



**2021-22 Academic Year
NCAA Division II COVID-19
Question and Answer Guide**

(Originally Released: May 12, 2021)

(Last Updated: August 3, 2021)

Updates are highlighted in yellow

Please note: this is the most up-to-date edition of the 2021-22 Academic Year NCAA Division II COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide. Updates will be made to this document on a continuous basis following the weekly teleconferences of the NCAA Division II Administrative Committee.

For more information related to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit the following resources on the [NCAA's COVID-19 webpage](#):

1. Multiple [resources](#) on the resocialization of collegiate sport.
2. Comprehensive chart tracking actions taken on Division II regulations and policies: [Division II COVID-19 Action Chart](#).

**DIVISION II COVID-19
QUESTION AND ANSWER GUIDE
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NCAA Division II Constitution, Article 3 – NCAA Membership.

Question: Will a Division II member conference be required to conduct the annual Student-Athlete Advisory Committee meeting during the 2021-22 academic year [Constitution 3.4.4.4.1 (Annual Meeting)]?

Answer: Yes. However, a blanket waiver was issued by the Division II Management Council on July 20, 2021, of the conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee in-person annual meeting requirement for the 2021-22 academic year. A Division II member conference is still required to conduct an annual Student-Athlete Advisory Committee meeting, either in-person or virtually.

NCAA Division II Bylaw 13 – Recruiting.

[For questions related to permissible summer activities during 2021, please see the [2020-21 Academic Year Question & Answer Guide.](#)]

Question: Is it permissible for an institution to reimburse a prospective student-athlete, their relatives or legal guardian(s), if an official or unofficial visit is canceled?

Answer: Yes. A blanket waiver was extended by the Administrative Committee June 2, 2021, to permit institutions to reimburse prospective student-athletes with any costs associated with canceled official or unofficial visits until January 22, 2022. Such reimbursement would not trigger use of a prospective student-athlete's one permissible official visit.

NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.1 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – General Eligibility Requirements.

Question No. 1: May a student-athlete who will use the self-applied additional season of competition and/or extension of eligibility and will exhaust their eligibility following the 2021-22 academic year be enrolled part-time during the 2021-22 academic year and still practice and compete?

Answer: Yes. The Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver of the full-time enrollment requirement on May 6, 2021, for student-athletes who will use the self-applied COVID-19 relief of an additional season of competition and/or extension of eligibility relief **and** will exhaust their eligibility following the 2021-22 academic year.

This waiver applies in addition to currently legislated full-time enrollment exceptions. Student-athletes are not permitted to be enrolled part-time and continue to compete in athletics unless they meet this waiver's requirements, are enrolled in the final term of the degree program or have been provided relief through a traditional waiver process.

Question No. 2: If a student-athlete is eligible to utilize the blanket waiver of the full-time enrollment requirement during the 2021-22 academic year, must they enroll in a specific amount of credit hours to be eligible for practice and competition?

Answer: Yes. Student-athletes who satisfy the requirements to access the blanket waiver of the full-time enrollment requirement will be able to utilize the relief, as follows:

- a. For student-athletes who have graduated, they may participate in practice and competition provided they are enrolled in a minimum of six-semester or six-quarter hours in a second baccalaureate or graduate program.
- b. For student-athletes who will graduate during the 2021-22 academic year, they may participate in practice and competition provided they are enrolled in a minimum of nine-semester or eight-quarter hours.

Please note, student-athletes who practice or compete while enrolled less than full-time would use a semester/quarter.

Question No. 3: If a student-athlete is taking classes toward a second baccalaureate or graduate degree, do they need to complete the degree by the end of the 2021-22 academic year?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: If a student-athlete uses the final term exception [Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.3 (Practice or Competition -- Final Semester/Quarter)] do they still have to be enrolled in at least nine semester/eight quarter credit hours?

Answer: No. If they are applying the final term exception, they only need to be enrolled in the credits necessary to complete their degree, even if that is less than nine semester/eight quarter credit hours.

Question No. 5: If a student-athlete uses the final term exception [Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.3 (Practice or Competition -- Final Semester/Quarter)] to enroll in less than a full-time course load during the fall 2021 term and does not complete their degree requirements, may they continue to participate in the spring term?

Answer: No. The final term exception requires a student-athlete to complete all degree requirements during the term the exception is used and is eligible to receive their degree or they forfeit eligibility in all sports.

Question No. 6: Would the blanket waiver permit a spring sport student-athlete who graduated before the 2021-22 academic year to not enroll in the fall term and then enroll in six credit hours during the spring 2022 term to complete

their eligibility?

Answer: Yes. Provided the student-athlete qualifies for the blanket waiver, the student-athlete may use the blanket waiver for any or all terms of the 2021-22 academic year.

Question No. 7: Would an undergraduate student-athlete utilizing the blanket waiver during the 2021-22 academic year still be required to be in good academic standing and meeting progress-toward-degree requirements?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 8: Would a graduate student-athlete utilizing the blanket waiver during the 2021-22 academic year still be required to be in good academic standing?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 9: May a student-athlete utilizing the blanket waiver receive athletics aid?

Answer: Yes.

NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.2 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Seasons of Competition: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule

[For questions related to the season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers for 2020 spring sports and the 2020-21 academic year, please see the [2019-20 Academic Year Question & Answer Guide](#) and [2020-21 Academic Year Question & Answer Guide](#), respectively. For additional information, please review the [NCAA Student-Athlete Reinstatement staff's webinar presentation](#).]

Question No. 1: May a student-athlete who qualifies for the 2020-21 academic year self-applied extension of eligibility waiver compete in a new sport during the additional terms?

Answer: No. The self-applied extension of eligibility waiver is sport-specific and can only be applied in the sport(s) in which the SA qualifies for the waiver during the 2020-21 academic year.

Question No. 2: Will a student-athlete who is eligible for the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver for the 2020-21 academic year be required to utilize the extension at the first available opportunity immediately following the conclusion of their 10th full-time semester/15th full-time quarter?

Answer: Yes, and the terms must be used consecutively.

NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.3 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Freshman Academic Requirements.

[For questions related to initial eligibility, please see the question and answer document prepared by the NCAA Eligibility Center.]

NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.4 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements.

Question: May an institution utilize the progress-toward-degree previously approved waiver checklist when considering the impact of COVID-19 on a student-athlete?

Answer: Yes. Institutions may include the impact of COVID-19 as a catastrophic event for purposes of the self-application of the [checklist](#) for fall 2021 certifications only. Institutions will need to maintain documentation on campus supporting the direct impact that COVID-19 has had on the student-athlete's ability to be academically successful, and support of the institution's faculty athletics representative is highly recommended.

NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.5 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Transfer Regulations.

[For guidance related to the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waiver for 2020 spring sports and the 2020-21 academic year, please see the [2019-20 Academic Year Question & Answer Guide](#) and the [2020-21 Academic Year Question & Answer Guide](#), respectively. Further, for additional questions related to the progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer blanket waivers for the 2019-20 academic year, please see the [2019-20 Academic Year Question & Answer Guide](#) and the [application of the progress-toward-degree blanket waiver](#).]

Question No. 1: Will a Division II student-athlete who chooses to transfer to another Division II institution for the 2021-22 academic year retain the use of the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 2: Will a student-athlete who was enrolled at a Division III institution receive access to the Division II self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers if they were to transfer to a Division II institution during the 2021-22 academic year?

Answer: No. The student-athlete would get the relief provided by the division of the original institution.

Question No. 3: Will a student-athlete who was enrolled at an institution in another division

or athletics association (e.g., National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, National Junior College Athletic Association) during the 2020-21 academic year receive access to the Division II self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers if they were to transfer to a Division II institution during the 2021-22 academic year?

Answer: No. However, rules and decisions made by other divisions and organizations regarding the use of a season or 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility in the 2020-21 academic year would follow the student-athlete upon transfer.

Question No. 4: Will a student-athlete who transfers during or after the 2020-21 academic year as a result of their original institution's decision to not participate in competition during the 2020-21 academic year due to COVID-19 have access to the discontinued/nonsponsored sport exception (Bylaws 14.5.4.6.1 and 14.5.5.3.5) to be immediately eligible for competition?

Answer: No, unless the student-athlete signed a written commitment to attend the new institution prior to January 7, 2021. A written commitment includes the signing of the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or the institution has received his or her financial deposit in response to its offer of admission.

NCAA Division II Bylaw 15 – Financial Aid.

Question No. 1: How will individual equivalencies be calculated for a student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year should they return and receive athletics aid for the 2021-22 academic year?

Answer: A student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year and returns and receives athletics aid for the 2021-22 academic year would not count toward team equivalency limits for the 2021-22 academic year.

This application applies to any student-athlete that, but for circumstances related to COVID-19, the institution would have expected the student-athlete to use their final season of competition or exhaust eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year and the institution did not expect the student-athlete to have eligibility remaining for the 2021-22 academic year (e.g., student-athlete did not utilize their fourth season of competition during the 2020-21 academic year due to a season cancellation caused by COVID-19, student-athlete received access to the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver).

This relief only applies if the student-athlete remains at their original

institution. If the student-athlete transfers for the 2021-22 academic year, the athletics aid received at the new institution will count toward team equivalency limits.

Question No. 2: How will individual equivalencies be calculated for a student-athlete who has not used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year should they return and receive athletics aid for the 2021-22 academic year (e.g. freshman, sophomore, junior)?

Answer: The equivalencies would be calculated in accordance with Bylaw 15.4.2.2 (Equivalency Computations) and would count toward team equivalency limits.

Question No. 3: May an institution exempt all athletics aid provided to a student-athlete returning for the 2021-22 academic year utilizing the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver or may the institution only exempt the amount of athletics aid provided during the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: Any athletics aid for the 2021-22 academic year received by a student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year would be exempted toward team equivalency limits for the 2021-22 academic year. The amount of athletics aid awarded to the student-athlete is at the institution's discretion.

Question No. 4: Is an institution that reduces or cancels athletics aid following the 2020-21 academic year for a student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year required to provide an appellate opportunity?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 5: Is an institution that reduces or cancels athletics aid following the 2020-21 academic year for a student-athlete who has not used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year should they return and receive athletics aid for the 2021-22 academic year (e.g. freshman, sophomore, junior) required to provide an appellate opportunity?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 6: May a student-athlete who utilizes the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers receive athletics aid if they are enrolled less than full-time during the entire 2021-22 academic year?

Answer: No, unless the student-athlete meets an exception to the full-time enrollment

requirement.

Question No. 7: May an institution exempt all athletics aid provided to an indoor track and field student-athlete returning for the 2021-22 academic year utilizing the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver if the student-athlete also has eligibility remaining in cross country and/or indoor track and field?

Answer: No. If the student-athlete participates in cross country and/or outdoor track and field during the 2021-22 academic year, the athletics aid must count toward the track and field team equivalency limit of 12.6.

NCAA Division II Bylaw 16 – Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes.

Question No. 1: May an institution provide benefits (e.g., housing and meals) to a student-athlete who needs to return to campus for medical reasons (e.g., COVID-19 testing, quarantine) prior to the start of preseason practice?

Answer: Yes. Bylaw 16.4 (Medical Expenses) allows institutions to provide benefits, so long as the institution has determined that an earlier return to campus is medically necessary.

Question No. 2: May an institution provide benefits (e.g., housing and meals) to a student-athlete who made plans to return to campus for preseason prior to preseason being postponed and/or canceled?

Answer: Yes. Bylaw 16.4 (Medical Expenses) allows institutions to provide these benefits due to the fact that the schedule disruption was for a medical reason.

Question No. 3: Is it permissible for an institution's athletics facilities to remain open when other campus facilities are closed?

Answer: It would be an institution's decision as to whether the institution decides to leave the athletics facilities open. Institutions are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance.

Question No. 4: May an institution provide benefits (e.g., housing and meals) to a student-athlete who remains on campus during the legislated seven-day winter break?

Answer: Yes. Use of institutional facilities remains limited to facilities open to the general student body.

Question No. 5: Is it permissible for an institution to make special housing arrangements (e.g., housing blocks) for student-athletes during the 2021-22 academic year in response to COVID-19?

Answer: Yes. A blanket waiver was extended by the Administrative Committee June 2, 2021, to permit institutions to make housing arrangements the institution has determined to be necessary with COVID-19 considerations during the 2021-22 academic year.

NCAA Division II Bylaw 17 – Playing and Practice Seasons.

[For questions related to permissible summer activities during 2021, please see the [2020-21 Academic Year Question & Answer Guide](#). For additional guidance related to permissible summer activities, please see [Division II Summer 2021 Activities chart](#).]