are **not eligible** in any sport if, after you become a student-athlete, you accept any pay for promoting a commercial product or service or allow your name or picture to be used for promoting a commercial product or service. [Bylaws 12.5.2.1 and 12.5.2.2]
- d. You are **not eligible** in any sport if, because of your athletics ability, you were paid for work you did not perform, were paid at a rate higher than the going rate or were paid for the value an employer placed on your reputation, fame or personal following. [Bylaw 12.4]

3. **Financial Aid – All Sports.**

- a. You are **not eligible** if you receive financial aid other than the financial aid that your institution distributes. However, it is permissible to receive:
 - (1) Money from anyone on whom you are naturally or legally dependent;
 - (2) Financial aid that has been awarded to you on a basis other than athletics ability; or
 - (3) Financial aid from an entity outside your institution that meets the requirements specified in the Division I Manual. [Bylaw 15.01]
- b. You must report to your institution any financial aid that you receive from a source other than your institution. However, you do not need to report financial aid received from anyone on whom you are naturally or legally dependent.

4. **Employment Earnings – All Sports.**

- Earnings from a student-athlete's on- or off-campus employment that occurs at any time is exempt and is not counted in determining a student-athlete's full grant-in-aid or in the institution's financial aid limitations, provided:
 - (1) The student-athlete's compensation does not include any remuneration for value or utility that the student-athlete may have for the employer because of the publicity, reputation, fame or personal following that he or she has obtained because of athletics ability;
 - (2) The student-athlete is compensated only for work actually performed; and
 - (3) The student-athlete is compensated at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services (Bylaw 12.4 and Bylaw 15.2.7).

5. **Academic Standards – All Sports.**

a. **Eligibility for competition.**

- (1) To be **eligible to compete**, you must:
 - (a) Have been admitted as a regularly enrolled, degree seeking student according to the published entrance requirements of your institution;

- (b) Be in good academic standing according to the standards of your institution; and
 - (c) Be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time baccalaureate degree program (not less than 12 semester or quarter hours) and maintain satisfactory progress toward that degree, be enrolled in a full-time graduate or professional degree program (not less than eight semester or quarter hours) or be enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate degree at your institution. [Bylaws 14.01.2, 14.1.7.1, 14.1.8.2 and 14.1.8.2.1.4]
- (2) If you are enrolled in less than a full-time program, you are **eligible** to **compete** only if you are enrolled in the last term of your degree program and are carrying credits necessary to finish your degree. [Bylaw 14.1.8.2.1.3]
 - (3) You are **eligible** to **compete** during the official vacation period immediately preceding initial enrollment, provided you have been accepted by your institution for enrollment in a regular, full-time program of studies at the time of your initial participation, you are no longer enrolled in your previous educational institution and you are eligible under all institutional and NCAA requirements. [Bylaw 14.1.8.2.1.1]
 - (4) You are **eligible** to **compete** between terms if you are continuing enrollment, provided you have been registered for the required minimum full-time load at the conclusion of the term immediately preceding the date of competition, or if you are either continuing enrollment or beginning enrollment, provided you have been accepted for enrollment as a regular full-time student for the regular term immediately following the date of competition. [Bylaw 14.1.8.2.1.2]

b. Eligibility for Practice.

- (1) You are **eligible** to **practice** if you are enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree as defined by the regulations of the certifying institution. [Bylaw 14.1.8.1]
- (2) You are **eligible** to **practice** during the official vacation period immediately preceding initial enrollment, provided you have been accepted by your institution for enrollment in a regular, full-time program of studies at the time of your initial participation, you no longer are enrolled in your previous educational institution and you are eligible under all institutional and NCAA requirements. [Bylaw 14.1.8.1.1]

- (3) You also are **eligible to practice** if you are enrolled in the final semester or quarter of a baccalaureate program while enrolled in less than a minimum full-time program of studies and your institution certifies that you are carrying (for credit) the courses necessary to complete the degree requirements, as determined by the faculty of the institution.
[Bylaw 14.1.8.1.3]

c. Continuing Eligibility – All Sports (For those student-athletes first entering a collegiate institution as a full-time student on or after August 1, 2003).

- If you are entering an institution for the first time on or after August 1, 2003, your eligibility for competition shall be based on:
 - (a) Having successfully completed 24-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit prior to the start of the institution's third semester or fourth quarter following the student-athlete's initial full-time enrollment;
 - (b) Having successfully completed 18-semester or 27-quarter hours of academic credit since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters (hours earned during the summer may not be used to fulfill this requirement); and
 - (c) Six-semester or quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term (e.g., fall semester, winter quarter) in which the student-athlete has been enrolled at any collegiate institution.
 - (d) You must choose a major that leads to a specific baccalaureate degree by the beginning of your third year of enrollment. (This includes transfer students who have not yet completed an academic year in residence or used one season of eligibility in a sport at their current institution.) [Bylaw 14.4.3.1.6]
 - (e) If you are entering your second year of collegiate enrollment, you must present a cumulative grade-point average that equals at least 90 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation (based on a 4.000 scale). [Bylaw 14.4.3.3]
 - (f) If you are entering your third year of collegiate enrollment, you must have completed successfully at least 40 percent of the course requirements in your specific degree program and you must present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a 4.000 scale) that equals at least 95 percent of the institution's

overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. For this purpose, a student-athlete's grade-point average will be certified on a term-by-term basis. [Bylaw 14.4.3.3.2 and 14.4.3.3]

- (g) If you are entering your fourth year of collegiate enrollment, you must have completed successfully at least 60 percent of the course requirements in your specific degree program and you must present a cumulative grade-point average (based on a 4.000 scale) that equals at least 100 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. For this purpose, a student-athlete's grade-point average will be certified on a term-by-term basis. [Bylaw 14.4.3.2 and 14.4.3.3]
- (h) If you are entering your fifth year of collegiate enrollment, you must have completed successfully at least 80 percent of the course requirements in your specific degree program and you must present a cumulative grade-point average (based on a 4.000 scale) that equals at least 100 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. For this purpose, a student-athlete's grade-point average will be certified on a term-by-term basis. [Bylaw 14.4.3.2 and 14.4.3.3]

d. Freshmen.

- (1) You are referred to as a qualifier and are eligible to practice and compete in your sport and to receive financial aid (institutional and athletically related) during your first academic year under Bylaw 14.02.10, if you:
 - (a) Graduate from high school;
 - (b) Attain a minimum high school grade-point average as specified in Bylaw 14.3.1.1.2 (based on a 4.0 scale) in a successfully completed core curriculum of at least 16 core courses. [Bylaw 14.3.1.1]
 - (c) Achieve a corresponding sum ACT or SAT score as specified in Bylaw 14.3.1.1.2.
- (2) You are referred to as a nonqualifier if you fail to meet the criteria above. In addition to being ineligible for practice and competition during the first academic year in residence, a nonqualifier is not permitted to receive any institutional financial aid, except as stated below. [Bylaws 14.02.10.2 and 14.3.2.1.1]

e. As a Nonqualifier:

- (1) You are eligible to receive nonathletics institutional financial aid based on need only, consistent with institutional and conference regulations.
- (2) You will have three seasons of eligibility after your first academic year in residence. You may earn a fourth season of competition provided you complete 80 percent of your baccalaureate degree before beginning your fifth academic year of enrollment and you are within five years of your initial, full-time collegiate enrollment. [Bylaw 14.3.3]

6. Other Regulations Concerning Eligibility – All Sports.

- a. You are **not eligible** to participate in more than four seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport. [Bylaw 14.2]
- b. You are **not eligible** if five calendar years have passed from the date you first registered as a full-time student at a collegiate institution and attended your first day of classes for that term, except for time spent in the armed services, on official church missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government and extensions that have been approved in accordance with NCAA legislation. [Bylaws 14.2.1 and 30.6.1]
- c. You are **eligible** at an institution other than the institution from which you have received or satisfied the requirements for a baccalaureate degree or an equivalent degree, if you meet the conditions of the one-time transfer exception [Bylaw 14.5.5.2.10] and you have eligibility remaining as set forth in Bylaw 14.2.1. [Bylaw 14.1.9]
- d. You are **eligible** for championships, certified bowl games or the National Invitation Tournament that occur within 60 days of the date you complete the requirements for your degree. [Bylaw 14.1.9.3]

7. All Sports Other Than Basketball.

- You are **not eligible** in your sport for the remainder of the year and the next academic year if, during the academic year, you competed as a member of any outside team in any noncollegiate, amateur competition. You may compete outside of your declared playing and practice season as a member of an outside team in any noncollegiate, amateur competition during any official vacation period published in your institution's catalog. Competing in the Olympic Games tryouts and competition and other specified national and international competition is permitted. [Bylaws 14.7.1, 14.7.1.1 and 14.7.3]

- **Exception:** In men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, field hockey and men's water polo, you may compete on outside amateur teams during the spring outside of the institution's playing and practice seasons, provided such participation occurs no earlier than May 1, and the remaining provisions of Bylaw 14.7.1.2 are met.

8. All-Star Football and Basketball Only.

- You are **not eligible** if, after you completed your high school eligibility in your sport and before your high school graduation, you participated in more than two high school all-star football or basketball games. [Bylaw 14.6]

9. Basketball Only.

- a. You are **not eligible** if, after you become a student-athlete, you participate in any organized basketball competition except while representing the institution in intercollegiate competition. Competing in the Olympic Games tryouts and competition and other specified national and international competition is permitted. [Bylaws 14.7.2 and 14.7.3]
- b. It is permissible to participate as a member of a basketball team in an NCAA-sanctioned summer basketball league or event. [Bylaw 14.7.3.2-(a)]

10. Transfer Students Only.

- a. You are a transfer student if:
 - (1) The registrar or admissions officer from your former institution certified that you officially were registered and enrolled at that institution in any term in a minimum full-time program of studies and you were present on the opening day of classes; **or**
 - (2) The director of athletics from your former institution certified that you reported for the regular squad practice that any staff member of the athletics department of your former institution announced before the beginning of any term. [Bylaw 14.5.2]
- b. If you are a transfer student from a four-year institution, you are **not eligible** during your first academic year in residence unless you meet the provisions of one of the exceptions specified in Bylaw 14.5.5.2 or one of the waivers specified in Bylaw 14.8.2.
- c. If you are a transfer student from a two-year institution, you are **not eligible** during your first academic year in residence at your new institution unless you

meet the academic and residence requirements specified in Bylaw 14.5.4 or the exceptions specified in Bylaw 14.5.4.6.

- d. If you transferred from a four-year college to a two-year college and then to your new institution, you are **not eligible** during your first academic year in residence at your new institution unless you meet the requirements specified in Bylaw 14.5.6.

11. Drugs – All Sports.

- a. If the NCAA tests you for the banned drugs listed in Bylaw 31.2.3 and you test positive (consistent with NCAA drug-testing protocol), you will be **ineligible** to participate in regular-season and postseason competition for one calendar year (i.e., 365 days) after your positive drug test and you will be charged with the loss of a minimum of one season of competition in all sports.
- b. If you test positive a second time for the use of any drug, other than a “street drug” as defined in Bylaw 31.2.3, you will lose all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports.
- c. If you test positive for the use of a “street drug” after being restored to eligibility, you shall be charged with the loss of one additional season of competition in all sports and also shall remain ineligible for regular season and postseason competition at least through the next calendar year. [Bylaw 18.4.1.5.1]
- d. A policy adopted by the NCAA Executive Committee establishes that the penalty for missing a scheduled drug test is the same as the penalty for testing positive for the use of a banned drug other than a street drug. You will remain ineligible until you retest negative and your eligibility has been restored by the NCAA Division I Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement. [Bylaw 18.4.1.5.1]

12. Non-NCAA Athletics Organization Positive Drug Test – All Sports.

- a. If you test positive for banned substances by a non-NCAA athletics organization, you must notify your director of athletics regarding the positive drug test. You also must permit the NCAA to test you for the banned drugs listed in Bylaw 31.2.3.
- b. If the result of the NCAA drug test is positive, you will lose all remaining eligibility during the season in which you tested positive and an additional season of competition.
- c. The director of athletics must notify the vice president of NCAA educational affairs in writing regarding a student-athlete’s disclosure of a previous positive drug test administered by any other athletics organization.

- d. If the student-athlete immediately transfers to a non-NCAA institution while ineligible and competes in collegiate competition within the 365 day period at a non-NCAA institution, the student-athlete will be ineligible for all NCAA regular-season and postseason competition until the student-athlete does not compete in collegiate competition for a 365 day period. Additionally, the student-athlete must retest negative (in accordance with the testing methods authorized by the Executive Committee) and request that eligibility be restored by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement.
- e. The list is subject to change and the institution and student-athlete shall be held accountable for all banned drug classes on the current list. The list is located on the NCAA Web site (www.ncaa.org) or may be obtained from the NCAA health and safety staff in Education Outreach.

PART II: FOR NEW STUDENT-ATHLETES ONLY.

This part of the summary contains information about your recruitment, which is governed by Bylaw 13 of the Division I Manual.

1. Recruitment.

a. Offers – All Sports.

- (1) You are **not eligible** if, before you enrolled at your institution, any staff member of your institution or any other representative of your institution's athletics interests provided or offered to you, your relatives or your friends any financial aid or other benefits that NCAA legislation does not permit.
- (2) It is permissible for your summer employment to be arranged by the institution or for you to accept educational loans from a regular lending agency provided you did not receive the job or loan before the end of your senior year in high school. [Bylaws 13.2.1, 13.2.4 and 13.2.5]

b. Contacts – All Sports.

- (1) For purposes of this section, contact means “any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or the prospect’s parent or legal guardian and an institutional staff member or athletics representative during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting. Any such face-to-face encounter that is prearranged or that takes place on the grounds of the prospect’s educational institution or at the site of organized competition or practice involving the prospect or the prospect's high school, preparatory

school, two-year college or all-star team shall be considered a contact, regardless of the conversation that occurs.” [Bylaw 13.02.3]

- (2) You are **not eligible** if any staff member of your institution:
 - (a) Contacted you, your relatives or your legal guardians in person off your institution’s campus before July 1 following completion of your junior year in high school (except for students at military academies) as described in Bylaw 13.1.1.1.
 - (b) Contacted you in person off your institution’s campus more than the number of times specified in Bylaw 13.1.6; or
 - (c) Contacted you in person off your institution’s campus outside the time periods specified in Bylaw 13.1.4 for the sports of football, basketball, baseball, softball, women’s volleyball and men’s lacrosse.
- (3) You are **not eligible** if, before you enrolled at your institution, a coach from your institution contacted you in person on or off your institution’s campus while you were practicing or competing in football or basketball outside the permissible contact periods. [Bylaw 13.1.7.2.4]
- (4) You are **not eligible** if you were not a qualifier and any staff member of your institution contacted you, your relatives or your legal guardians in person on or off your institution’s campus while you were enrolled in your first year of a two-year college. [Bylaw 13.1.1.2]
- (5) You are **not eligible** if anyone from your institution, other than an authorized staff member, contacted you, your relatives or your legal guardian in person on or off your institution’s campus to recruit you. You also are not eligible if you received recruiting letters or telephone calls from any representative of your institution’s athletics interests. [Bylaw 13.1.2.1]
- (6) You are **not eligible** if, while you were being recruited, any staff member of your institution or any other representative of your institution’s athletics interests, contacted you during the day or days of competition at the site of any athletics competition in which you were competing. It was permissible for such contact to occur (during the permissible period) after the competition if the appropriate high school authority released you prior to the contact. [Bylaw 13.1.7.2]

c. Publicity – All Sports.

- (1) You are **not eligible** if, before you enrolled at your institution, your institution publicized any visit that you made to its campus. [Bylaw 13.10.5]
- (2) You are **not eligible** if, before you enrolled at your institution, you appeared on a radio or television program that involved a coach or another member of the staff of the athletics department at your institution. [Bylaw 13.10.3]

d. Letter-of-Intent Signing.

- You are **not eligible** if a staff member of your institution was present while you were signing, at an off-campus site, a National Letter of Intent or an acceptance of a financial aid offer from your institution or your conference. [Bylaw 13.1.6.7]

e. Source of Funds – All Sports.

- You are **not eligible** if any organization or group of people outside your institution spent money recruiting you to attend your institution, including entertaining, giving gifts or services and providing transportation to you or your relatives or friends. [Bylaw 13.15.1]

f. Tryouts – All Sports.

- You are **not eligible** if, after starting classes for the ninth grade, you displayed your abilities in any phase of any sport in a tryout conducted by or for your institution. [Bylaw 13.11.1]

g. Football, Basketball, Volleyball and Gymnastics Only.

- You are **not eligible** if, after starting classes for the ninth grade, you participated in a high school competition that was conducted in conjunction with a collegiate competition. [Bylaw 13.11.1.3]

h. Basketball Only.

You are **not eligible** if a member of your institution's coaching staff participated in competition or in coaching activities involving a nonscholastic basketball team of which you were a member. [Bylaw 13.11.1.4]

i. Sports Camps.

- You are **not eligible** if you were a winner of any athletics participation award in high school (includes ninth-grade level), preparatory school or junior college and before you enrolled at your institution, the institution, members of its staff or a representative of its athletics interests employed, or gave you free or reduced admission to its sports camp or clinic. [Bylaw 13.12.1.5.1]

j. Visits, Transportation and Entertainment – All Sports.

- (1) You are **not eligible** under Bylaws 13.5, 13.6 or 13.7 if, before you enrolled at your institution, any of the following happened to you:
 - (a) You accepted expense-paid visits to more than five NCAA institutions or more than one expense-paid visit to one member institution;
 - (b) Your one expense-paid visit to the campus lasted longer than 48 hours;
 - (c) Your institution paid more than the actual round-trip cost by direct route between your home and the campus when you made your one expense-paid visit;
 - (d) Your institution paid for you to visit during your first year in a junior college, and you were not a qualifier.
 - (e) Your institution entertained you, your parents (or legal guardians) or your spouse outside a 30-mile radius of the campus during your expense paid visit; **or**
 - (f) Your institution entertained you, your parents (or legal guardians) or your spouse excessively during your expense paid visit or entertained your friends or other relatives at any site.
- (2) You are **not eligible** if your institution paid for you to visit its campus before the first day of classes of your senior year in high school. [Bylaw 13.6.2.2.1]
- (3) You are **not eligible** if your institution paid for you to visit its campus before you presented the institution with a score from a PSAT, SAT, PLAN. A foreign prospect who requires a special administration of the PSAT, SAT, PLAN (or PACT Plus) or ACT may present such a score on the approval of the NCAA Division I Academic Cabinet or the NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee.) [Bylaw 13.6.3]

- (4) You are **not eligible** if your institution paid for you to visit its campus before you presented the institution with a high school (or college) academic transcript.
- (5) You are **not eligible** if, at any time that you were visiting your institution's campus at your own expense, your institution paid for anything more than the following:
 - (a) Three complimentary admissions for you and those individuals who came with you to an athletics event on campus in which your institution's team practiced or competed. [Bylaw 13.7.2.1]
 - (b) Transportation, when accompanied by a staff member, to see off-campus practice and competition sites in the prospect's sport and other institutional facilities located within a 30 mile radius of the campus. [Bylaw 13.5.3]
- (6) You are **not eligible** if, when you were being recruited, staff members of your institution or any representatives of its athletics interests paid the transportation costs for your relatives or friends to visit the campus or elsewhere. [Bylaw 13.5.2.2]
- (7) You are **not eligible** if, when you were being recruited, your institution gave you complimentary admissions to more than one regular-season home game scheduled outside your institution's community or gave you more than three complimentary admissions to that one regular-season home game scheduled outside your institution's community. [Bylaw 13.6.7]
- (8) You are **not eligible** if, when you were being recruited, a staff member of your institution's athletics department spent money other than what was necessary for the staff member's (or representative's) personal expenses during an off-campus visit with you. [Bylaw 13.14.2]

k. Precollege or Postgraduate Expense – All Sports.

- You are **not eligible** if your institution or any representative of its athletics interests offered you money, directly or indirectly, to pay for any part of your educational expenses or other expenses during any period of time before you enrolled at your institution. This applies to your postgraduate education as well. [Bylaw 13.15.1]