

Division III Bylaw 14



Regional Rules

Webinar Overview

- Enrollment Requirements/Exceptions.
- Seasons of Participation.
- Bylaw 14.1.9 Graduate Student/Postbaccalaureate Participation.
 - Subcommittee for Legislative Relief directive for compelling and exemplary academic success.
 - Case studies.



Enrollment Requirements

- General Rule.
 - Practice – Must be enrolled in a full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate degree, as defined by the institution.
 - Competition – Must be enrolled in not less than 12 semester or quarter hours.

Bylaw 14.1.8.1

- Graduate Student – Must be enrolled in a full-time graduate program as defined by the institution.

Bylaw 14.1.8.1.6.2



Exception: Enrollment – After Completion of Degree

- SA who was eligible in the term when degree completed may continue to practice and compete through the conclusion of the season if:
 - A postseason event (NCAA championships) begins within 60 days after the end of the term; **OR**
 - Completed degree requirements in fewer than four consecutive years from initial enrollment and charged with a season of participation; **OR**
 - Continuing enrollment in second degree, or graduate program (Bylaw 14.1.9)
- The SA only needs to meet one of these criteria.

Bylaw 14.1.8.1.6.7



Exception: Enrollment – After Completion of Degree

A basketball SA graduates in December, attending school for 3 ½ years.

- Can the SA finish their season without having to enroll in the spring term?



Exception: Enrollment – After Completion of Degree (cont.)

Yes, the SA could continue to participate without being enrolled in the spring.

- SA who was eligible in the term when degree completed may continue to practice and compete through the conclusion of the season if:
 - A postseason event (NCAA championships) begins within 60 days after the end of the term; **OR**
 - Completed degree requirements in fewer than four consecutive years from initial enrollment and charged with a season of participation; **OR**
 - Continuing enrollment in second degree, or graduate program (Bylaw 14.1.9).



Exception: Enrollment – After Completion of Degree (cont.)

A swimming SA graduates in December, attending school for four years and would like to compete in the conference championships meet in February without enrolling in the spring term.

- Can the SA finish their season without having to enroll in the spring term?



Exception: Enrollment – After Completion of Degree (cont.)

- SA who was eligible in the term when degree completed may continue to practice and compete through the conclusion of the season if:
 - A postseason event (NCAA championships) begins within 60 days after the end of the term; **OR**
 - Completed degree requirements in fewer than four consecutive years from initial enrollment and charged with a season of participation; **OR**
 - Continuing enrollment in second degree, or graduate program (Bylaw 14.1.9)



Exception: Enrollment – After Completion of Degree (cont.)

- The SA can participate in the spring if a postseason event falls within 60 days of when the SA has completed their degree requirements.
- The 60-day period begins the day after the last day of the term that the SA earns the degree. Conference championships do not count as a postseason event. If the conference championships are the only event that take place within 60 days of the date the SA completed the degree, the SA is not eligible and must immediately stop participating in athletics.



Enrollment – Final Term

- Final Semester/Quarter – may practice and compete while enrolled less than full time provided:
 - Final term of degree program (baccalaureate or graduate).
 - Enrolled in courses necessary to complete degree.
 - Must complete requirements or forfeits eligibility in all sports.

Bylaw 14.1.8.1.6.1
- Noncontroversial legislation – expand current final semester exception to SAs enrolled in final term of their minor or undergraduate certificate program.



Final Term Exception - Minor

- The exception may not be used after the SA graduates.
- The final term exception may only be used once; if the SA has used the final term exception to complete their degree, it can't be used to complete a minor or undergraduate certificate program.
- If the SA fails to complete the minor or undergraduate certificate program in the term when the exception is used, the SA forfeits all remaining eligibility.



Final Term Exception – Minor (cont.)

- Can an athlete take a less than full-time course load during their final semester in order to complete the academic requirements for a minor? The athlete has technically already earned enough credits to graduate but needs nine more credit hours to earn a minor.

Prior response: SA could not be enrolled less than full time while enrolled in courses needed to complete a minor. Since SA's minor courses are not required to complete degree requirements, SA may not be enrolled less than full time since the SA no longer needs to take any degree-applicable courses.

Current response: The noncontroversial legislation approved by NCAA Management Council would now permit the SA who has completed all the requirements for their degree but is continuing their work toward a minor or undergraduate certificate program, provided SA has not previously used the exception, and SA is carrying the courses necessary to complete their minor or undergraduate certificate program.



Seasons of Participation

- Use a Season of Participation.
 - SA participates (practices or competes) during or after the first contest in the traditional segment.
Bylaw 14.2.4.1
- NOT Use a Season of Participation.
 - During the traditional segment when a SA participates in a preseason scrimmage or preseason exhibition conducted before the first contest following the SA's initial participation of that academic year at that institution;
 - During the traditional segment when a SA participates in an alumni contest conducted before the first regular-season contest following the SA's initial participation of that academic year at that institution; and
 - In baseball, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball when a SA participates during the nontraditional segment.
Bylaw 14.2.4.1.1



Season of Participation (cont.)

- Institution has a team manager this fall in volleyball who wants to join the team and practice and compete during the nontraditional season this spring. If the SA goes with the team on a foreign tour during the spring term, would the SA be able to do any of the following WITHOUT triggering a season of participation:
 1. Practice and compete during the nontraditional season?
 2. Practice with the team during the allotted time before the foreign tour?
 3. Practice and compete with the team during the foreign tour?



Season of Participation (cont.)

- The team manager would be able to participate with the team during the nontraditional segment of the playing season without triggering a season of participation.
- The team manager may participate in practice associated with the foreign tour, practice with the team during the foreign tour, and compete on the foreign tour without triggering use of a season of participation.
 - Bylaw 14.2.4.7 (Foreign-Tour Competition) states that a SA who did not participate during the season just completed, and who represents the institution in a foreign tour after the intercollegiate season prior to the start of the next academic year, is not charged with the use of a season for the preceding season.



Graduate Student/ Postbaccalaureate Participation

- After completing the undergraduate degree and graduating, a Division III SA may continue to participate in athletics at the same institution or at a new Division III institution if the SA:
 1. Is enrolled and seeking a graduate or second baccalaureate degree;
 2. Has eligibility remaining; and
 3. The SA still has time remaining within the 10-semester/15-quarter eligibility period.

Bylaw 14.1.9



Regional Rules

Enrollment – Final Term SLR Graduate Student Participation Directive (2019): Compelling and Exemplary Academic Success

1.

The student-athlete graduated with an undergraduate degree *ahead of schedule (i.e., in less than four academic years)* **within four academic years**;

2.

The student-athlete has seasons of participation remaining. A season of participation shall be determined based on Division III Bylaw 14.2.4.1, regardless where (e.g., other NCAA division, NAIA) the participation occurs;

3.

SA continued/maintained education as full-time student rather than having breaks in enrollment for no reason/circumstances beyond their control; and

4.

SA possesses a minimum 3.000 cumulative grade-point average.

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/committees/d3/arp_slr/D3SLR_InfoStandardsGuidelinesDirectives.pdf



Regional Rules

CURRENT DIRECTIVE	FORMER DIRECTIVE
1) SA graduated with an undergraduate degree within four academic years;	1) SA graduated with undergraduate degree ahead of schedule (i.e., less than four academic years);
2) SA has seasons of participation remaining. A season of participation shall be determined based on Division III Bylaw 14.2.4.1, regardless where (e.g., other NCAA division, NAIA) the participation occurs;	2) SA continued/maintained education as a full-time student rather than having breaks in enrollment for no reason/circumstances beyond their control; and
3) SA continued/maintained education as a full-time student rather than having breaks in enrollment for no reason/circumstances beyond their control; and	3) SA possesses a minimum 3.000 cumulative grade-point average.
4) SA possesses a minimum 3.000 cumulative grade-point average.	



Case Study No. 1

SA graduated from a Division I institution with a 3.200 cumulative GPA. SA took advanced placement courses in high school. With those extra credits, SA was able to graduate after seven consecutive semesters (in 3½ years) and was enrolled full time each of those semesters. SA has practiced and competed in a total of three seasons of volleyball.



CURRENT DIRECTIVE	FORMER DIRECTIVE
1) SA graduated with an undergraduate degree within four academic years;	1) SA graduated with undergraduate degree ahead of schedule (i.e., less than four academic years);
2) SA has seasons of participation remaining. A season of participation shall be determined based on Division III Bylaw 14.2.4.1, regardless where (e.g., other NCAA division, NAIA) the participation occurs;	2) SA continued/maintained education as a full-time student rather than having breaks in enrollment for no reason/circumstances beyond their control; and
3) SA continued/maintained education as a full-time student rather than having breaks in enrollment for no reason/circumstances beyond their control; and	3) SA possesses a minimum 3.000 cumulative grade-point average.
4) SA possesses a minimum 3.000 cumulative grade-point average.	



Case Study No. 2

SA graduated from a Division II institution with a cumulative 2.620 grade-point average. SA graduated upon completion of eight semesters (within four years) and was enrolled full time each semester. SA never participated in athletics at SA's previous institution and has four seasons of participation remaining in football.



CURRENT DIRECTIVE	FORMER DIRECTIVE
1) SA graduated with an undergraduate degree within four academic years;	1) SA graduated with undergraduate degree ahead of schedule (i.e., less than four academic years);
2) SA has seasons of participation remaining. A season of participation shall be determined based on Division III Bylaw 14.2.4.1, regardless where (e.g., other NCAA division, NAIA) the participation occurs;	2) SA continued/maintained education as a full-time student rather than having breaks in enrollment for no reason/circumstances beyond their control; and
3) SA continued/maintained education as a full-time student rather than having breaks in enrollment for no reason/circumstances beyond their control; and	3) SA possesses a minimum 3.000 cumulative grad-point average.
4) SA possesses a minimum 3.000 cumulative grade-point average.	



Case Study No. 3

SA graduated from a Division I institution upon completion of eight semesters (within four years) and possessing a 3.100 cumulative grade-point average. SA was full time each semester. SA competed in three seasons of basketball. SA also “redshirted” during SA’s first year because of a persistent back injury. SA practiced the entire season.



CURRENT DIRECTIVE	FORMER DIRECTIVE
1) SA graduated with an undergraduate degree within four academic years;	1) SA graduated with undergraduate degree ahead of schedule (i.e., less than four academic years);
2) SA has seasons of participation remaining. A season of participation shall be determined based on Division III Bylaw 14.2.4.1, regardless where (e.g., other NCAA division, NAIA) the participation occurs;	2) SA continued/maintained education as a full-time student rather than having breaks in enrollment for no reason/circumstances beyond their control; and
3) SA continued/maintained education as a full-time student rather than having breaks in enrollment for no reason/circumstances beyond their control; and	3) SA possesses a minimum 3.000 cumulative grade-point average.
4) SA possesses a minimum 3.000 cumulative grade-point average.	



Case Study Takeaways

- Temporarily, SA may be granted graduate student/postbaccalaureate eligibility based on satisfying either the old or current directive for compelling and exemplary academic success.
 - Relief will not be granted based on a hybrid of both directive criteria; the SA must satisfy one or the other.
- Nonparticipation in intercollegiate athletics alone will not be sufficient mitigation to waive Bylaw 14.1.9, if the SA does not satisfy the directive.



Other Considerations for Bylaw

14.1.9 Waivers

- Extraordinary and extenuating circumstances that are appropriately documented.
- Military service.
- In order for a Division III institution to file the waiver, the SA must have graduated and be accepted into and enrolled in the graduate or postbaccalaureate program.
- Unavailability of the SA's degree program at the previous institution alone will not be considered compelling mitigation to warrant relief.



QUESTIONS ?



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