



Summary of NCAA Eligibility Regulations – NCAA Division I

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

DISCLAIMER: THE SUMMARY OF NCAA REGULATIONS DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL NCAA DIVISION I BYLAWS. CONTACT YOUR INSTITUTION'S COMPLIANCE OFFICE OR THE NCAA IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

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 designee) or refer to the 2020-21 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 have engaged in unethical conduct if you refuse to furnish or fail to provide accurate or complete information relevant to an investigation of a possible violation of an NCAA regulation when requested to do so by the NCAA or your institution. [Bylaw 10.1]

- c. You are **not eligible** to compete if you knowingly provide information to individuals involved in organized sports wagering 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]
- d. You are **not eligible** to compete if you knowingly participate in any sports wagering activity that involves intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; Internet sports wagering; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contests; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required and there is an opportunity to win a prize. [Bylaws 10.02.1 and 10.3]

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. [Bylaws 12.1.2 and 12.1.2.1]
 - **Exception:** Prior to collegiate enrollment, in sports other than men's ice hockey and skiing, you agreed to compete on a professional team, provided the agreement did not allow for more than actual and necessary expenses and you did not receive more than actual and necessary expenses. [Bylaws 12.1.2 and 12.2.5.1]
 - (2) Agreed (orally or in writing) to compete in professional athletics in that sport.
 - **Exception:** Prior to collegiate enrollment, in sports other than men's ice hockey and skiing, you agreed to compete on a professional team, provided the agreement did not allow for more than actual and necessary expenses and you did not receive more than actual and necessary expenses. [Bylaws 12.1.2 and 12.2.5.1]
 - (3) Played on any professional athletics team as defined by the NCAA in that sport.
 - **Exception:** Prior to enrollment, in sports other than men's ice hockey and skiing, you competed on a professional team, provided you did not receive more than actual and necessary expenses. [Bylaws 12.1.2 and 12.2.3.2.1]

- (4) Used your athletics skill for pay in any form in that sport. [Bylaws 12.1.2 and 12.1.2.4]

- **Exceptions:**

- i. Prior to collegiate enrollment, in sports other than tennis, you accepted prize money based on place finish or performance in an athletics event from the sponsor of the event and the amount of prize money did not exceed \$300 above your actual and necessary expenses; [Bylaws 12.02.7, 12.1.2 and 12.1.2.4.1]
 - ii. Prior to collegiate enrollment, in tennis, you accepted up to \$10,000 per calendar year in prize money based on place finish or performance in an athletics event from the sponsor of the event; [Bylaws 12.02.7, 12.1.2, 12.1.2.4.2.1 and 12.1.2.4.2.2]
 - iii. After collegiate enrollment, you accepted prize money based on place finish or performance in an athletics event from the sponsor of the event and the amount of prize money did not exceed \$300 above your actual and necessary expenses. [Bylaws 12.02.8, 12.1.2 and 12.1.2.4.1]
- b. You are **not eligible** in a sport if you, or your relatives or friends, ever have accepted money, transportation, lodging, entertainment or other benefits from an agent or agreed to have an agent market your athletics ability or reputation in that sport. [Bylaws 12.3.1 and 12.3.1.3]
- **Exception:**
 - In baseball and men's ice hockey, prior to collegiate enrollment you were drafted by a professional baseball team and paid the going rate to be represented by an agent or attorney during contract negotiations. [Bylaws 12.3.1, 12.3.1.1 and 12.3.1.3]
- c. You are **not eligible** in any sport if, after collegiate enrollment, 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. 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 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 (as defined by the institution) or be enrolled in and seeking a second baccalaureate degree at your institution. [Bylaws 14.01.2 and 14.2.2]
 - (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 14.2.2.1.3]

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 14.2.2.1.1]

- (3) 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 14.2.2.1.2]

b. Practice.

- (1) You must be 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 to practice. [Bylaw 14.2.1]
- (2) You may 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 14.2.1.1]
- (3) You may practice if you are enrolled in the final semester or quarter of a baccalaureate or graduate degree program, or a minor or undergraduate certificate 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 14.2.1.3]

c. Continuing Eligibility – All Sports.

- 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 your initial full-time enrollment (hours earned during the summer may be used to fulfill this requirement);
 - (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 you have been enrolled at any collegiate institution. [Bylaw 14.4.3]
 - (d) 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]
 - (e) 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, your grade-point average will be certified on a term-by-term basis. [Bylaws 14.4.3.3.2 and 14.4.3.2]
 - (f) 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, your grade-point average will be certified on a term-by-term basis. [Bylaws 14.4.3.3.2 and 14.4.3.2]
 - (g) 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, your grade-point average will be certified on a term-by-term basis. [Bylaws 14.4.3.3.2 and 14.4.3.2]
- 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 14.02.13.1, if you:

- (a) Graduate from high school;
 - (b) Attain a minimum high school grade-point average as specified in Bylaw 14.3.1.1.3 (based on a 4.000 scale) in a successfully completed core curriculum of at least 16 core courses; and Bylaw 14.3.1.1.
 - (c) Achieve a corresponding sum ACT or SAT score as specified in Bylaw 14.3.1.1.3.
 - (d) Complete 10 of the required 16 core courses before the start of your seventh semester of high school.
- (2) You are referred to as an **academic redshirt** if you did not meet the criteria to be a qualifier but completed the required core courses with a high school grade-point average and corresponding sum ACT or SAT score as specified in Bylaw 14.3.1.2.1, or you did not complete at least 10 of the required 16 core courses before the start of your seventh semester of high school. As an academic redshirt:
- (a) You may receive institutional athletically related financial aid but may not compete during the first academic year in residence.
 - (b) You may practice only on campus or at the institution's regular practice facility during the first regular academic term in residence. You must successfully complete nine semester or eight quarter hours of academic credit in each applicable regular academic term in order to be eligible for practice in the immediately subsequent term of the first academic year. [Bylaws 14.02.13.2 and 14.3.1.2]
- (3) 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. As a nonqualifier:
- (a) You are eligible to receive nonathletics institutional financial aid based on need only, consistent with institutional and conference regulations; and
 - (b) 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. [Bylaws 14.02.13.3, 14.3.2.1.1 and 14.3.3]

5. 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 12.8]
- 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 religious missions or with recognized international aid services of the U.S. government and extensions that have been approved in accordance with NCAA legislation. [Bylaw 12.8.1]
- 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 12.8.1. [Bylaw 14.6.1]
- 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 14.6.3]

6. Outside Competition - 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 17.31.1 and 17.31.1.1]
 - (1) **Exception – Wrestling.** You may not participate in outside competition between the beginning of your academic year and November 1. [Bylaw 17.31.1.2]
 - (2) **Exception – 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 17.31.1.3 are met. [Bylaw 17.31.1.3]
 - (3) **Exception - Competition as an Individual.** You may participate in outside competition as an individual during the academic year in your sport, as long

as you represent only yourself and do not engage in competition as a member of a team or receive expenses from an outside team. In wrestling, you may not participate in outside competition as an individual between the start of the academic year and November 1. [Bylaws 17.31.1.8 and 17.31.1.8.1]

7. Outside Competition - Basketball.

- 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 17.31.2]
- b. It is permissible to participate as a member of a basketball team in an NCAA-sanctioned summer basketball league or event during the period between June 15 and August 31 or the institution's opening day of classes, whichever comes earlier, provided the student-athlete has written permission from the institution's athletics director. [Bylaw 17.31.4]

8. 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 14.7.2.
- 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.

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.

- **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 not permitted under NCAA legislation. [Bylaw 13.2.1]
- (2) It was permissible for your institution to arrange educational loans, provided the loans were not made prior to the completion of your senior year in high school. The loans must have been from a regular lending agency and based on a regular repayment schedule. [Bylaw 13.2.5]
- (3) It was permissible for your institution to arrange summer employment or employ you provided the employment did not begin prior to the completion of your senior year in high school. [Bylaw 13.2.4.2]

- 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. However, an institutional staff member or athletics representative who is approached by a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's family member at any location shall not use a contact, provided the encounter was not prearranged and the staff member or athletics representative does not engage in any dialogue in excess of a greeting and takes appropriate steps to immediately terminate the encounter. [Bylaw 13.02.4]

- (2) Staff members at your institution should not have:
- (a) Contacted you, your relatives or your legal guardians in person, off your institution's campus before July 1, July 7 (women's ice hockey) or July 15 (women's gymnastics) following completion of your junior year in high school; before the opening day of your junior year in high school (men's basketball); before September 1 at the beginning of your junior year in high school (lacrosse, softball and wrestling); before March 1 of her junior year in high school (women's basketball); after you have completed participation in the USA Fencing National Championships and July Challenge at the completion of your junior year in high school (fencing); or before June 15 at the completion of your sophomore year in high school (men's ice hockey). [Bylaw 13.1.1.1]

*Effective May 1, 2019

Contacted you, your relatives or your legal guardians in person, off your institution's campus before July 1 (baseball and football) following completion of your junior year in high school; before the opening day of your junior year in high school (men's basketball); before September 1 at the beginning of your junior year in high school (lacrosse and softball); before March 1 of her junior year in high school (women's basketball); or before August 1 of the start of your junior year in high school (all other sports). [Bylaw 13.1.1.1]

- (b) Contacted you prior to any athletics competition in which you were participating during the day or days of competition. [Bylaw 13.1.6.2]
- (3) 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 if you were a nonqualifier. [Bylaw 13.1.1.2]
- (4) Contacted you, your relatives or your legal guardians in person, on or off your institution's campus. unless they were authorized institutional staff members. [Bylaw 13.1.2.1]

c. Publicity.

- (1) Your institution was not allowed to publicize a visit that you made to its campus before you signed a National Letter of Intent or its written offer of admission and/or financial aid or before the institution received your financial deposit in response to its offer of admission. [Bylaw 13.10.2.4]

- (2) You were not allowed to appear on a radio or television program that involved a coach or another member of the staff of the athletics department at your institution prior to your enrollment at the institution. [Bylaw 13.10.2.2]
- d. Letter-of-Intent Signing.
- A staff member of your institution was not allowed to be 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 13.1.5.9]
- e. 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 collegiate enrollment, 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 13.12.1.7]
- f. Visits, Transportation and Entertainment.
- (1) You are **not eligible** under Bylaws 13.5, 13.6 or 13.7 if, before collegiate enrollment, any of the following occurred:
- (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; or
 - (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.
- (2) You may not have received an expense-paid visit prior to September 1 of his or her junior year in high school. [Bylaw 13.6.2.1.1]

- **Exception:** In men’s basketball, you may not have received an expense-paid visit earlier than January 1 of your junior year in high school. [13.6.2.1.3]
- **Exception:** In women’s basketball, you may not have received an expense-paid visit earlier than the Thursday following the NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Championship game of your junior year in high school. [13.6.2.1.4]
- **Exception:** In football, you may not have received an expense-paid visit earlier than April 1 of your junior year through the Sunday before the last Wednesday in June. Thereafter, you may have received an expense-paid visit beginning with the opening day of classes of your senior year in high school. [13.6.2.1.5]

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You may not have received an expense-paid visit prior to August 1 of your junior year in high school. [13.6.2.1.1]

- **Exception:** In baseball, lacrosse and softball, you may not have received an expense-paid visit before September 1 of your junior year in high school. If you attended an educational institution that uses a nontraditional academic calendar (e.g., Southern Hemisphere), you may not have received an expense-paid visit earlier than the opening day of classes of your junior year in high school. [13.6.2.1.2]
 - **Exception:** In women’s basketball, you may not have received an expense-paid visit earlier than the Thursday following the NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Championship game of your junior year in high school. [13.6.2.1.4]
 - **Exception:** In football, you may not have received an expense-paid visit earlier than April 1 of your junior year through the Sunday before the last Wednesday in June. Thereafter, you may have received an expense-paid visit beginning with the opening day of classes of your senior year in high school. [13.6.2.1.5]
- (3) Prior to your expense-paid official visit, you must have:
- (a) Presented the institution with a high school (or college) academic transcript.

- (b) Registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center. [Bylaw 13.6.3]
- (4) 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 13.6.7.2]
 - (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 13.5.1]
- g. Precollege or Postgraduate Expense.
 - 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]