



**NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee
Division I Football Annual Signing Limit and Initial Counter Blanket Waiver
-Question and Answer Document-**

The following question and answer document is designed to educate the membership regarding the blanket waiver of the annual signing limit in Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) and initial counter limit in FBS and Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) legislation in football.

Question No. 1: What legislative relief is provided by the blanket waiver?

Answer: The blanket waiver permits the following to occur through July 31, 2022:

- FBS: Waive the annual signing limit (NCAA Bylaw 13.9.3.3) and initial counter legislation (Bylaws 15.5.6.1 and 15.5.1.10.1) for 2022-23 enrollees to permit an institution to replace up to seven counters who depart on or after the earlier of the last date of the institution's fall term or December 15, 2021, provided the counters being replaced would have been academically eligible to compete in the institution's next regular academic term.
- FCS: Waive the initial counter legislation (Bylaw 15.5.6.2), subject to the same requirements listed above.

Question No. 2: Does the blanket waiver change the annual signing or initial counter limit legislation?

Answer: No. Between August 1, 2021, and July 31, 2022, FBS institutions may sign up to 25 prospective student-athletes/initial counters and FCS institutions may add up to 30 initial counters. The blanket waiver and its conditions apply only when those limits are exceeded.

Question No. 3: Does the blanket waiver change the overall counter or equivalency limits?

Answer: No. The overall counter limit (85 in FBS/FCS) and equivalency limit (63 in FCS) remain the same. If the blanket waiver conditions are met, institutions may sign additional prospective student-athletes in excess of the annual signing and initial counter limits through July 31, 2022, but must remain at or below the overall counter and equivalency limits.

Question No. 4: Is the relief provided by the blanket waiver in addition to existing, legislated exceptions to the annual signing limit and initial counter limit legislation?

Answer: Yes. The blanket waiver does not change the application of existing, legislated exceptions to the annual signing limit and initial counter limit legislation. For example, an institution may replace up to seven counters who meet the blanket waiver conditions and replace other counters who meet an existing exception (e.g., midyear replacement).

Question No. 5: If an institution will exceed the annual signing limit or initial counter limit legislation and is able to apply an existing exception (e.g., midyear replacement), must the exception be applied before blanket waiver relief?

Answer: No. If the conditions of the blanket waiver are met, relief may be applied even if an existing exception could have been applied.

Question No. 6: If an institution replaces a departing counter pursuant to an existing exception (e.g., voluntary withdrawal from the institution during the academic year), may the institution use the blanket waiver relief to replace the same counter with a second prospective student-athlete?

Answer: No. If the departing counter has already been replaced, the blanket waiver may not be applied to permit replacement of that same counter with a second prospective student-athlete (i.e., two-for-one).

Question No. 7: Does the blanket waiver apply to counters who depart with no remaining eligibility in the sport of football?

Answer: No.

Question No. 8: Does the blanket waiver apply to counters who depart the institution for any reason (e.g., transfer, professional draft)?

Answer: Yes, provided the counter would have been academically eligible for competition in the ensuing regular academic term.

Question No. 9: What if an institution has more than seven counters who depart on or after the earlier of the end of the fall term or December 15, 2021?

Answer: The blanket waiver permits institutions to replace up to seven counters through July 31, 2022. Additional signings or replacement beyond the maximum number permitted by the blanket waiver and the annual signing limit and initial counter legislation (e.g., 32 in FBS and 37 in FCS) must occur pursuant to a legislated exception.

Question No. 10: May an institution use the blanket waiver relief to replace up to seven prospective student-athletes if fewer than seven counters depart the institution?

Answer: No. Additional signings that occur pursuant to the blanket waiver must be tied to the departure of a counter and meet the blanket waiver conditions.

Question No. 11: Does the blanket waiver apply to a counter who quits the football team but remains enrolled at the institution?

Answer: No. That counter has not departed the institution; therefore, the blanket waiver does not apply.

Question No. 12: Does the blanket waiver apply to a counter who departed the institution prior to the start of 2021 fall term?

Answer: No.

Question No. 13: If a counter departs the institution during the 2021 fall term, may that counter be replaced pursuant to the blanket waiver?

Answer: No. The blanket waiver relief is not available for counters who depart the institution before the earlier of the last date of the institution's fall term or December 15, 2021.

Question No. 14: Does the blanket waiver apply to a counter who departs the institution during 2022 spring term?

Answer: Yes; however, the institution must certify that the counter would have been eligible to compete in the ensuing regular academic term (fall 2022) before replacement may occur pursuant to the blanket waiver.

Question No. 16: If an institution's academic calendar is based on quarters instead of semesters, and the ensuing regular academic term after a counter's departure is a winter quarter, is the academic eligibility condition satisfied if the institution certifies that the departing counter would be eligible to compete during the winter quarter?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 17: If an institution's academic calendar is based on quarters instead of semesters, may an institution replace a counter who departs during the winter quarter at the end of that quarter?

Answer: Yes; however, if the blanket waiver relief is necessary to replace the counter (e.g., the institution has reached the limit of 25 or 30), the institution must certify that the counter would have been eligible to compete in the ensuing regular academic term (spring 2022).

Question No. 18: Would the blanket waiver apply to the following scenario?

- A counter departs end of fall term and is replaced midyear by an incoming prospective student-athlete. The incoming prospective student-athlete initially enrolls during 2022 spring term and is counted in the 2022-23 limit.

Answer: Yes, if the blanket waiver conditions are met for the departing counter and the transfer prospective student-athlete is counted in the 2022-23 limit.

Question No. 19: Are the signees/initial counters who are signed in excess of the legislated limits required to be two-year or four-year transfer prospective student-athletes?

Answer: No. The blanket waiver permits institutions to replace up to seven counters by signing high school, two-year or four-year prospective student-athletes.

Question No. 20: If an institution replaces a departing counter by signing a high school prospective student-athlete to a National Letter of Intent, must the signing occur within the applicable NLI signing window (e.g., December 15-17, 2021, and February 2 – April 1, 2022)?

Answer: Yes.