



Division I Question and Answer Document
Division I Proposal Nos. 2022-20, 2022-21, ER-2022-5, 2023-1 and 2023-4
Published: February 2, 2023

This document contains questions and answers designed to assist the NCAA membership in understanding the application of NCAA Division I Proposal Nos. 2022-20, 2022-21, ER-2022-5, 2023-1 and 2023-4.

Notification of Transfer Process – Undergraduate Student-Athletes

Question No. 1: May an undergraduate student-athlete enter the NCAA Transfer Portal prior to the window opening for their sport?

Answer: In general, an undergraduate student-athlete must wait until the window opens for their sport to be entered into the NCAA Transfer Portal. However, if a student-athlete's head coach departs or announces their intent to depart, or the student-athlete's athletics aid is canceled, reduced or nonrenewed (for reasons other than those specified in NCAA Division I Bylaws 15.3.4.2 or 15.3.5.1) prior to the window opening for their sport, they may initiate notification of transfer during a 30 consecutive-day period which begins the day after either occurs. Additionally, an undergraduate student-athlete who is positioned to qualify for a four-year transfer exception other than the one-time transfer exception (e.g., nonrecruited/nonscholarship exception, or discontinued sport exception) may initiate notification of transfer process at any time following the completion of the educational module related to transferring.

Question No. 2: When is a student-athlete first required to initiate notification of transfer during an applicable window for their sport to permissibly engage in recruiting contact with other Division I institutions?

Answer: The applicable transfer windows apply to four-year transfer student-athletes seeking championship eligibility for the 2023-24 academic year. The transfer windows will first be used during the specified periods beginning late-fall 2022 through summer 2023.

Question No. 3: May a student-athlete enter the NCAA Transfer Portal after the window(s) for their sport conclude?

Answer: Yes. A student-athlete who did not initiate notification of transfer during an applicable window for their sport may request to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal after the windows close and through July 31. On August 1, the notification of transfer windows for undergraduate student-athletes will reset for the ensuing academic year.

Question No. 4: Does an institution still have two business days to enter a student-athlete into the NCAA Transfer Portal if a student-athlete qualifies for one of the exceptions to initiating notification of transfer outside of an applicable window?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 5: May a spring sport student-athlete enter the NCAA Transfer Portal at midyear?

Answer: Yes. A 15-day fall window, from December 1 to December 15, will be available for spring sport student-athletes to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal at midyear and begin permissible recruiting contact with other institutions, effective first December 1-15, 2023 (See Q&A No. 11).

Question No. 6: Did the transfer windows apply to a four-year student-athlete who transfers at midyear after the 2022 fall term if their championship segment occurs during the 2023 spring term(s)?

Answer: No. Four-year student-athletes who elected to transfer after the 2022 fall term with a championship season occurring during the 2023 spring term(s) were not subject to the transfer windows since they potentially had the ability to be immediately eligible for a championship segment that occurs during the 2022-23 academic year. Winter and spring sport student-athletes with the potential to transfer and subsequently engage in championship competition during the 2022-23 academic year are the final cohort of four-year transfers who are not subject to the transfer windows. Please note, the midyear transfer provisions (e.g., tennis, baseball) continue to apply even if a midyear transfer qualifies for the one-time transfer exception. Winter and spring championship sport student-athletes that did not transfer at midyear and either remained enrolled at their current institution for the 2023 spring term or withdrew should be withdrawn from the NCAA Portal at the point in time it is confirmed they did not transfer to a new institution. Student-athletes may be re-entered into the NCAA Transfer Portal during the first permissible notification of transfer window for their applicable sport that was established for competition that will occur during the 2023-24 academic year, or when an exception to the transfer windows is satisfied. Winter and spring sport student-athletes who are removed from the NCAA Transfer Portal at the outset of the 2023 spring term retain the opportunity to meet the one-time transfer exception during the 2023-24 academic year should they re-enter the Portal during the applicable window for their sport(s) or satisfy a permissible exception.

NOTE: winter or spring sport student-athletes who entered the NCAA Transfer Portal during the 2022 fall term who did not transfer at midyear do not need to be withdrawn if they qualify for the new exemption from the NCAA Transfer Portal established via the adoption of Division I Proposal No. 2023-1 (four-year transfer exceptions other than the one-time transfer exception).

Question No. 7: Is a student-athlete who entered the NCAA Transfer Portal on August 30, 2022, subject to the transfer windows?

Answer: No. A student-athlete who provided written notification of transfer prior to the adoption of Proposal No. 2022-20 is subject to the notification of transfer process and transfer rules that were effective prior to the rule change for championships conducted during the 2022-23 academic year.

Question No. 8: May a Division I student-athlete initiate notification of transfer outside an applicable window for their sport if they plan to transfer to a non-Division I institution (e.g., Division II)?

Answer: No. A student-athlete currently enrolled at a Division I institution may initiate notification of transfer only during either an applicable window for their sport or during one of the limited exceptions to the windows, if applicable. Note, a Division I student-athlete may be required to comply with additional requirements to be immediately eligible to compete at a non-Division I institution (e.g., the June 15 notification of transfer date for use of the Division II one-time transfer exception).

Question No. 9: May a student-athlete who is withdrawn most recently from a Division I institution or a former student-athlete who is not a member on a Division I team during the current academic year enter the Transfer Portal at any time?

Answer: No. Such an individual must wait until the applicable transfer window opens to enter the Transfer Portal; however, a withdrawn student-athlete is no longer subject to the notification of transfer process after one academic year has elapsed since their withdrawal from the most recently attended four-year institution, pursuant to Bylaw 13.1.1.3.4. For example, beginning in fall 2023, an undergraduate basketball student-athlete who quits their team during the fall and subsequently withdraws from their current school still must wait until the notification of transfer window opens for basketball during the subsequent 2024 spring term since a full academic year will not have yet elapsed since their withdrawal.

Question No. 10: May a student who is enrolled at a Division I institution but has never met the definition of an enrolled student-athlete (Bylaw 13.02.6) enter the Transfer Portal outside of the applicable transfer windows?

Answer: Yes. While an individual who has never met the enrolled student-athlete definition is not required to use the Transfer Portal, those who request to be entered may do so outside of the applicable transfer windows.

Question No. 11: When will the fall notification of transfer window for spring sports (i.e., December 1 – December 15) first apply?

Answer: As spring sport student-athletes are currently not subject to the transfer windows during the 2022 fall term (as explained in Question No. 6), the fall notification of transfer window for spring sports will first occur during the 2023-24 academic year, from December 1-15, 2023.

Question No. 12: Is the 30-day period exception available to a student-athlete who quits their team prior to the applicable transfer window in their sport if their athletics aid is permissibly canceled for the remainder of the term pursuant to Bylaw 15.3.4.2-(d)?

Answer: No. The 30-day period does not apply to any of the contexts specified in Bylaw 15.3.4.2 that permissibly allow an institution to reduce or cancel a student-athlete's athletics aid during the period of award.

Question No. 13: When does the 30-day period exception begin following the departure of a student-athlete's head coach?

Answer: The 30-day period begins the day after the head coach departure is announced or occurs, whatever happens first.

Notification of Transfer Process – Postgraduate Student-Athletes

Question No. 14: May a student-athlete who is planning to use their remaining athletics eligibility as a postgraduate student at an institution other than their current Division I institution by the start of the next academic year initiate the notification of transfer process at any time?

Answer: Yes, provided their current institution can project the student-athlete is in the final academic year of their baccalaureate degree (enrolled in courses necessary to complete degree requirements at the end of the two semesters or three quarters or the following summer).

Question No. 15: If a student-athlete qualifies for the postgraduate student-athlete exception to the notification of transfer windows and enters the NCAA Transfer Portal at any time, is it a violation if the student-athlete does not graduate by the conclusion of the next academic year?

Answer: No; however, depending on the facts, a legislative relief waiver may be necessary for the student-athlete to establish their postgraduate eligibility at another new institution.

Four-Year Transfer Eligibility

Question No. 16: Is an undergraduate four-year student-athlete required to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal during their sport's window to use the one-time transfer exception at a second Division I institution?

Answer: Yes. However, a student-athlete who permissibly enters the NCAA Transfer Portal during a 30-day period following a head coach departure or limited athletics aid cancelation or reduction that occurs outside of an applicable window for their sport(s), may still use any applicable four-year transfer exception, including the one-time exception, provided all other provisions are satisfied.

Question No. 17: Is an undergraduate four-year student-athlete required to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal during an applicable window for their sport if they plan to use a four-year transfer exception other than the one-time transfer (e.g., the nonrecruited/nonscholarship exception)?

Answer: No. Effective January 11, 2023, student-athletes who are projected to qualify for a four-year transfer exception other than the one-time transfer exception (e.g., nonrecruited/noscholarship exception, discontinued sport exception) may enter the NCAA Transfer Portal at any time upon written request and the completion of the transfer educational module.

Question No. 18: Do midyear transfer provisions continue to apply?

Answer: Yes. While a midyear transfer may qualify for the one-time transfer exception by entering the NCAA Transfer Portal during the appropriate window, midyear transfer provisions will continue to apply and may prohibit certain midyear transfers (e.g., baseball student-athletes) from competing immediately for the new Division I program during the winter/spring term(s) following transfer.

Question No. 19: Would an undergraduate winter sport student-athlete who transfers at midyear (e.g., basketball) be able to apply the one-time transfer exception at another Division I institution to avoid serving a residence requirement?

Answer: Beginning during the 2023-24 academic year, a winter sport student-athlete who transfers at midyear would not have access to the one-time transfer exception, unless they qualify for the 30-day period exception to the notification of transfer process. A winter sport student-athlete who transfers at midyear during the 2023-24 academic year would retain access to other four-year transfer exceptions, like the discontinued sport exception.

Question No. 20: What transfer window applies to an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete who participates in more than one sport) for purposes of applying the one-time transfer exception?

Answer: A student-athlete who participates in more than one sport can request to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal during any window that is available for any of their sports. A student-athlete who enters during an applicable window for any of their sports remains eligible to apply the one-time transfer exception in the sports in which the student-athlete met the requirements to be considered a multi-sport student-athlete (Bylaw 15.5.9.7.1) during the academic year preceding the transfer. For example, an individual who is considered a multi-sport student-athlete in cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field at a Division I institution could enter the NCAA Transfer Portal during the first window for cross country that occurs in the fall, transfer at midyear to another Division I institution and potentially be immediately eligible in indoor and outdoor track and field at the new school, provided the other provisions of the one-time transfer exception are met and the competition in year of transfer rule was not triggered for indoor track and field.

Question No. 21: Are student-athletes seeking to use any remaining eligibility at another Division I institution as a postgraduate required to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal during the transfer windows for four-year transfers?

Answer: No. A student-athlete who is seeking to enroll as a postgraduate at another institution within the next academic year may initiate notification of transfer at any time. The May 1 and July 1 sport-specific notification of transfer deadlines still apply to postgraduate transfers who intend to use the one-time transfer exception to establish their postgraduate eligibility at a new Division I institution; however, for now, the previously approved waiver guidelines for postgraduate transfers remain the same. Note, a student-athlete may still contact other institutions for academic purposes, including having their academic record evaluated by other institutions'

academic departments and/or applying for admissions into a particular program prior to entering the NCAA Transfer Portal.

Question No. 22: Is a four-year transfer student-athlete from a non-Division I institution required to have initiated notification of transfer during an applicable window for their sport to use the one-time transfer as an undergraduate at a Division I institution?

Answer: No. An undergraduate student-athlete transferring from a non-Division I four-year institution (e.g., Division II, NAIA, international) may still use the one-time transfer exception at a Division I institution provided all other provisions are satisfied. Note, a non-Division I student-athlete may also be required to comply with the rule(s) of their applicable division or association to have permissible contact with Division I athletics staff members.

Question No. 23: Will a waiver process be available for an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete who does not meet a four-year transfer exception?

Answer: Yes. The NCAA Division I Committee for Legislative Relief guidelines approved by the NCAA Division I Council that will be used to assess waivers of Bylaw 14.5.5.1 for transfer student-athletes whose first championship season occurs at a new Division I institution during the 2023-24 academic year are now available.

Financial Aid Requirements

Question No. 24: Does the proposal apply to a student-athlete who transferred to the certifying institution directly from a two-year institution?

Answer: No. The proposal does not apply to two-year college transfers, including 4-2-4 transfers.

Question No. 25: If an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete is not offered athletics aid (e.g., a walk-on), must the institution provide the student-athlete financial aid?

Answer: No.

Question No. 26: If an institution issues or provides aid to an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete during the first year of enrollment at the certifying institution, is the institution required to provide athletics aid for a period of no less than the student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility or until all requirements to receive a baccalaureate degree are completed, whichever occurs earlier?

Answer: Yes, and this aid may only be reduced or canceled if the student-athlete transfers to another institution or loses amateur status. Note, the following applications specific to the new financial aid provisions for undergraduate four-year transfers are confined to undergraduate four-year transfer student-athletes who were awarded or issued athletics aid during their first year of enrollment at the certifying institution.

Question No. 27: May an institution cancel the athletics aid of an undergraduate four-year transfer due to serious misconduct?

Answer: Yes. The requirement to provide financial aid to an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete through completion of the student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility or until undergraduate graduation, whichever comes first, would not supersede an institutional (as opposed to athletics department) decision to preclude the student-athlete from receiving financial aid as a result of an institutional disciplinary process. However, there is no exception to exempt the athletics aid, as awarded, from team financial aid limits.

Question No. 28: May an institution reduce or cancel an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete's athletics aid if the student-athlete enters the NCAA Transfer Portal, is rendered academically ineligible (i.e., fails to pass 18 credit hours during the academic year following transfer), or voluntarily withdraws from the team? May an institution use nonathletically related terms or conditions to permissibly reduce or cancel four-year undergraduate transfer student-athlete's athletics aid?

Answer: No. Athletics aid for a student-athlete who transferred from a four-year institution may only be reduced or canceled if an exception listed in Bylaws 15.3.4.2.1 or 15.3.5.1.2 -- Exception -- Undergraduate Four-Year College Transfers, is satisfied. Further, there is no exception to exempt the athletics aid from team financial aid limits.

Question No. 29: May an institution cancel athletics aid if an undergraduate student-athlete enters the NCAA Transfer Portal?

Answer: Unless the individual is an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete, the act of providing notification of transfer is still a permissible reason to reduce or cancel athletics aid of a recipient who is not a four-year transfer student-athlete.

Question No. 30: May an institution cancel athletics aid if an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete fails to enroll for a regular academic term (e.g., fall semester)?

Answer: No. While athletics aid may not be provided because the student-athlete is not eligible for athletics aid pursuant to Bylaw 15.01.5, the athletics aid agreement must remain in effect unless an exception listed in Bylaws 15.3.4.2.1 or 15.3.5.1.2 -- Exception -- Undergraduate Four-Year College Transfers, is satisfied. The athletics aid agreement remains in effect should the student-athlete re-enroll at the awarding institution. Further, there is no exception to exempt the athletics aid, as awarded, from team financial aid limits.

Question No. 31: Must an institution re-issue athletics aid agreements that comply with the requirements of this proposal to current undergraduate student-athletes who previously transferred to them from another four-year institution?

Answer: No. This proposal applies to undergraduate four-year transfer student-athletes whose championship eligibility at the certifying institution first occurs during the 2023-24 academic year and beyond.

Question No. 32: Do the financial aid provisions apply to an undergraduate four-year student-athlete who transfers to the certifying institution prior to 2023 fall (e.g., 2023 spring) if they participate in a fall championship sport (e.g., football, soccer)?

Answer: Yes. The financial aid provisions are applicable to undergraduate transfer student-athletes whose first championship opportunity at the new institution occurs during the 2023-24 academic year and thereafter.

Question No. 33: Do the athletics aid provisions apply to undergraduate four-year transfers from any four-year institution (e.g., other NCAA divisions or international institutions)?

Answer: Yes. The proposal's athletics aid provisions apply to all undergraduate four-year transfer student-athletes.

Question No. 34: Does the legislation permitting increases to athletics aid at any time continue to apply to undergraduate four-year transfer student-athletes?

Answer: Yes. Undergraduate four-year transfer student-athletes may receive increases to athletics aid.

Question No. 35: May institutions provide undergraduate four-year transfer student-athletes with multiyear aid agreements that stipulate that a lesser amount of financial aid or no financial aid will be provided in one or more academic years, including the final year of the award?

Answer: No. While increases are permitted at any time, aid issued to an undergraduate four-year transfer must be awarded during every regular academic term during the period of award (a period no less than the five-year period of eligibility or until graduation, whichever occurs earlier) and may not include one or more academic years of a lesser amount of financial aid or no athletically related financial aid after the first academic year in which athletically related aid is provided, including the anticipated final year of the award (e.g., fifth year of the five-year period of eligibility).

Question No. 36: May an athletics aid agreement provided to an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete stipulate an average amount of aid to be provided?

Answer: Yes, provided aid is awarded during every regular academic term during the period of award (a period no less than the five-year period of eligibility or until graduation, whichever occurs earlier) and does not include one or more academic years of a lesser amount of financial aid or no athletically related financial aid after the first academic year in which athletically related aid is provided, including the anticipated final year of the award (e.g., fifth year of the five-year period of eligibility).

Question No. 37: May an institution exempt the aid of an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete following the departure of a head coach from the institution?

Answer: No. Bylaw 15.5.1.2 requires that an undergraduate four-year transfer student who receives athletically related financial aid shall be a counter for the period of the award (a period no less than the five-year period of eligibility or until graduation, whichever occurs earlier).

Question No. 38: May an incoming undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete replace a counter using an existing exception (e.g., midyear replacement)?

Answer: Yes. Replacement legislation allows an institution to replace a counter no longer participating with the program without the replaced student-athlete retaining status as a counter for the remainder of the academic year.

Question No. 39: May an institution apply existing replacement legislation to replace an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete?

Answer: Yes, provided the replaced student-athlete reached the conclusion of the period of award or satisfied an exception listed in Bylaws 15.3.4.2.1 or 15.3.5.1.2 – Exception – Undergraduate Four-Year College Transfers. An institution may also apply Academic Study Abroad Replacement legislation and Internship or Cooperative Educational Work Experience Program Replacement legislation to replace an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete.

Question No. 40: May an institution continue to provide athletics aid to an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete who professionalizes, graduates, or exhausts eligibility without such aid counting against institutional team limits?

Answer: The proposal did not alter the application of legislation to exempt the athletics aid of exhausted eligibility student-athletes or former student-athletes in later academic years. Therefore, to the extent the undergraduate four-year transfer graduates, completes the five-year period of eligibility, or an exception listed in Bylaws 15.3.4.2.1 or 15.3.5.1.2 – Exception – Undergraduate Four-Year College Transfers is satisfied, an institution may provide athletics aid during later academic years and exempt it pursuant to Bylaws 15.5.1.6 or 15.5.1.9 regardless of whether the recipient transferred to the awarding institution.

Question No. 41: If an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete completes four seasons of competition, may an institution consider that student-athlete to have exhausted eligibility for purposes of the conclusion of the period of award?

Answer: No. An institution cannot consider an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete to have exhausted eligibility for purposes of the conclusion of the period of award until the five-year period of eligibility is expired, regardless of whether the student-athlete has remaining seasons of competition. Please note that Bylaw 15.3.3.3 also permits the period of award to conclude upon satisfaction of all requirements to receive a baccalaureate degree.

Question No. 42: May an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete absolve the institution of the obligation to provide athletics aid?

Answer: No.

Question No. 43: May an institution cancel the athletics aid of an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete upon graduation if the student-athlete has eligibility remaining?

Answer: Yes. However, if the institution is a member of an autonomy conference or applies autonomy financial aid legislation, the athletics aid agreement must include a nonathletically related term or condition specifying that the agreement will be cancelled or reduced upon graduation.

Question No. 44: May an institution cancel the athletics aid of an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete who loses amateur status for any reason specified in Bylaw 12.1.2?

Answer: Yes. However, the institution's regular financial aid authority must notify the student-athlete in writing of the opportunity to appeal.

Question No. 45: Does the proposal require an institution to provide all undergraduate four-year transfers with a period of award based on the conclusion of the five-year period of eligibility or graduation, rather than traditional one-year or multiyear awards?

Answer: Yes. Bylaw 15.3.3.3 requires institutions to award aid to undergraduate four-year transfers for a period no less than the five-year period of eligibility or until all requirements to graduate are complete, whichever occurs earlier. The conclusion of the period of award for an undergraduate four-year transfer student-athlete is defined by a specific event, rather than a period of time.

Question No. 46: Does Proposal No. 2022-20 impact the application of multisport student-athlete legislation or changes in participation legislation?

Answer: No. Athletics aid is considered institutional and is not sport specific. As a result, the athletics aid of student-athletes who change sports or participate in multiple sports should be certified pursuant to Bylaws 15.5.9 and 15.5.10 regardless of whether the student-athlete transferred to the awarding institution.

Question No. 47: How should an institution account for athletics aid not actually received by an undergraduate four-year transfer? For example, if an undergraduate four-year transfer awarded athletics aid does not enroll for a specific term, how should the institution calculate the student-athlete's equivalency?

Answer: The institution must calculate the equivalency based on the agreement as if the student-athlete received the award during the specific term (or terms) in a manner consistent with the regular application of equivalency computation legislation.

Question No. 48: Does the legislation apply if an undergraduate four-year transfer prospective student-athlete signs an athletics aid agreement but enrolls elsewhere?

Answer: No, if a prospective transfer student-athlete enrolled at Institution A signs aid agreements with both Institution B and Institution C, Institution B is not accountable for the aid agreement as issued if the transfer student-athlete enrolls at Institution C. Similarly, neither Institution B nor Institution C remain accountable for the issued aid agreements if the student-athlete remains enrolled at Institution A.

Question No. 49: May an institution cancel the athletics aid agreement of a prospective transfer student-athlete that does not enroll at the first available opportunity?

Answer: The financial aid provisions associated with this proposal were not intended to hold institutions accountable for athletics aid agreements signed when a prospective transfer enrolls elsewhere or remains enrolled at their current institution. In contrast, an institution may not cancel a signed athletics aid agreement for a prospective transfer student-athlete who does not enroll for athletically related reasons (e.g., academically ineligible to compete, injury).