



**NCAA DIVISION II LEGISLATIVE RELIEF COMMITTEE**  
**INFORMATION STANDARDS, GUIDELINES AND DIRECTIVES**  
*(Updated July 2025)*

The NCAA Division II Legislative Relief Committee, formerly the NCAA Division II Management Council Administrative Review Subcommittee and the Committee for Legislative Relief, was created in 1993 as a response to the NCAA membership's desire for more rules flexibility. This group was originally established as a subcommittee of the NCAA Division II Management Council to review the application of legislation in cases where the circumstances are extraordinary in nature (NCAA Division II Bylaw 9.4.1.7). In January 2008, the Division II Management Council and the NCAA Division II Presidents Council, now named the Division II Executive Board, agreed to establish a free-standing committee to fulfill this role. The equivalent waiver committees in Divisions I and III are the NCAA Division I Legislative Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief, formerly the NCAA Division I Management Council Administrative Review Subcommittee and the NCAA Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief, formerly the NCAA Division III Management Council Administrative Review Subcommittee.

**NCAA Bylaw 13.**

**Institution Providing Transportation to Institution's Campus for Prospective Student-Athlete to Enroll.**

- Directive for Requests Involving Institutions Providing Transportation to Enroll (NCAA Division II Bylaw 13.2.3.2). During its March 2024 videoconference, the committee reviewed circumstances that involved prospective student-athletes receiving transportation expenses to enroll at an institution. The committee reviewed the common circumstances submitted for such waiver requests and instructed staff to continue reviewing such requests on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the committee noted relief of the transportation to enroll legislation should be considered under the following circumstances:
  - Prospective student-athlete has been admitted to the institution;
  - Prospective student-athlete has signed a written commitment to attend the institution (e.g., signed a written offer of admission and/or financial aid agreement or submitted a financial deposit in response to the institution's offer of admission); and
  - Prospective student-athlete has provided objective documentation to demonstrate they do not have the financial means to purchase transportation to enroll at the institution or the institution has demonstrated that the prospective student-athlete has incurred a financial hardship due to institutional error.

**NCAA Bylaw 14.**

**Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment [NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2] – Information Standards and Guidelines.**

Effective August 1, 2010, and thereafter (for individuals who are issued a final amateurism certification by the NCAA Eligibility Center on or after April 1, 2010), the following guidelines shall

be used by the NCAA staff and the Legislative Relief Committee (hereinafter referred to as committee) when considering an institution's request to grant relief of the application of Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2 (participation in organized competition before initial collegiate enrollment).

These guidelines shall apply to all situations when an individual who does not cease participation by October 1 or March 1 (whichever occurs earlier) immediately after one calendar year has elapsed following the individual's high school graduation and participates in organized competition involving amateur or professional teams.

The primary analysis for such waiver requests will focus on the circumstances outside of the individual or institution's control (e.g., specific event that necessitated the delay such as the injury, illness or death of a family member) surrounding the individual's delayed collegiate enrollment. Specifically, the staff and committee will evaluate the duration of time that the mitigation impacted the student-athlete's ability to enroll (e.g., chronology of events); what circumstances have changed related to the specific event (e.g., how has situation improved or changed); and whether or not the student-athlete initially enrolled at their first opportunity after the mitigation was remedied.

**1. Analysis for Providing Full Relief for Season of Competition.**

- a. Participation in Minimal Amount of Competition. The individual's situation should be assessed to determine the number of contests or dates of competition that the individual participated in after October 1 or March 1 immediately after one calendar year has elapsed following their high school graduate date and prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment.

If it is determined that the individual has participated in two contests or dates of competition, or 30 percent or less than the contest or dates of competition limits set forth in NCAA Bylaw 17 in the individual's sport during each calendar year of participation, full relief for the season of competition may be granted. See the 30-percent calculation page included in this document for contests or dates of competition limits set forth in Bylaw 17. This analysis may be applied regardless of the individual's mitigation for delaying collegiate enrollment.

If an individual cannot verify the exact number of contests or dates of competition in a calendar year in which the individual triggered the application of the rule, the staff or committee may not provide relief under this guideline.

Relief shall only be provided if participation in such competition would have been permissible under the NCAA amateurism rules at the time.

- b. Actual or Averaging Method. Staff and the committee may apply the minimal amount of competition guidelines to each individual calendar year of an individual's participation during the delay or to the average of the total number of contests or dates of competition an individual participated in during the entire delay period. Staff and the committee shall use whichever method benefits the individual.

2. **Caliber of Competition.** An institution that asserts relief should be provided based on the caliber of competition (e.g., low level competition, elite level competition) that subjected the individual to the legislation shall not, in itself, warrant relief.
3. **Early High School Graduation.** An individual who graduates one or more years early from high school, based on the expected date of graduation for the individual's high school class, shall be subject to the use of a season of competition if the individual delays collegiate enrollment and participates in an activity or activities that trigger the application of the rule. Waivers involving assertions that relief should be provided based on an individual graduating earlier than expected from high school shall not, in itself, warrant relief.
4. **Assertions Involving Diversion from Country's Normal Academic Path to High School Graduation.**
  - Guidelines for Assertions of Diversion from Country's Normal Academic Path. If an institution asserts that an individual diverted from their country's normal academic path to high school graduation, staff and the committee shall review the individual's home educational system and analyze the circumstances that caused the individual to divert from their country's normal academic path to high school graduation. Such requests shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
5. **Assertions Involving Personal Hardship.**
  - a. Guidelines for Assertions of Personal Hardship. During its April 2025 videoconference, the committee discussed the relief that should be provided for waivers in instances in which an institution asserts that personal hardship of the student-athlete, or the student-athlete's relative or legal guardian, led to the student-athlete's inability to avail themselves of the opportunity to compete during their legislated grace period. The committee noted that areas of personal hardship that should be considered include, but are not limited to, injury/illness or financial hardship. Further, the committee noted that in instances of personal hardship, it must be supported by objective documentation.
  - b. During its April 2025 videoconference, the committee discussed case precedent submitted for student-athletes that involved assertions related to a student-athlete's inability to avail themselves of the opportunity to compete during their legislated grace period, due to personal hardship to the student-athlete or the student-athlete's relative or legal guardian as the primary basis for relief. The committee reviewed the common circumstances submitted for such waiver requests and instructed staff to continue reviewing such requests on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the committee noted relief of the legislation should be considered when the following circumstances are appropriately documented:
    - (1) Nature of personal hardship. Staff should consider relief of the legislation for circumstances involving an objectively documented instance of personal hardship (e.g., debilitating injury or illness, bankruptcy, layoff) to a student-

athlete or a student-athlete's relative or legal guardian creating dependency on the student-athlete during the student-athlete's legislated grace period;

- (2) Student-athlete's responsibilities related to care or financial assistance. Staff should consider relief of the legislation when the student-athlete can demonstrate they held responsibilities related to caregiving or financial assistance to their relative(s) or legal guardian(s) during the student-athlete's legislated grace period which restricted the student-athlete from participating in organized competition;
  - (3) Chronology of events. Staff should consider relief of the legislation when the chronology of events confirms the student-athlete's inability to participate in organized competition during their legislated grace period due to the personal hardship.
- c. Information Standards for Assertions of Personal Hardship. The committee adopted the following standards for situations in which a waiver of the legislation is requested, and the mitigation provided by the institution involves a personal hardship:
- (1) A letter from the student-athlete explaining the need for relief of the legislation;
  - (2) The institution must submit objective, contemporaneous documentation related to the personal hardship. Where appropriate, the documentation must include a statement from a treating professional;
  - (3) The institution must demonstrate that the personal hardship occurred, or was ongoing, during the student-athlete's legislated grace period and has a direct link to warranting relief of the legislation;
  - (4) Confirmation that the student-athlete did not participate in any organized competition during their legislated grace period;
  - (5) Detailed chronology of events related to the personal hardship. For example (this is not an exhaustive list):
    - (a) Date of hardship onset.
    - (b) Date student-athlete became aware of the hardship.
    - (c) Date student-athlete last participated in organized competition prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment.
    - (d) What circumstances, if any, have changed related to the personal hardship?
  - (6) Student-athlete's responsibilities, if any, related to providing support for their family; and

- (7) Other factors influencing the student-athlete's decision to delay their initial full-time collegiate enrollment (e.g., recruiting exposure, seeking an athletics scholarship, coaching change).

**6. Assertions Involving Extenuating Circumstances Beyond the Control of the Individual.**

- a. Guidelines for Assertions Involving Extenuating Circumstances Beyond Control of Individual. Staff and the committee may grant relief for the season of competition when an institution asserts extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the individual that are supported by objective documentation. In reaching a decision, the committee shall review the intent of NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2 and the complete record (totality of circumstances) to determine if there is a sufficient basis to grant relief.

The following extenuating circumstances that are considered to be beyond the control of an individual that **may** warrant relief of the legislation include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Medical hardships. Situations clearly supported by contemporaneous medical documentation that establish the individual delayed collegiate enrollment as a result of an incapacitating physical injury or illness involving the individual or a member of the individual's immediate family;
- (2) Natural disasters. For example: earthquakes, floods;
- (3) War. Situations where a war is occurring in the locale of the individual's residence;
- (4) Extreme financial difficulties. An institution that asserts that extreme financial difficulties as a result of a specific event (e.g., layoff, death in the family) experienced by the student-athlete, or by an individual on whom the student-athlete is legally dependent, which resulted in a delay in collegiate enrollment after high school graduation shall provide objective documentation (e.g., decree of bankruptcy, proof of termination). Such an event shall be beyond the control of the individual or the person on whom the individual is legally dependent.
- (5) Misinformation provided from Division II member institution personnel. An institution that asserts relief should be provided because of misinformation or lack of information that was provided from Division II member institution personnel to the prospective student-athlete during the recruitment process (except for waivers involving NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2.1.3.1).

- b. Guidelines Involving Extenuating Circumstances Within Control of Individual. The following extenuating circumstances that are considered to be within the control of an individual that **shall not** in itself warrant relief of the legislation, include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Lack of knowledge regarding the legislation. An institution that asserts relief should be provided because institutional personnel or the individual had a lack of knowledge regarding the legislation shall not in itself, warrant relief. This guideline applies to recruited and nonrecruited student-athletes. The committee noted the legislation requires institutions to notify recruited prospective student-athletes of the organized competition rule at the earliest practical opportunity after recruitment begins but not later than the day prior to the prospective student-athlete's signed acceptance of the national letter of intent or institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid (NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2.3); and
- (2) Failure to enroll in college due to academic deficiencies, disciplinary reasons or incarceration. An institution that asserts relief should be provided because of an individual's inability to initially enroll in a collegiate institution after high school graduation for failure to meet academic requirements, disciplinary reasons or incarceration culminating in or resulting from a conviction.

These guidelines are intended to provide guidance to the staff and the committee, with the understanding that both entities may use discretion in the application of these guidelines. Further, exceptions to these guidelines may be applied by the staff and the committee when warranted by the totality of the circumstances of a specific case.

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2 – 30% Calculation of Contests and Dates of Competition (See Figure 17-1 in the NCAA Manual for Maximum Numbers of Contests and Dates of Competition for Each Sport).**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Contests*</b>	<b>Dates of Competition*</b>
Acrobatics and Tumbling		4
Baseball	15	
Basketball	8	
Beach Volleyball		5
Bowling, Women's		10
Cross Country		3
Equestrian		5
Fencing		4
Field Hockey	6	
Football	4	
Golf		7
Gymnastics		4
Ice Hockey, Men's	10	
Ice Hockey, Women's	11	
Lacrosse		6
Rifle		4
Rowing, Women's		6
Rugby, Women's		5
Skiing		10 (Alpine) 10 (Nordic)
Soccer	6	
Softball	17	
Stunt		5
Swimming and Diving		5
Tennis		8
Track and Field (Indoor and Outdoor)		6
Triathlon, Women's		2
Volleyball, Men's		9
Volleyball, Women's		8
Water Polo		7
Wrestling, Men's		5
Wrestling, Women's		5

\* When calculating the maximum number of contests and dates of competition for purposes of these guidelines, the totals have been rounded up to the next whole number.

## **Transfer Regulations Legislation [NCAA Bylaw 14.3] – Information Standards, Guidelines and Directives.**

### **1. Assertions of Personal Hardship.**

- a. Guidelines for Assertions of Personal Hardship. During its October 2023 videoconference, the committee discussed the relief that should be provided for waivers in instances which an institution asserts that personal hardship of the student-athlete, or the student-athlete's relative or legal guardian, necessitated the student-athlete's transfer to the certifying institution. The committee noted that areas of personal hardship to be considered include but are not limited to injury/illness or financial hardship.

The committee approved the following guidelines regarding assertions of personal hardship to the student-athlete:

- (1) If the institution is unable to provide objective documentation to substantiate the specific cause and/or specific event which caused personal hardship, the case should be denied.
  - (2) If the institution does provide objective documentation to substantiate that the personal hardship necessitated the student-athlete's transfer to the certifying institution, the case may be granted.
  - (3) If the institution provides documentation substantiating an instance of personal hardship, but the personal hardship does not relate to the necessity to transfer, the case should be denied.
- b. During its March 2023 videoconference, the committee reviewed case precedent submitted for student-athletes that involved assertions related to personal hardship to the student-athlete or the student-athlete's relative or legal guardian as the primary basis for relief. The committee reviewed the common circumstances submitted for such waiver requests and instructed the staff to continue reviewing such requests on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the committee noted relief of the transfer legislation should be considered when the following circumstances are appropriately documented:
- (1) Nature of personal hardship. Staff should consider relief of the legislation for circumstances involving an objectively documented instance of personal hardship (e.g., debilitating injury or illness, bankruptcy, layoff, reduction or cancellation of athletics aid) to a student-athlete or a student-athlete's relative or legal guardian creating dependency on the student-athlete;
  - (2) Student-athlete's responsibilities related to care or financial assistance. Staff should consider relief of the legislation when the student-athlete can demonstrate they are providing ongoing responsibilities related to caregiving or financial assistance to their relative(s) or legal guardian(s);



- (3) Distance from the student-athlete's support system. Staff should consider relief of the legislation when the student-athlete transfers to an institution within a 100-mile radius from the student-athlete's home or support system due to the personal hardship. Additionally, staff may consider other relevant factors regarding the distance from the certifying institution to the student-athlete's support system (e.g., student-athlete transferred to the closest institution that would provide an opportunity to participate); and
  - (4) Chronology of events. Staff should consider relief of the legislation when the chronology of events supports the necessity for the student-athlete to transfer. The student-athlete must transfer within or immediately after the academic year once becoming aware of the personal hardship.
- c. Information Standards for Assertions of Personal Hardship. The committee adopted the following standards for situations in which a waiver of the legislation is requested, and the mitigation provided by the institution involves a personal hardship:
  - (1) A letter from the student-athlete explaining the need for relief of the legislation;
  - (2) The institution must submit objective, contemporaneous documentation related to the personal hardship. Where appropriate, the documentation must include a statement from a treating professional;
  - (3) The institution must demonstrate that the personal hardship has a direct link to warranting relief of the legislation;
  - (4) Detailed chronology of events related to the personal hardship. For example (this is not an exhaustive list):
    - (a) Date of hardship onset.
    - (b) Date student-athlete became aware of the hardship.
    - (c) Date student-athlete initiated transfer process from original institution (e.g., provided written notification of transfer).
    - (d) What circumstances, if any, have changed related to the personal hardship?
  - (5) Actions, if any, the student-athlete took to remain at the original institution;
  - (6) Student-athlete's responsibilities, if any, related to providing support for their family;
  - (7) A written statement from the previous institution detailing the reason(s) why the student-athlete indicated they are transferring from the previous institution;

- (8) Other factors influencing the student-athlete's decision to transfer (e.g., playing time, coaching change); and
- (9) Where appropriate, a statement from the certifying institution's director of athletics and the head coach confirming the student-athlete will be permitted to depart from the team at any time to fulfill their responsibilities related to caregiving or financial assistance for the impacted relative(s) or legal guardian(s) and ensuring the coaching staff is supportive of the student-athlete's departure from the team.

## **2. Assertions of Egregious Behavior.**

During its September 29, 2021, teleconference, the committee discussed the relief that may be provided for waivers involving NCAA Bylaw 14.3.5 (transfer regulations) in which an institution asserts that the student-athlete was a victim of egregious behavior by a student-athlete or staff member(s) while enrolled at the previous institution.

- a. Information Standards for Assertions of Egregious Behavior. The committee adopted the following information standards for transfers asserting egregious behavior:
  - (1) Objective documentation of the egregious behavior that directly impacted the health, safety or well-being of the student-athlete.
  - (2) A written statement from the previous institution's director of athletics, or their designee, detailing the reason(s) why the student-athlete indicated they are transferring from the previous institution.
  - (3) A written statement from the applicant institution indicating that the student-athlete is in good academic standing and meets all progress-toward-degree requirements at applicant institution.
- b. Guidelines for Assertions of Egregious Behavior. The committee approved the following guidelines regarding assertions of egregious behavior.
  - (1) In cases where the student-athlete was a victim of objective, documented egregious behavior (e.g., physical assault or abuse, sexually inappropriate behavior, racial abuse, religious discrimination, questioning of sexuality) by a student or staff member at the previous institution, staff may grant immediate eligibility.
  - (2) The definition of egregious behavior is not limited to the examples above, and staff should use appropriate discretion in the analysis of the facts.
  - (3) In cases where the applicant cannot document that the student-athlete was a victim of egregious behavior by a student or staff member at the previous institution, staff should review on a case-by-case basis.

### 3. Waiver Requests Involving Lack of Response from Previous Institution.

During its April 2025, videoconference, the committee discussed the relief that may be provided for waivers involving NCAA Bylaw 14.3.5 (four-year college transfers) in which the previous institution does not respond to the certifying institution's request for information to certify the student-athlete as academically and athletically eligible at the time of transfer.

- Directive for Requests Involving a Lack of Response from the Previous Institution.
  - (1) The committee specified that when the previous institution does not respond to requests for information to certify the transfer student-athlete as academically and athletically eligible at the time of transfer, the certifying institution must submit all application materials and supporting documentation to the previous member institution.
  - (2) The previous institution will have 10 business days to respond in writing to the certifying institution.
  - (3) If the previous institution does not provide a written response after 10 business days, the committee specified that the staff should review waiver requests on a case-by-case basis to determine if there is sufficient mitigation to provide relief.

### 4. Assertions Involving Diagnosed Education-Impacting Disabilities.

- a. Guidelines for Assertions Involving Diagnosed Education-Impacting Disabilities.  
(NOTE: For academic eligibility purposes, the NCAA defines a disability as a current impairment that has a substantial educational impact on a student's academic performance and requires accommodation.)

During its October 2000 meeting, the staff provided the committee with an overview of cases processed where an education-impacting disability was included in the request. The staff informed the committee that it has reviewed two main types of cases: (1) the education-impacting disability resulted in the need for relief; and (2) the education-impacting disability is not a direct factor in the request for relief.

- b. Information Standards for Assertions Involving Diagnosed Education-Impacting Disabilities. In its March 2014 meeting, the committee updated the information standards for these types of waivers. The information standards are as follows:
  - (1) The institution must submit current, signed documentation of the diagnosis (including test data) and/or recommendations from the treating professional (e.g., medical doctor, clinical psychologist, another qualified individual). If specific circumstances of the case indicate that this requirement is unnecessary, a prior diagnosis may be acceptable. (NOTE: The staff or committee reserves the right to request a second opinion or diagnosis.)

- (2) If appropriate, the applicant institution should provide contemporaneous documentation from an individual who is qualified and licensed to diagnose and treat (e.g., psychiatrist, psychologist) the student-athlete with a mental health disorder (e.g., depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder).
- (3) The institution must submit a written statement from the student-athlete that addresses the impact of the diagnosed disability on the student-athlete's academic performance and its relation to the desired request for relief. If the student-athlete has voluntarily disclosed to the office of disability services, the institution must provide documentation of the specific accommodations or academic adjustments granted to provide access to the student-athlete. This summary must include accommodations provided by the institution with respect to the student-athlete's disability, as well as academic and other support services provided and any institutional accommodations related to adjustments of minimum performance requirements. If the institution offers any accommodations with respect to the student-athlete's athletics responsibilities, those should be indicated as well.
- (4) In a transfer situation, the applicant institution should provide documentation demonstrating that the student-athlete with an education-impacting disability needed support services and/or treatment that was unavailable and/or inadequate at the previous institution but available at the applicant institution.

**5. Loss of Institutional Accreditation Directive.**

- Directive for Requests Involving Four-Year College Transfers Following the Previous Institution's Loss of Accreditation.
  - In March 2024, the committee directed the NCAA staff to provide relief for a student-athlete who transfers to a member institution to continue the student-athlete's opportunity for full participation in a sport because the student-athlete's original institution lost regional accreditation [or no longer meets the accreditation standard for an international institution] and forfeited immediately its membership in the Association.

**6. Competition in Year-of-Transfer Legislation Directive.**

- Directive for Requests Involving Competition in Year-in Transfer (NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.3.5.3).
  - (1) In September 2017, the committee directed the NCAA staff to review waiver requests on a case-by-case basis to determine if there is sufficient mitigation to provide relief. The committee noted the institution must provide documentation demonstrating reasons outside of the student-athlete's control necessitating the transfer, as well as, extraordinary circumstances warranting relief of the competition in year-of-transfer legislation.
  - (2) The committee directed the staff to deny requests due to athletics reasons (e.g., a coaching change, lack of playing time) or lack of knowledge of the legislation, absent any other mitigation.