



## NCAA Division II Summary of Key Regulations

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

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**DISCLAIMER: THE SUMMARY OF KEY NCAA REGULATIONS DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL NCAA DIVISION II BYLAWS. THE SUMMARY OF KEY NCAA REGULATIONS IS INTENDED TO SERVE AS A CROSS-REFERENCE TOOL WITH THE NCAA DIVISION II MANUAL AND IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE SUMMARY OR SUBSTITUTE FOR REVIEWING THE DIVISION II LEGISLATION. FOR A COMPLETE LIST, GO TO WWW.NCAA.ORG. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING THE APPLICATION OF ALL BYLAWS RELATED TO YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE. CONTACT YOUR INSTITUTION'S COMPLIANCE OFFICE OR THE NCAA IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.**

**TO: STUDENT-ATHLETE.**

This summary of key 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 their official designee) or refer to the 2025-26 and/or the 2026-27 NCAA Division II Manual. The references in brackets after each summarized regulation show you where to find the regulation in the Division II Manual.

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### **Part I: For All Student-Athletes.**

This part of the summary discusses ethical conduct, financial aid, academic and athletics eligibility 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 are **not eligible** to compete if you 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 of value (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner). [Bylaws 10.02.1 and 10.02.2]

- c. You have engaged in unethical conduct if you refuse to furnish 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-(a)]
- d. You are **not eligible** to compete if you knowingly provide information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activities including but not limited to prediction markets concerning intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics competition in a sport in which the Association conducts championship competition. [Bylaw 10.3]
- e. You are **not eligible** to compete if you knowingly participate in any sports wagering activity including but not limited to prediction markets concerning intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics competition through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling. [Bylaws 10.02.1 and 10.3]
- f. You are **not eligible** to compete if you have shown dishonesty in evading or violating NCAA regulations. [Bylaws 10.1 and 14.01.2.2]

**2. Name, Image and Likeness and Activities After Initial Full-Time Enrollment - All Sports.**

For individuals in states with name, image and likeness (NIL) laws or executive actions with the force of law in effect, NCAA rules remain in effect, including prohibitions on pay-for-play and improper recruiting inducements, but NIL activities protected by state law will not impact eligibility, unless the state law is invalidated or rendered unenforceable by operation of law. For individuals where there is no state law or executive actions or the state law or executive actions have not yet taken effect, NIL activity will not impact eligibility, but other rules, including prohibitions on pay-for-play and improper recruiting inducements remain in effect.[Bylaw 14.1.5] Please click [Division II Online Education Resource Center - NCAA.org](#) for resources associated with the NIL policy.

- a. You are **not eligible** for participation in a sport if after initial full-time collegiate enrollment, you have ever:
  - (1) Used your athletics skill for pay or taken pay, or the promise of pay, for competing in that sport [Bylaw 14.4.6-(a)];
  - (2) Received compensation or incentives for enrollment decisions, athletic performance, achievement or membership on a team [Bylaw 14.4.6-(b)];
  - (3) Played on any professional athletics team as defined by the NCAA in that sport [Bylaw 14.4.8.3.2]; or
  - (4) Agreed (orally or in writing) to compete in professional athletics in that sport [Bylaw 14.4.8.6.1].

- b. For any student-athlete that initially enrolled full-time at a Division II institution before August 1, 2023, you are **not eligible** in a sport if you have ever accepted money, transportation or other benefits from an agent or agreed to have an agent market your athletics ability or reputation in that sport. Additionally, for any prospective student-athlete initially enrolling full-time at a Division II institution on or after August 1, 2023, you are **not eligible** in a sport if you (or your relatives or friends) accept transportation or other material benefits from an agent or any person who represents any individual in the marketing of your athletics ability. [Bylaw 14.4.9.1]

**3. Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment: Seasons of Competition - All Sports.**

The following rules are applicable to all Division II student-athletes first entering a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2023:

If you did not cease participation by October 1 or March 1 (whichever occurs earlier) immediately after one calendar year has elapsed following your high school graduation date, you have used one season of intercollegiate competition for each consecutive 12-month period after October 1 or March 1 before initial full-time collegiate enrollment in which you participated in organized competition. [Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2]

- a. Activities that trigger organized competition:
  - (1) Any competition that is scheduled in advance;
  - (2) Any competition in which official score is kept;
  - (3) Any competition in which individual or team standings or statistics are maintained;
  - (4) Any competition in which an official timer or game officials are used;
  - (5) Any competition in which admission is charged;
  - (6) Any competition in which teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined;
  - (7) Any competition in which team uniforms are used;
  - (8) Any competition in which an individual or team is privately or commercially sponsored; or
  - (9) Any competition that is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, an organization or any other agency. [Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2.1.2]

- b. If you discontinued high school enrollment before graduation and participated in any of the activities that trigger organized competition, you have used one season of intercollegiate competition for each consecutive 12-month period after October 1 or March 1 (whichever occurs earlier) after one calendar year has elapsed following the discontinued enrollment and before initial full-time collegiate enrollment. [Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2.1.1.3]

#### 4. Academic Eligibility - 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 [Bylaw 14.2.2];
  - (b) Be in good academic standing according to the standards of your institution [Bylaws 14.02.9 and 14.2.9.3.1]; and
  - (c) Be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time baccalaureate degree program (not less than 12-semester or -quarter hours) and maintain progress toward that degree, be enrolled in a full-time graduate or professional degree program (as defined by the institution for all graduate students in that program) or be enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate degree at your institution. [Bylaws 14.02.9, 14.2.3 and 14.2.4]
- (2) You are **eligible to compete** during the official vacation period immediately before initial full-time 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 14.2.3.1.7.1]
- (3) You are **eligible to compete** between terms provided you have been registered for the required minimum full-time load at the conclusion of the term immediately preceding the date of competition, if you are continuing enrollment, or provided you have been accepted for enrollment as a regular full-time student for the regular term immediately after the date of competition, if you are continuing or beginning enrollment. [Bylaw 14.2.3.1.7.2]
- (4) 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 (semester or quarter) of your degree program, minor or undergraduate certificate program and are carrying credits necessary to finish your degree, minor or undergraduate certificate or if you are enrolled in the last term (semester or quarter) of

your degree program before participating in an experiential learning requirement in the following term and are carrying credits necessary to finish your degree. [Bylaws 14.2.3.1.7.3 and 14.2.3.1.7.4]

- (5) You are **eligible** for championships that occur within 60 days of the date you complete the requirements for your degree. [Bylaws 14.2.3.1.7.3.2 and 14.2.4.2]

b. Eligibility for Practice.

- (1) You are **eligible** to **practice** if you are enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree as defined by your institution, which shall not be less than 12-semester or -quarter hours, regardless of your institution's definition of a minimum full-time program of studies. [Bylaw 14.2.3.1]
- (2) You are **eligible** to **practice** during the official vacation period immediately preceding initial full-time 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 14.2.3.1.7.1]
- (3) You also are **eligible** to **practice** if you are enrolled in less than a full-time program during the last term of your degree program, minor or undergraduate certificate program and are carrying credits necessary to finish your degree, minor or undergraduate certificate or if you are enrolled in the last term of your degree program before participating in an experiential learning requirement in the following term and are carrying credits necessary to finish your degree. [Bylaws 14.2.3.1.7.3 and 14.2.3.1.7.4]
- (4) You are **eligible** to **practice** for championships that occur within 60 days of the date you complete the requirements for your degree. [Bylaws 14.2.3.1.7.3.2 and 14.2.4.2]

c. Freshmen.

- (1) You are referred to as a qualifier and are eligible to practice and compete in your sport and to receive athletics aid during your first academic year under Bylaw 14.02.20.1, if you:
  - (a) Graduate from high school; and
  - (b) Attain a minimum cumulative core-course grade-point average of 2.200 (based on a maximum 4.000) in 16 core course units in the required subject areas as outlined in Bylaw 14.2.8.2.1.

- (2) You are referred to as a partial qualifier and are eligible to receive athletics aid if you do not meet qualifier requirements. As a partial qualifier, you may not compete in your sport during your first academic year in residence; however, you may practice on campus or at your institution's regular practice facility. [Bylaws 14.02.20.2, 14.2.8.2.2 and 14.2.8.2.2.1]

d. Continuing Eligibility - All Sports.

- (1) In order to be eligible for competition at the end of each academic term, a student-athlete must successfully complete nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full-time at any collegiate institution. [Bylaw 14.2.9.3.2]
- (2) If you have transferred to your current institution midyear, or you have completed one academic year in residence at your current institution or used one season of eligibility in a sport at your current institution, your eligibility shall be determined by your academic record in existence at the beginning of the fall term or at the beginning of any other regular term of that academic year and you must satisfy the following requirements for academic progress to **be eligible** to compete.
  - (a) You must earn 24-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit during any year in which you are enrolled full-time in at least one academic term. You may satisfy this requirement based on earning:
    - i. 24-semester or 36-quarter hours since the beginning of the previous fall term;
    - ii. 24-semester or 36-quarter hours since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters; or
    - iii. 48-semester or 72-quarter hours during the first two years of collegiate enrollment (the certifying institution's first four semesters or six quarters following your initial full-time enrollment in a collegiate institution). [Bylaw 14.2.9.3.3]
  - (b) You must achieve a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 prior to the beginning of each fall term. [Bylaw 14.2.9.3.4]
  - (c) You must meet the minimum cumulative grade-point average at the certifying institution based on the method of calculation used by the institution for calculating cumulative grade-point averages for all students and the calculation shall only include coursework normally counted by the institution in calculating the cumulative grade-point average for graduation. [Bylaw 14.2.9.3.4.3]

- (d) You must choose a major that leads to a specific baccalaureate degree by the beginning of your third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter). (This includes four-year transfer students who have not satisfied Bylaw 14.3.5 [four-year college transfers] or used a season of eligibility at their current institution or two-year transfer students who have not completed an academic year in residence yet or used a season of eligibility in a sport at their current institution.) [Bylaw 14.2.9.3.5]

**5. 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) Financial aid from an entity outside your institution that meets the requirements specified in the Division II Manual; [Bylaw 15.2.2] or
  - (2) On- or off-campus employment earnings, provided the compensation does not include remuneration for the use of the student-athlete's athletics reputation to promote the sale of the employer's products or services, provided you do not have a contract or agreement (oral or written) for name, image and likeness activities; the student-athlete is compensated only for work actually performed; and the student-athlete is compensated at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services. [Bylaw 15.2.3]
- 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 a relative or legal guardian.

**6. Athletics Eligibility – All Sports.**

- a. Seasons of Competition and Period of Eligibility.
  - (1) You are **not eligible** to participate in more than four seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport. [Bylaw 14.4.3]
  - (2) You are **not eligible** after the first 10-semesters or 15-quarters in which you were enrolled at a collegiate institution in at least a minimum full-time program of studies as determined by the institution, except for extensions that have been approved in accordance with NCAA legislation. [Bylaws 14.4.3.2, 14.4.3.2.2 and 14.4.3.2.4]
- b. Outside Competition.

**7. All Sports Other Than Basketball.**

- a. You are **not eligible** in your sport for the rest of your season if, after enrollment in college and during any year in which you were a member of an intercollegiate team, you competed as a member of any outside team in any noncollegiate, amateur competition in the sport during the segment of the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship. [Bylaw 14.4.7.1]
- b. Competing in the Olympic or Paralympic Games tryouts and competition and other specified national and international competition is permitted. [Bylaws 14.4.7.1, 14.4.7.3 and 14.4.7.5]

**8. Basketball Only.**

- 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 or Paralympic Games tryouts and competition and other specified national and international competition is permitted. [Bylaws 14.4.7.2, 14.4.7.4 and 14.4.7.5]
- b. There are no restrictions on the participation of Division II student-athletes in outside basketball competition during the summer. [Bylaw 14.4.7.5.2-(a)]

**9. 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 load and you attended a class or classes while enrolled as a full-time student; **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 14.3.2]
- b. 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 requirements or residence requirement specified in Bylaw 14.3.4, or an exception specified in Bylaw 14.3.4.6.
- c. If you are an undergraduate transfer student from a four-year institution, you are **not eligible** during your first initial full-time term of enrollment at the certifying institution unless you meet Bylaw 14.3.5.

- 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 Bylaws 14.3.4.1, 14.3.4.3 or an exception specified in Bylaw 14.3.4.6.

**10. Drugs - All Sports.**

- a. A student-athlete who, as a result of a drug test administered by the NCAA, tests positive for use of a substance in a banned drug class, as set forth in Bylaw 18.2.1.2.1, shall be declared ineligible for further participation in postseason and regular-season competition in accordance with the ineligibility provisions of Bylaw 18.2.1.2.
- b. A student-athlete who, as a result of a drug test administered by the NCAA, tests positive for use of a substance in a banned drug class other than narcotics (in accordance with the testing methods authorized by the NCAA Board of Governors), shall be subject to the following: (1) The student-athlete is ineligible for competition in all sports until they have been withheld from the equivalent of one season (the maximum number of championship segment regular-season contests or dates of competition in Bylaw 17) of regular-season competition. The student-athlete must be otherwise eligible for competition to fulfill this penalty except a transfer student-athlete may regain eligibility (see Bylaw 14.3.5.1) and fulfill a drug test penalty concurrently if they meet all other eligibility requirements; (2) A student-athlete who tests positive during a year in which they did not use a season of competition, shall be charged with the loss of one season of competition in all sports. A student-athlete who tests positive during a year in which they used a season of competition, shall be charged with the loss of an additional season of competition in all sports (in addition to the season used) unless they use a season of competition in the next academic year; and (3) The student-athlete shall remain ineligible for intercollegiate competition for 365 consecutive days after the collection of the student-athlete's positive drug-test specimen and until they test negative pursuant to the NCAA Drug-Testing Program's policies and procedures. [Bylaw 18.2.1.2.2]
- c. A student-athlete who, as a result of a drug test administered by the NCAA, tests positive for use of a substance in the banned drug class narcotics (in accordance with the testing methods authorized by the Board of Governors) shall be ineligible for competition during 50 percent of a season of competition in all sports (i.e., 50 percent of all contests or dates of competition in the season following the positive test). The student-athlete shall remain ineligible until the prescribed penalty is fulfilled and they test negative pursuant to the NCAA Drug-Testing Program's policies and procedures. [Bylaw 18.2.1.2.3]

- d. The penalty for missing a scheduled drug test is the same as the penalty for testing positive for the use of a banned drug other than a narcotic. You will remain ineligible until you test negative. [Bylaw 18.2.1.2.4]
- e. If the student-athlete transfers to a non-NCAA institution while ineligible and competes in intercollegiate competition during the prescribed period of ineligibility at a non-NCAA institution, the student-athlete remains ineligible for all NCAA regular-season and postseason competition until the student-athlete does not compete in collegiate competition for the entirety of the prescribed penalty (the total number of prescribed contests or dates of competition) while enrolled and otherwise eligible for competition at an NCAA institution. Furthermore, the student-athlete shall be ineligible for intercollegiate competition for the applicable consecutive-day period (365 or 730) after their final non-NCAA competition. Finally, the student-athlete remains ineligible until they test negative pursuant to the NCAA Drug-Testing Program's policies and procedures. [Bylaw 18.2.1.2.5]

**11. Non-NCAA Athletics Organization's Positive Drug Test - All Sports.**

- a. The director of athletics must notify the NCAA chief medical officer in writing regarding a student-athlete's disclosure of a previous positive drug test administered by any other athletics organization. [Bylaw 7.3.1.5.8.4]
- b. If you test positive by a sport's governing body that has adopted the World Anti-Doping Agency code, you must notify your director of athletics regarding the positive drug test. If you are under a drug-testing suspension from an international sports governing body that has adopted the WADA code, you shall not participate in NCAA intercollegiate competition for the duration of the suspension. [Bylaw 18.2.1.2.7]
- c. The list is subject to change and the institution and student-athlete shall be held accountable for all banned drug classes on the current list. The list is located on the NCAA website ([www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)) or may be obtained from the NCAA Sport Science Institute staff.

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**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 II 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 booster provided or offered to you, your relatives, legal guardian(s) or friends any financial aid or other benefits that NCAA legislation does not permit. [Bylaw 13.2.1]

- (2) An institution's staff member or booster shall not be involved, directly or indirectly, in making arrangements for or giving or offering to give any financial aid or other benefits to the prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's relatives, legal guardian(s) or friends, other than expressly permitted by NCAA regulations. Receipt of a benefit by prospective student-athletes or their relatives or friends is not a violation of NCAA legislation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution's prospective students or their relatives or friends or to a particular segment of the student body (e.g., international students, minority students) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability. [Bylaw 13.2.1]

b. Visits, Transportation and Entertainment - All Sports.

- (1) You are **not eligible** under Bylaw 13.3 if, before you enrolled at your institution, any of the following happened to you:
  - (a) Your institution paid more than the actual round-trip transportation costs when you made your one expense-paid visit; or
  - (b) Your institution entertained you, your relatives or legal guardian(s) or your spouse excessively during your expense-paid visit.
- (2) A prospective student-athlete may not be provided with an expense-paid visit earlier than June 15 immediately preceding the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school. [Bylaw 13.3.1.2]
- (3) A member institution may not provide an expense-paid visit to a high school or preparatory school prospective student-athlete until the student-athlete:
  - (a) presents the institution with (or has on file with the NCAA Eligibility Center) a high school or college-preparatory school transcript (official or unofficial);
  - (b) registers with the Eligibility Center; and
  - (c) is placed on the institution's Institutional Request List with the Eligibility Center. [Bylaw 13.3.2.1]
- (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) During an unofficial visit, the institution may not provide any entertainment except complimentary admissions to a home athletics event, regardless of location, in which the institution's intercollegiate team practices or competes. Such complimentary admissions are for the exclusive use of the prospective student-athlete and those persons accompanying the prospective student-athlete on the visit and must be issued on an individual-game basis. Providing seating during the conduct of the event (including intermission) for the prospective student-athlete or those persons

accompanying the prospective student-athlete in the bench area is specifically prohibited. [Bylaw 13.4.2.1.1]

(b) During any unofficial visit, the institution may provide the prospective student-athlete with transportation to view practice and competition sites in the prospective student-athlete's sport and other institutional facilities and to attend an institution's home athletics contest (on or off-campus). [Bylaw 13.4.3]

(5) You are **not eligible** if, when you were being recruited, a staff member of your institution's athletics department spent money other than what was necessary for the staff member's personal expenses during an off-campus visit with you outside the locale of the institution. [Bylaw 13.11.2]

c. Sports Camps.

- You are **not eligible** if, before you enrolled at your institution, the institution, members of its staff or a booster employed or gave you free or reduced admission privileges to attend its camp or clinic after you started classes for the ninth grade. [Bylaw 13.9.1.4.1]

d. Source of Funds - All Sports.

- You are **not eligible** if any organization or group of people outside your institution spent money recruiting you to attend your institution, including entertaining, giving gifts or services and providing transportation to you or your relatives or friends unless the coach is serving in their capacity as a sports club coach. [Bylaws 13.11.4 and 13.11.4.1]

e. Prospective student-athlete financial assistance or Postgraduate Expense - All Sports.

- An institution or a booster shall not offer, provide or arrange financial assistance, directly or indirectly, to pay (in whole or in part) the costs of the prospective student-athlete's educational or other expenses for any period before their enrollment or so the prospective student-athlete can obtain a postgraduate education. [Bylaw 13.12.1]