



**NCAA Four-Year Undergraduate Transfer Waiver Guidelines Concept
Question and Answer Resource
Updated April 14, 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 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 guideline, 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 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 Transfer Portal, the institution must notify the student-athlete of those limitations.

Question No. 6: 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. 7: 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. 8: 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. 9: 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. 10: 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 a 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. 11: 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. 12: 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. 13: 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 that will minimize the certification burden on the membership. At this juncture, the working group is exploring how the Transfer Portal could be updated to indicate use of the one-time transfer waiver guideline, should it be approved for the 2020-21 academic year.

Question No. 14: Is the one-time transfer waiver guideline available to a student-athlete who has previously transferred from a four-year institution(s)?

Answer: No. The one-time transfer waiver guideline is intended for student-athletes transferring from another four-year institution for the first time, unless the discontinued/nonsponsored sport exception applied to a previous four-year transfer (see NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.5.5.2.6).

Question No. 15: If adopted by the NCAA Division I Council, what happens to the existing guidelines articulated in the NCAA Division I Committee on Legislative Relief's Academic Year of Residence Legislation [Bylaw 14.5] – Information Standards, Guidelines and Directives?

Answer: If adopted, the working group's two guidelines would replace the existing guidelines that are tailored to specific types of mitigating circumstances (e.g., assertions of no participation opportunity, assertions of injury/illness to immediate family member). Functionally, the working group's one-time waiver guideline would be used to evaluate the majority of first-time four-year transfers in the sports of football, basketball, baseball and men's ice hockey.

Question No. 16: Does this working group's concept impact incoming transfer student-athletes from two-year colleges?

Answer: No. Transfer student-athletes from two-year colleges remain subject to the two-year transfer requirements outlined in Bylaw 14.5.4. Two-year college transfers who do not meet these legislative requirements have access to a separate waiver process articulated in the [Directive Regarding the Standard of Review of Two-Year College Transfer Waivers](#).