



**NCAA Four-Year Undergraduate Transfer Waiver Guidelines Concept
Question and Answer Resource
Updated March 5, 2020**

The following resource is designed to help the membership understand the intended application and scope of the NCAA Division I Transfer Waiver Working Group’s concept to modify the four-year undergraduate transfer waiver guidelines.

This resource is subject to updates and additions as the working group continues its review and refinement of the concept.

Question No. 1: Does the working group’s one-time transfer waiver guideline impact the NCAA Transfer Portal?

Answer: No. The NCAA Transfer Portal will still be used to indicate that a student-athlete has provided written notification of transfer to the current institution. Also, a student-athlete’s decision to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal remains a permissible reason for an institution to reduce or cancel that student-athlete’s aid agreement beginning with the next academic term.

Question No. 2: When would the one-time transfer waiver guideline be available for Division I student-athletes?

Answer: The one-time transfer waiver guideline would be available for student-athletes seeking immediate eligibility at a new Division I institution beginning fall 2020. This includes student-athletes who transferred after fall 2019.

Question No. 3: May the one-time transfer waiver guideline be used by a student-athlete impacted by a head coaching change?

Answer: Yes. There are no restrictions related to the reasons a student-athlete chooses to transfer, provided the student-athlete meets all the specified criteria in the recommended guidelines, including obtaining a transfer release from the previous institution.

Question No. 4: What is a “release”?

Answer: A release is the existing mechanism by which the previous institution indicates in writing that it does not object to a student-athlete being eligible to compete immediately at the new Division I institution.

Question No. 5: When may a student-athlete ask for a release from the previous institution?

Answer: A student-athlete may request a transfer release at any point after providing written notification of transfer to the current institution. Additionally, the NCAA Transfer Portal allows the current institution to indicate any transfer release limitations, regardless of whether the student-athlete has formally requested the transfer release. If the current institution chooses to indicate any limitations on the student-athlete’s transfer release in the NCAA Transfer Portal, the institution must notify the student-athlete of those limitations.

Question No. 6: What happens if the previous institution denies or does not respond to a student-athlete's request for a release?

Answer: If an institution denies or chooses to not respond to the student-athlete's release request, the student-athlete would not be able to use the one-time transfer waiver guideline to be immediately eligible at the new institution. While the waiver guideline cannot require the previous institution to provide the student-athlete with an appeal hearing for a denied transfer release, an appellate opportunity remains available through the unique, extenuating and extraordinary circumstances waiver guideline [see Question No. 10].

Question No. 7: What happens if a student-athlete does not leave the previous institution academically eligible?

Answer: If a student-athlete leaves the previous institution academically ineligible for reasons other than percentage of degree (e.g., fails to pass six credit hours during the student-athlete's last semester) the student-athlete would not qualify for the one-time transfer waiver guideline.

Question No. 8: How does a student-athlete demonstrate academic progress at the new institution?

Answer: A transfer student-athlete will need to meet all applicable progress-toward-degree requirements prior to being eligible to compete at the new institution. The academic requirements a student-athlete must meet depend on the student-athlete's previous terms of enrollment, sport and timing of when the student-athlete transfers institutions (e.g., fall semester or midyear).

Question No. 9: Will access to the one-time transfer waiver guideline allow student-athletes to compete for two programs during the same academic year?

Answer: No. The midyear transfer and postseason rules will continue to apply. For example, a student-athlete in the sport of baseball or basketball who transfers at midyear will not be eligible to compete until the following academic year, regardless of whether the student-athlete qualifies for the one-time transfer guideline at the time of transfer to the new institution. Also, in the sport of football, midyear transfers are not eligible to participate in postseason competition at the new institution.

Question No. 10: Are there any other waiver opportunities available for a student-athlete who does not meet the one-time transfer waiver guideline (e.g., 4-4-4 transfer, previous institution objects to the transfer release)?

Answer: An additional, narrowly tailored guideline could support a transfer waiver for immediate eligibility. Specifically, if the circumstances meet the unique, extenuating and extraordinary waiver guideline included as part of the working group's concept, the new institution may request a transfer waiver. The unique,

extenuating and extraordinary waiver guideline is reserved for documented circumstances outside of the student-athlete's control that directly impact the student-athlete's health and safety (e.g., physical or sexual assault, discrimination or harassment).

Question No. 11: How does the one-time transfer waiver guideline impact a team's NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate, specifically the retention component?

Answer: The one-time transfer waiver guideline does not affect how transfer is accounted for in the team's APR; however, the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics is in the process of reviewing how the APR is calculated, including the current transfer adjustment policy. More information on the ongoing holistic APR review is available at: <http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/media-center/news/di-committee-academics-seeks-feedback-academic-performance-program>.

Question No. 12: Does the one-time transfer waiver guideline impact graduate transfer opportunities?

Answer: No. The one-time transfer waiver guideline was developed for Division I student-athletes who transfer institutions as undergraduates.

Question No. 13: What additional areas does the working group intend to explore as it continues collecting feedback and refining its four-year undergraduate transfer waiver guideline concept?

Answer: The working group identified several areas to review and clarify as this guideline concept continues to be refined including, but not limited to, impermissible recruiting behavior, team financial aid limits, and ensuring Division I student-athletes have the tools to make well-informed decisions about whether to initiate the transfer process. The working group recognizes the Division I membership already possesses tools and strategies to reconcile the implications of transfer decisions and it will continue to examine how to best manage these issues more broadly across all sports.

Question No. 14: Does the one-time transfer waiver guideline impact intra-conference transfer policies?

Answer: No. The working group's concept pertains to establishing waiver relief from the NCAA's four-year transfer rule. Conferences maintain the authority to have their own intra-conference policies.

Question No. 15: How will the one-time transfer waiver guideline be processed?

Answer: The working group is in the process of identifying the best mechanism to administer the one-time transfer waiver guideline. The working group is seeking to establish a process that minimizes the certification burden on the membership.