



Division III Monthly Compliance Webinar

All Other Waivers

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Agenda

- Eligibility Waivers.
 - Hardship Waivers.
 - Season of Participation Waivers.
 - Extensions of Eligibility Waivers.
- Age-based eligibility models.
- Questions?

The Basics of Eligibility



Student-athletes have 10 full-time semesters/15-quarters of eligibility to participate in four seasons of participation.



Different waiver types are required to:

Add additional full-time semesters/quarters
Restore a season of participation

Hardship Waivers... Why?

- A student-athlete **needs a season** restored due to a personal injury or illness.
 - **Physical injury or mental health.**
- Legislative requirements (Figure 14-1).
 - 1/3 of the season.
 - First half requirement.
 - Documentation confirming inability to participate due to incapacitation or mental health condition.

Bylaw 14.2.5

Hardship Waivers... How?

FIGURE 14-1
Hardship Waiver Calculations — Standard Denominators Based on Bylaw 17

Sport	Standard Denominator*	First Half of Playing Season	One-third of Contests or Dates of Competition
Acrobatics and Tumbling	13	Before the start of the eighth date of competition.	5
Baseball	41	Before the start of the 22nd contest.	14
Men's Basketball	26	Before the start of the 14th contest.	9
Women's Basketball	26	Before the start of the 14th contest.	9

What documentation is required?

- Contemporaneous = in the moment.
- Noncontemporaneous = after the fact.

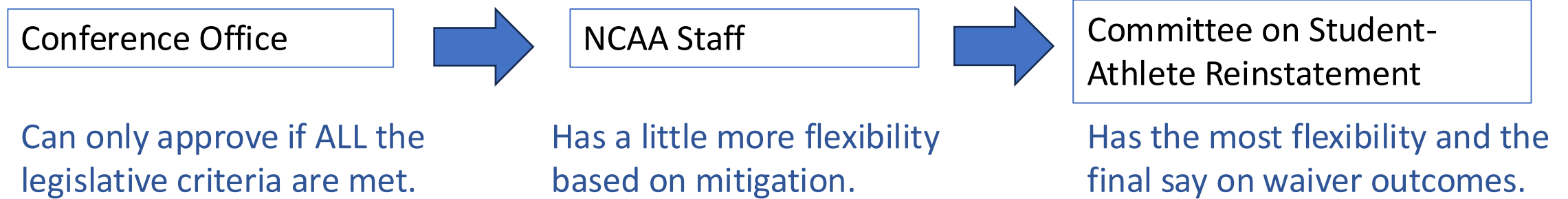
Provider:

- Medical Doctor – Physical Injury.
- Licensed Practitioner – Mental Health.

Bylaws 14.2.5.2.2 and 14.2.5.2.2.1

Hardship Waiver

- Three “bites at the apple.”





Question:



Can a student-athlete practice and still be eligible for a hardship waiver?

Yes! Bylaw 14.2.5.3.

Hardship Waiver ...When?

- **AFTER** the season concludes.

Season of Participation Waiver... Why?

A student-athlete **needs a season** restored for any reason other than injury or illness to the student-athlete.

- Injury to a family member.
- A natural disaster (i.e., pandemic, hurricane).
- Specific financial event.
- Anything else? Give us the mitigation!

Season of Participation Waiver...How?

- Three events or 1/3 of a season.
- All participation needs to occur during the first half of the season.
- Documentation will be required.

Figure 14-1

Bylaw 14.2.7

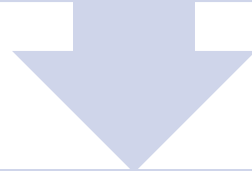
Season of Participation Waiver... When?

AFTER the season concludes.

- Request denied?
 - Appeal via RSRO and the Committee on SAR will review. They have the final decision.

Extension of Eligibility... Why?

A student-athlete **needs additional terms** of eligibility to complete remaining seasons of participation.



Bylaw 14.2.2.4.

“A waiver of the 10-semester/15-quarter period of eligibility is designed to provide a student-athlete with the opportunity to engage in four seasons of intercollegiate participation within a 10-semester/15-quarter period.”

Extension of Eligibility... When?

Can be filed only after eight semesters or 12 quarters have been completed. They are running out of terms to participation.

- The student-athlete had at least **two denied participation opportunities**.

Bylaw 14.2.2.4.1

Extension of Eligibility... What?

Denied participation opportunities only count when they were the result of **circumstances beyond control**.

Approved hardship waivers/season of participation waivers.

Documentation of incapacitating physical or mental circumstances.

Natural disasters.

Other extenuating circumstances.

Extension of Eligibility... Who?



NCAA staff will review using guidelines and precedent reviewed by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement.



Two prong review:

Did the student have two denied seasons of participation?
Did the student have four seasons of participation opportunities within the 10 full-time semesters?



Request denied? Appeal via RSRO and the Committee on SAR will review. They have the final decision.

When will I get a decision?

There are a number of factors that can impact timing:

- Complexity of the request for relief.
- Strength/condition of documentation.
- Consultation with subject matter expert, team and/or (sub)committee.
- Staff case volume.
- General case processing items like precedent search, guideline/intent of legislation research, write-ups, etc.

Age-Based Eligibility.

DI and DII *are in*!!

It's **not** 5-for-5.

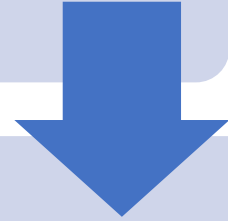
There are **no waiver** opportunities.

August 6, 2026, educational column in LSDBi for application questions.

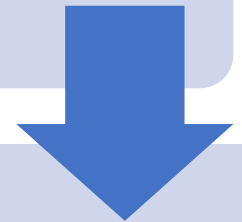
Age-Based Eligibility.

DIII is *not in*.

Nothing has changed in DIII. Student-athletes still have **10 full-time semesters** or **15 full-time quarters** to complete **four** seasons.



There **is** a legislative proposal for the 2027 Convention.



Have the conversation on campus!

Questions?