



NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2025-41 – Recruiting – Notification of Transfer -- Undergraduate Window and Head Coach Departure Exception – Basketball.

NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2025-41 Recruiting -- Notification of Transfer -- Undergraduate Window and Head Coach Departure Exception -- Basketball modified the notification-of-transfer period and head coach departure exception for men's and women's basketball. The following question and answer document is designed to assist the NCAA membership in understanding the application of Proposal No. 2025-41.

Question No. 1: Does this proposal modify the postgraduate notification-of-transfer period legislation for men's and women's basketball?

Answer: No. The notification-of-transfer period for postgraduate student-athletes opens October 1 and close 15 days following the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Final Four for postgraduate student-athletes.

Question No. 2: Does this proposal change the application of the Discontinued Sport or Athletic Aid Cancellation, Reduction or Nonrenewal transfer window exceptions?

Answer: No.

Question No. 3: How does Proposal No. 2025-41 modify the previous head coach departure exception?

Answer: Proposal No. 2025-41 modifies the head coach departure exception by permitting student-athletes to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal during a period up to 15 consecutive days that begins if one of the following occurs between the opening of the notification transfer window (e.g., the day after the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's championship games, respectively) and January 2.

- School hires or publicly announces the hire of a new head coach after the portal window opens and prior to December 28, the up to 15 consecutive-day period begins five calendar days after the hire or public announcement (whichever occurs first); or
- If school does not hire a new head coach within 30 calendar days of departure or announcement of departure, 15 consecutive-day period begins on the 31st day.

The period of up to 15 consecutive days may not extend beyond January 2.

Question No. 4: How is an announcement defined for purposes of triggering the head coaching change exception?

Answer: An announcement is defined as an official statement from the appropriate institutional authority. An announcement does not include social media posts from noninstitutional and unauthorized accounts or posts that do not include an official statement from the appropriate institutional authority.

Question No. 5: If an institution has not made a hiring announcement, are there other actions that trigger access to the head coaching change exception?

Answer: Yes. In the absence of an official announcement, the head coaching change exception may be triggered by the signing of an employment contract or the documented completion of institutional employment procedures.

Question No. 6: Does Proposal No. 2025-41 apply to head coach changes made before January 14, 2026?

Answer: No. Head coach changes made before January 14, 2026, are subject to the previous, 30-day head coach departure exception.

Question No. 7: Does Proposal No. 2025-41 apply to the announcement of interim head coaches?

Answer: No. However, if the institution later announces the hire of an interim head coach as the new head coach (i.e., removes the interim designation), then men’s and women’s basketball student-athletes would be permitted to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal during a period up to 15 consecutive days that begin five calendar days after the promotion or announcement of the promotion of the new head coach.

Question No. 8: May a basketball student-athlete enter the NCAA Transfer Portal if the hire of a new head coach is announced prior to the day after the NCAA Division I men’s and women’s basketball championship games, respectively (e.g. April 6, 2026, for women’s basketball, or April 7, 2026, for men’s basketball)?

Answer: No.

Question No. 9: Under Proposal No. 2025-41, if a student-athlete provides notification of transfer to their institution on January 2 (e.g., final day), when would an institution be required to enter the student-athlete’s name in the NCAA Transfer Portal?

Answer: An institution shall enter a student-athlete’s name in the NCAA Transfer Portal within two business days of the receipt of a written notification of transfer from the student-athlete.

The following scenarios are designed to assist the membership in understanding the application of the head coaching change exception.

Application of counting days (Example):

1. New head coach hire/ announcement.

Announcement New HC	Day 0	May 27
Five Days	Days 1-5*	May 28 – June 1
Transfer Window	15-Day Transfer Window	June 1 – 15

*SA can enter transfer portal beginning Day 5, for up to 15 consecutive calendar days (e.g., June 1-15).

2. School does not hire new head coach within 30 days of departure.

Announcement HC Departure	Day 0	May 27
30 Calendar Days	Days 1-30	May 28 – June 26
Transfer Window	15-Day Transfer Window	June 27* – July 11

*31st day is June 27.

SCENARIO NO. 1:	New head coach hire is announced <u>before</u> the day after the NCAA Division I men’s and women’s championship games, respectively (April 6, 2026, for women’s and April 7, 2026, for men’s basketball).
Hire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Announced by institution on March 24, 2026.
Analysis:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The institution’s basketball student-athletes may enter the NCAA Transfer Portal during the notification-of-transfer period following the championship game.The head coaching change exception does not apply.
SCENARIO NO. 2:	A new head coach hire is announced during women’s basketball notification-of-transfer period (April 6-April 20).
Hire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Announced by institution on April 15, 2026.
Analysis:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The institution’s women’s basketball student-athletes may enter the NCAA Transfer Portal during the notification-of-transfer period from April 6 – April 20.The head coaching change exception applies, and the institution’s women’s basketball student-athletes may enter the NCAA Transfer Portal from April 20 – May 4.
SCENARIO NO. 3:	A new head coach hire is announced after the men’s basketball notification-of-transfer period ends.
Hire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Announced by institution on May 1, 2026.
Analysis:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The institution’s men’s basketball student-athletes may enter the NCAA Transfer Portal during the notification-of-transfer period from April 7 – April 21.The head coaching change exception applies, and the institution’s men’s basketball student-athletes may enter the NCAA Transfer Portal from May 6-20, 2026.

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SCENARIO NO. 4:	A new head coach hire is announced more than 30 days after the former head coach’s departure.
Departure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Announced by institution on June 1, 2026.
Hire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Announced by institution on July 4, 2026.
Analysis:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The institution’s women’s basketball student-athletes may enter the NCAA Transfer Portal during the notification-of-transfer period from April 6-April 21, 2026.The head coaching change exception automatically applies beginning on the 31st day after the departure of the institution’s previous head coach. This allows the institution’s women’s basketball student-athletes to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal from July 2– July 16, 2026.Student-athletes would not be able to enter based on the announcement of a new head coach given the exception for an institution not hiring a coach within 30 calendar days was applied July 2– July 16, 2026.
SCENARIO NO. 5:	A new head coach hire is announced within 15 days of the exception’s January 2 deadline.
Hire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Announced by institution on December 25, 2026.
Analysis:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The head coaching change exception applies, and the institution’s basketball student-athletes may enter the NCAA Transfer Portal from December 30 - January 2, 2026.
SCENARIO NO. 6:	New head coach hire is announced 30 days after the former head coach’s departure and less than 15 days from the exception’s January 2 deadline.
Departure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Announced by institution on November 15, 2026.
Hire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Announced by institution on December 15, 2026.
Analysis:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The head coaching change exception applies, and the institution’s men’s basketball student-athletes may enter the NCAA Transfer Portal from December 20 – January 2.While December 15 is the 30th day after the previous head coach’s departure, the announcement of the hire on the 30th day results in a head coaching change exception period that begins five days after the hire (i.e., December 20, 2026).NCAA Transfer Portal window closes January 2 at 11:59 p.m. Any remaining days on transfer window will not extend beyond January 2.