



**NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-6 -- Eligibility -- Athletics Eligibility -- Seasons of Competition:
10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule -- Five Seasons of Competition in 10-Semesters/15-Quarters**

The early release of this Question and Answer guide is to assist the membership in understanding the proposal. Please note, this Question and Answer guide may be updated between now and the release of the final version of the 2026 NCAA Convention Division II Legislative Proposal Question and Answer Guide by December 10th.

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, a student-athlete may participate in four seasons of intercollegiate competition during their first 10-semester or 15-quarters of full-time enrollment. Additionally, a student-athlete has access to certain exceptions and waivers regarding use of a season of competition and extension of eligibility (i.e., additional semesters/quarters).

Question No. 2: If adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: If adopted, a student-athlete may participate in up to five seasons of intercollegiate competition in a sport during their first 10-semester or 15-quarters of full-time enrollment. Additionally, the current exceptions and waivers for use of a season of competition will be eliminated. Therefore, any competition will count as use of a season. (See Question No. 3 regarding what constitutes use of a season of competition). Finally, current extension of eligibility (i.e., additional semesters/quarters) exceptions will remain available to student-athletes along with a few new exceptions, and waivers will remain available in limited and well-defined circumstances. (See chart below).

Question No. 3: What constitutes use of a season of competition?

Answer: Per NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.4.3.4.1 (minimum amount of competition), any competition (including a scrimmage with outside competition), regardless of time, during a season in an intercollegiate sport shall be counted as a season of competition in that sport. (See Question No. 4 regarding non-Division II transfers).

Question No. 4: If adopted, how will the Division II use of a season of competition legislation apply to non-Division II transfers?

Answer: Bylaw 14.4.3.4.1.1 (transfer from a non-Division II institution) will continue to apply. The Division II season of competition legislation does not apply to a transfer student-athlete's participation at a non-Division II institution (e.g., NCAA Division I or III, NAIA, two-year college). A transfer student-athlete is subject to the legislation applicable to the division or association of which the previous institution was a member. However, a Division III student-athlete that is charged with a season of competition for practice only under Division III legislation will not be charged with a season of competition upon transfer to a Division II institution.

Question No. 5: If adopted, when will this proposal become effective?

Answer: August 1, 2026, for student-athletes that have not exhausted their eligibility before or at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year.

Question No. 6: How will this effective date apply to student-athletes?

Answer: If a student-athlete exhausted their seasons of competition or their 10-semester/15-quarters of eligibility after the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year, then they will not have access to the legislation.

A student-athlete that has both a season(s) of competition **and** semester(s)/quarter(s) remaining at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year will have access to the legislation. See the scenarios section below regarding the application of the effective date.

Question No. 7: If a student-athlete otherwise would have exhausted their seasons of competition after the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year, but submitted a season of competition waiver by August 1, 2026, will they have access to a fifth season of competition?

Answer: It depends. If the season of competition waiver is submitted by August 1, 2026, and ultimately approved, the student-athlete will have access to a fifth season of competition provided they have semesters/quarters remaining. If the student-athlete does not have semesters/quarters remaining, they will not have access to a fifth season of competition.

Question No. 8: If a student-athlete otherwise would have exhausted their semesters/quarters after the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year, but submits an extension of eligibility waiver by August 1, 2026, will they have access to a fifth season of competition.

Answer: It depends. If the extension of eligibility waiver is submitted by August 1, 2026, and ultimately approved, the student-athlete will have access to a fifth season of competition provided they have season(s) of competition remaining. If the student-athlete does not have a season of competition remaining, they will not have access to a fifth season of competition.

Question No. 9: If a student-athlete uses their fourth season of competition during the 2025-26 academic year, will they have access to a fifth season of competition.

Answer: Yes. However, if the student-athlete exhausted their semesters/quarters during the 2025-26 academic year, they would need an extension of eligibility waiver to use their fifth season of competition. (See Question No. 11)

Question No. 10: How does the effective date apply to a multisport student-athlete?

Answer: The application of the effective date is sport-specific.

For example, a multisport student-athlete participates in both volleyball and beach volleyball. At the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year, the student-athlete has semesters/quarters remaining and one season of competition remaining in volleyball. However, the student-athlete has exhausted their four seasons of competition in beach volleyball. The student-athlete may have access to a fifth season of competition for volleyball but not for beach volleyball.

Question No. 11: If a student-athlete exhausts their 10-semesters/15-quarters of eligibility during the 2025-26 academic year, will they have access to an extension of eligibility exception and/or waiver?

Answer: Yes. A student-athlete will have access to the currently legislated extension of eligibility exceptions and waivers until August 1, 2026. If adopted, after August 1, 2026, a student-athlete will have access to the extension of eligibility exceptions and waivers included in this proposal. (See chart below).

Question No. 12: If adopted, after August 1, 2026, will a student-athlete have to demonstrate that they were denied two participation opportunities to qualify for an extension of eligibility waiver?

Answer: No.

Question No. 13: If adopted, will a non-Division II transfer student-athlete have access to a fifth season of competition?

Answer: It depends. A non-Division II transfer student-athlete may have access to a fifth season of competition if they have not exhausted their seasons of competition or their 10-semesters/15-quarters of eligibility after the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year.

For example, if a Division I student-athlete exhausted their seasons of competition during the 2024-25 academic year, then they would not have access to a fifth season of competition in Division II. Additionally, if a Division I student-athlete exhausted their semesters/quarters during the 2024-25 academic year, then they would not have access to a fifth season of competition in Division II. Please note, the student-athlete must also meet four-year college transfer requirements to be immediately eligible upon transfer to the Division II institution [see Bylaw 14.3.5 (four-year college transfers)].

Question No. 14: If adopted, will seasons of competition exceptions and waivers be available for student-athletes until August 1, 2026?

Answer: Yes. A student-athlete will continue to have access to currently legislated seasons of competition exceptions and waivers until August 1, 2026.

Question No. 15: If adopted, will a student-athlete still have access to file a medical hardship waiver until August 1, 2026?

Answer: Yes. A student-athlete will have access to a medical hardship waiver provided the waiver is submitted to the conference office by August 1, 2026.

Question No. 16: If adopted, will seasons of competition exceptions and waivers be available for student-athletes after August 1, 2026?

Answer: No. A student-athlete will not have access to a seasons of competition exception or waiver after August 1, 2026.

Question No. 17: If adopted, will seasons of competition and extension of eligibility waivers approved before August 1, 2026, continue to apply.

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 18: Under the Division II Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee guidelines, when may an institution submit an extension of eligibility waiver?

Answer: An institution may submit an extension of eligibility waiver once a student-athlete has entered their eighth semester/twelfth quarter.

Question No. 19: When may an institution submit a season of competition waiver?

Answer: An institution may submit a season of competition waiver once the season has concluded, up until August 1, 2026.

Question No. 20: If a student-athlete participates in intercollegiate competition and is injured after August 1, 2026, do they have access to a medical hardship waiver?

Answer: No. This proposal eliminates all seasons of competition waivers. (See Scenario No. 8).

Question No. 21: If adopted, will a student-athlete in their initial year of collegiate enrollment at a Division II institution be able to participate in up to 30% of the maximum permissible number of contests or dates of competition set forth in Bylaw 17 without using a season of competition?

Answer: It depends. The exception is available for a student-athlete participating during the 2025-26 academic year. Effective August 1, 2026, all seasons of competition exceptions will be eliminated. Therefore, if a student-athlete participates in any contests or dates of competition, during the 2025-26 academic year, they will not use a season of competition during the 2025-26 academic year. However, if a

student-athlete participates in any contests or dates of competition on or after August 1, 2026, they will use a season of competition. (See Scenario Nos. 9 and 10).

Question No. 22: If a student-athlete only participates in the nonchampionship segment in their sport on or after August 1, 2026, will they use a season of competition.

Answer: Yes. This proposal eliminates all seasons of competition exceptions. (See Scenario No. 11).

Question No. 23: If a student-athlete only participates in a preseason exhibition contest or scrimmage on or after August 1, 2026, will they use a season of competition.

Answer: Yes. This proposal eliminates all seasons of competition exceptions (See Scenario No. 12).

Question No. 24: If adopted, will any financial aid equivalency relief be provided for the 2026-27 academic year?

Answer: The Eligibility Review Working Group discussed this and is recommending that the NCAA Division II Management Council issue a blanket waiver (contingent on adoption of the proposal) to permit a student-athlete, regardless of sport, who would have used their final season of competition during or at the conclusion of the 2025-26 academic year, to receive athletics aid for the 2026-27 academic year without counting toward team equivalency limits. This relief would only apply if the student-athlete remains at their original institution. If the student-athlete transfers for the 2026-27 academic year, the athletics aid received at the new institution will count toward team equivalency limits.

Question No. 25: If adopted, if a student-athlete uses their fourth season of competition during the 2025-26 academic year but has access to a fifth season of competition and semesters/quarters remaining, does the institution have to provide the student-athlete with written notification if their athletics aid will not be renewed for the following academic year?

Answer: Yes. Financial aid legislation regarding nonrenewals and hearing opportunities will continue to apply. [See Bylaw 15.5.5.1 (institutional obligation) and Bylaw 15.5.2.4 (hearing opportunity)].

Question No. 26: If adopted, will a student-athlete still have access to the missed term exception? [See Bylaw 14.2.9.3.7.1 (missed term exception)].

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 27: What happens if this proposal is not adopted?

Answer: If this proposal is not adopted, the current legislation will remain. (See Question No. 1).

The following chart outlines the current rule, and the proposed legislative changes included in this proposal:

	Current Rule	Proposed Rule
Seasons of Competition.	A student-athlete shall not engage in more than four seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport.	A student-athlete shall not engage in more than five seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport.
Use of a Season of Competition	Any competition (including a scrimmage with outside competition), regardless of time, during a season in an intercollegiate sport shall be counted as a season of competition in that sport. The Division II seasons of competition legislation does not apply to a transfer student-athlete's previous participation at a non-Division II institution (e.g., NCAA Division I or III, NAIA, two-year college). A transfer student-athlete is subject to the legislation applicable to the division or association of which the previous institution was a member. However, a Division III student-athlete who is charged with a season of competition for practice only under Division III legislation will not be charged with a season of competition upon transfer to a Division II institution.	No change.
Seasons of Competition Exceptions	The following seasons of competition exceptions are currently available to student-athletes: • Two-Year College Scrimmages; • Competition in the Nonchampionship Segment and Spring Football; • Recognized Foreign Exchange/Study Abroad Program; • Alumni Game, Fundraising Activity or Celebrity Sports Activity;	All seasons of competition exceptions will be eliminated.

	• Preseason Exhibition Contests or Dates of Competition/Preseason Scrimmages; and • Participation During Initial Year of Collegiate Enrollment.	
Seasons of Competition Waivers	Seasons of competition waivers are currently available to student-athletes (e.g., medical hardship waiver).	All seasons of competition waivers will be eliminated.
Ten-Semester/15-Quarter Rule	A student-athlete shall complete their seasons of participation during the first 10-semester or 15- quarters in which the student is enrolled in a collegiate institution in at least a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the regulations of that institution.	No change.
Extension of Eligibility Exceptions	Extension of eligibility exceptions are currently available to student-athletes.	Current extension of eligibility exceptions will remain available to student-athletes and additional exceptions for service, study abroad and internship or cooperative educational work experiences will be available.
Extension of Eligibility Waivers	Extension of eligibility waivers are currently available to student-athletes.	Extension of eligibility waivers will remain available to student-athletes in limited and well-defined circumstances.

The following scenarios are designed to assist the Division II membership with the application of the effective date for Proposal No. 2026-6. Unless otherwise noted, the student-athlete is enrolled at a Division II institution.

Scenario No. 1: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2023-24	First (Fall 2023) and second (Spring 2024) semesters used.	One.
2024-25	Third (Fall 2024) and fourth (Spring 2025) semesters used.	Two.
2025-26	Fifth (Fall 2025) and sixth (Spring 2026) semesters used.	Three.

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete had seasons **and** semesters remaining at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete would have access to a fifth season of competition.

Scenario No. 2: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2018-19	First (Fall 2018) and second (Spring 2019) semesters used.	One.
2019-20	Not enrolled.	None.
2020-21	Not enrolled.	None.
2021-22	Third (Fall 2021) and fourth (Spring 2022) semesters used.	Two.
2022-23	Fifth (Fall 2022) and sixth (Spring 2023) semesters used.	None.
2023-24	Not enrolled.	None.
2024-25	Seventh (Fall 2024) and eighth (Spring 2025) semesters used.	Three.

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete had seasons **and** semesters remaining at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete would have access to a fifth season of competition. However, the student-athlete will need an extension of eligibility waiver if they exhaust their 10-semester/15-quarters before exhausting their seasons of competition.

Scenario No. 3: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2021-22	First (Fall 2021) and second (Spring 2022) semesters used.	One.
2022-23	Third (Fall 2022) and fourth (Spring 2023) semesters used.	Two.
2023-24	Fifth (Fall 2023) and sixth (Spring 2024) semesters used.	Three.
2024-25	Seventh (Fall 2024) and eighth (Spring 2025) semesters used.	Four.

Analysis: No. The student-athlete exhausted their four seasons of competition at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete does not have access to a fifth season of competition. (See Question No. 6).

Scenario No. 4: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2022-23	First (Fall 2022) and second (Spring 2023) semesters used.	One.
2023-24	Third (Fall 2023) and fourth (Spring 2024) semesters used.	Two.
2024-25	Fifth (Fall 2024) and sixth (Spring 2025) semesters used.	Three.
2025-26	Seventh (Fall 2025) and eighth (Spring 2026) semesters used.	Four.

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete had seasons **and** semesters remaining at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete would have access to a fifth season of competition.

Scenario No. 5: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2020-21	First (Fall 2020) and second (Spring 2021) semesters used.	None.
2021-22	Third (Fall 2021) and fourth (Spring 2022) semesters used.	None.
2022-23	Fifth (Fall 2022) and sixth (Spring 2023) semesters used.	One.
2023-24	Seventh (Fall 2023) and eighth (Spring 2024) semesters used.	Two.
2024-25	Ninth (Fall 2024) and tenth (Spring 2025) semesters used.	Three.

Analysis: No. The student-athlete exhausted their tenth semester at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete does not have access to a fifth season of competition. (See Question No. 6).

Scenario No. 6: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Quarters Used	Seasons Used
2021-22	First (Fall 2021), second (Winter 2022) and third (Spring 2022) quarters used.	None, due to approved medical hardship waiver.
2022-23	Fourth (Fall 2022), fifth (Winter 2023) and sixth (Spring 2023) quarters used.	One.
2023-24	Seventh (Fall 2023), eighth (Winter 2024) and ninth (Spring 2024) quarters used.	Two.
2024-25	Tenth (Fall 2024), eleventh (Winter 2025) and twelfth (Winter 2025) quarters used.	Three.

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete had seasons **and** quarters remaining at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete would have access to a fifth season of competition. However, the student-athlete will need an extension of eligibility waiver if they exhaust their 10-semesters/15-quarters before exhausting their seasons of competition.

Scenario No. 7: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2021-22	First (Fall 2021) and second (Spring 2022) semesters used.	One.
2022-23	Third (Fall 2022) and fourth (Spring 2023) semesters used.	Two. Qualified for medical hardship waiver, but the waiver has not yet been submitted.
2023-24	Fifth (Fall 2023) and sixth (Spring 2024) semesters used.	Three.
2024-25	Seventh (Fall 2024) and eighth (Spring 2025) semesters used.	Four.

Analysis: It depends. The student-athlete qualified for a medical hardship waiver during the 2022-23 academic year. If the student-athlete submits an approved medical hardship waiver by August 1, 2026, then the student-athlete will have one season of competition and two semesters remaining. Therefore, the student-athlete would have access to a fifth season of competition.

However, if the medical hardship waiver is not submitted by August 1, 2026, then the student-athlete will have no seasons of competition remaining. Therefore, the student-athlete would not have access to a fifth season of competition.

The following scenarios are designed to assist the Division II membership with the application of Proposal No. 2026-6. In each scenario, the student-athlete has access to the proposed legislation. Unless otherwise noted, the student-athlete is enrolled full-time at a Division II institution.

Scenario No. 8: During the 2026-27 academic year, a soccer student-athlete participated in one contest during the championship segment and was injured. Did the student-athlete use a season of competition, and, if so, may the institution submit a medical hardship waiver?

Analysis: Yes, the student-athlete used a season of competition during the 2026-27 academic year because they participated in one contest. No, the student-athlete will not have access to a medical hardship waiver because this proposal eliminates all season of competition waivers.

Scenario No. 9: A field hockey student-athlete began their initial year of collegiate enrollment at a Division II institution during the 2026-27 academic year. The student-athlete participated in three contests during the championship segment. Did the student-athlete use a season of competition during the 2026-27 academic year?

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete used a season of competition during the 2026-27 academic year because they participated in three contests. This proposal eliminates all seasons of competition exceptions. (See Question No. 21).

Scenario No. 10: A baseball student-athlete began their initial year of collegiate enrollment at a Division II institution during the 2025-26 academic year. The student-athlete participated in three contests during the championship segment. Did the student-athlete use a season of competition during the 2025-26 academic year?

Analysis: The student-athlete **did not** use a season of competition during the 2025-26 academic year. The student-athlete participated in less than 30 percent of baseball's Bylaw 17 maximum contests limit and therefore had access to the participation during initial year of collegiate enrollment seasons of competition exception. The student-athlete has five seasons of competition remaining. However, the student-

athlete will be charged with the use of a semester for each full-time term of enrollment during the 2025-26 academic year. (See Question No. 21).

Scenario No. 11: During the 2026-27 academic year, a softball student-athlete participated in three contests during the nonchampionship segment and zero contests during the championship segment. Did the student-athlete use a season of competition?

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete used a season of competition during the 2026-27 academic year because they participated in three contests during the nonchampionship segment. This proposal eliminates all seasons of competition exceptions.

Scenario No. 12: During the 2026-27 academic year, a basketball student-athlete participated in one preseason exhibition contest and no other contests. Did the student-athlete use a season of competition?

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete used a season of competition during the 2026-27 academic year because they participated in one preseason exhibition contest. This proposal eliminates all seasons of competition exceptions.

Scenario No. 13: A student-athlete initially enrolled full-time at a Division I institution during the 2025-26 academic year. The student-athlete competed in one football game and did not use a season of competition in Division I due to the Division I seasons of competition exceptions. If the student-athlete transfers to Division II, will they be charged with use of a season of competition for their participation during the 2025-26 academic year upon transfer?

Analysis: No. A transfer student-athlete is subject to the legislation applicable to the division or association of which the previous institution was a member. (See Question No. 4). Therefore, because the student-athlete was not charged with a season of competition based on Division I legislation, they will not be charged with use of a season of competition upon transfer to a Division II institution.

However, the student-athlete will be charged with the use of a semester for each full-time term of enrollment at the Division I institution.

Please note, the student-athlete must also meet four-year college transfer requirements to be immediately eligible upon transfer to the Division II institution [see Bylaw 14.3.5 (four-year college transfers)].

Scenario No. 14: During the 2025-26 academic year, a student-athlete enrolls full-time at a Division II institution. The student-athlete was certified as a partial qualifier by the NCAA Eligibility Center and serves their academic year in residence during the 2025-26 academic year, using two full-time semesters. If the student-athlete has the following enrollment history after the 2025-26 academic year, will they need an extension of eligibility waiver to use their fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2025-26	First (Fall 2025) and second (Spring 2026)	None. Student-athlete served an academic year in residence due to partial qualifier academic certification.
2026-27	Third (Fall 2026) and fourth (Spring 2027) semesters used.	One.
2027-28	Fifth (Fall 2027) and sixth (Spring 2028) semesters used.	Two.
2028-29	Seventh (Fall 2028) and eighth (Spring 2029) semesters used.	Three.
2029-30	Ninth (Fall 2029) and tenth (Spring 2030) semesters used.	Four.

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete exhausted their ninth and tenth semesters during the 2029-30 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete may not participate in a fifth season of competition unless they receive an extension of eligibility waiver.

Scenario No. 15: During the 2026-27 academic year, a golf student-athlete initially enrolls midyear during the 2027 spring term. During the 2027 spring term, the student-athlete participates in two dates of competition. During the following fall term, the student-athlete participates in three dates of competition. How many seasons of competition has the student-athlete used in golf?

Answer: The student-athlete has used two seasons of competition in golf. The student-athlete participated in two dates of competition during the 2027 spring term and therefore used their first season of competition. The student-athlete then participated in three dates of competition during the 2027 fall term and therefore used their second season of competition.

Scenario No. 16: A tennis student-athlete initially enrolled full-time during the 2025-26 academic year. When the student-athlete received their amateurism certification from the NCAA Eligibility Center, they were charged with the use of a season of competition in tennis under the organized competition legislation. [See Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2 (participation in organized competition before initial collegiate enrollment)]. The student-athlete participated in nine dates of competition in tennis during the 2025-26 academic year. How many seasons of competition has the student-athlete used in tennis?

Answer: The student-athlete has used two seasons of competition in tennis. The student-athlete was charged with the use of their first season of competition based on their amateurism certification. The student-athlete used their second season of competition in tennis during the 2025-26 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete has three seasons of competition remaining in tennis.