



**Division III Emergency Legislation EM-2025-1
Two and Four-Year Transfer – Question and Answer Guide
Updated February 19, 2025**

At the 2025 NCAA Convention, the Division III membership ratified emergency legislation, EM-2025-1, to change the requirement that student-athletes who transfer to a Division III institution while academically ineligible at their previous institution serve an academic year of residence before being eligible to compete. The change is as follows:

Student-athletes who transfer while academically ineligible at their previous institution are not immediately eligible for competition but may regain eligibility after **one regular full-time term** at the Division III institution if it is confirmed that they meet the institution's academic standards for all student-athletes.

The following educational column aims to provide guidance for the membership as it applies EM-2025-1 moving forward.

General Questions.

Question No. 1: When did EM-2025-1 become effective?

Answer: The legislation became effective upon its approval by the NCAA Division III Presidents Council on August 5, 2024.

Question No. 2: When was EM-2025-1 ratified by the Division III membership?

Answer: The legislation was ratified on January 17, 2025, at the NCAA Convention. The outcome of the ratification vote was 435 in support, 19 opposed and eight abstentions.

Question No. 3: Which student-athletes does EM-2025-1 apply to?

Answer: The legislation applies to all two-year and four-year undergraduate students transferring to Division III institutions.

Question No. 4: Did EM-2025-1 change anything for undergraduate student-athletes who transfer to Division III while under a disciplinary suspension from their original institution?

Answer: No. Undergraduate student-athletes who transfer to Division III institutions under a disciplinary suspension are not eligible for competition until one calendar year after they enroll, per Bylaw 14.5.1.1.

Question No. 5: Did EM-2025-1 change anything for graduate or postbaccalaureate student-athletes?

Answer: No. For purposes of Division III legislation, graduate and postbaccalaureate students are not considered to be transfer student-athletes.

Question No. 6: Did EM-2025-1 change anything regarding permission to contact another NCAA institution's student-athlete?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: Does Division III permit student-athletes to transfer multiple times?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 8: May an undergraduate student-athlete who transfers while academically ineligible still apply for a legislative relief waiver to be immediately eligible for competition during their first full-time term at a Division III institution?

Answer: Yes. Legislative relief waiver requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Division III Subcommittee for Legislative Relief's Information Standards, Guidelines and Directives can be found at this [link](#).

Application Questions.

Question No. 9: Are undergraduate student-athletes who transfer while academically eligible at their previous institution immediately eligible for competition in Division III?

Answer: Yes, provided they meet all other institutional and/or conference eligibility requirements.

Question No. 10: Is being recertified following one term of full-time enrollment the only option for an undergraduate student-athlete who transfers to a Division III institution while not academically eligible?

Answer: No. Undergraduate transfer student-athletes may be immediately eligible for competition in Division III if they meet any of the following:

Two-year undergraduate transfers.

- Never having participated in intercollegiate athletics [Bylaw 14.5.4(a)];
- A 4-2-4 transfer who transfers from their two-year institution while not academically eligible, but left their original four-year institution eligible [Bylaw 14.5.4-(c)(1)];

- A 4-2-4 transfer who transfers from their two-year institution while not academically eligible at the previous four-year institution, but completed two full-time semesters and 24 transferable credit hours [Bylaw 14.5.4-(c)(2)]; or
- The two-year nonparticipation condition [Bylaw 14.5.4-(d)].

Four-year undergraduate transfers.

- Never having participated in intercollegiate athletics [Bylaw 14.5.5.1(a)]; and
- The two-year nonparticipation condition [Bylaw 14.5.5.1-(c)].

Question No. 11: Is a 4-2-4 undergraduate transfer student-athlete who left their original four-year institution academically ineligible but left their two-year institution academically eligible, immediately eligible for competition upon transfer to a Division III institution?

Answer: Maybe. EM-2025-1 maintained the same analysis for a 4-2-4 undergraduate transfer student-athlete who did not leave their original four-year institution academically eligible. Specifically, if the student-athlete did not leave the original four-year institution academically eligible, they would need to complete a minimum of two full-time semesters (or three full-time quarters) and earn a minimum of 24 semester (or 36 quarter) credits at the two-year institution before being eligible for competition at the Division III institution. If they transfer after one term at the two-year institution, then they would not be immediately eligible for competition at the Division III institution but could regain eligibility following one regular full-time term.

Question No. 12: For purposes of recertification, what is one regular full-time term?

Answer: One regular full-time term is defined by the institution (e.g., semester, trimester, quarter).

Question No. 13: May an undergraduate student-athlete who transfers to a Division III institution while not academically eligible practice during their first regular full-time term at the institution?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 14: Does an undergraduate student-athlete who transfers while academically ineligible and practices during their first full-time term at a Division III institution use a season of participation?

Answer: Yes, if that practice happens during or after the team's first official contest.

Question No. 15: May a student-athlete who transfers while academically ineligible receive travel expenses during their first full-time term at a Division III institution?

Answer: No.

Question No. 16: For sports spanning more than one academic term, when is the earliest that an undergraduate transfer student-athlete may be recertified between terms?

Answer: Bylaw 14.1.9 provides the earliest day that the undergraduate transfer student-athlete's recertification may occur: the day after the last scheduled final exam listed in the institution's official calendar for the term. Please note that the student-athlete must also meet the criteria in Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.6 to be eligible between terms.

Question No. 17: If an undergraduate transfer student-athlete from Division I or Division II was not a qualifier (i.e., a partial or nonqualifier) and attended their original institution for less than a full academic year, would they be considered academically eligible to compete had they remained at their previous institution?

Answer: No.

Question No. 18: Are Division III conferences still permitted to enforce an intraconference transfer policy?

Answer: Yes.