Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements
Advanced Application

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Agenda

• Full-Time Enrollment: End of Academic Career Issues
• Transfers
• Outside Competition

End-of-Academic Career Issues
Bylaw 14.1.8.1.6.1:
For a student-athlete (SA) to be permitted to participate while enrolled in less than 12 credits during his/her final semester or quarter, your institution must certify that the student is carrying for credit, the courses necessary to complete his or her degree.

Final Semester/Quarter

• To be less than full time in the final term, there can be no final requirements left after that term ends.
• No credit requirements: Impact
  ▪ Examples: senior thesis, pre-professional certification exams
• Graduation

Final Semester/Quarter

• Academic Issues Subcommittee.
  ▪ Waivers of full-time enrollment
  ▪ Case examples
**60-Day Exception**

**Bylaw 14.1.8.1.6.3.2: Postseason Event After Completion of Degree Requirements -- Practice or Competition.**

A student-athlete (SA) who is eligible during the term he/she completes his/her degree (or is eligible as a graduate student) can compete in any postseason event that starts within 60 days after the end of that term (or graduate eligibility).

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**60-Day Exception**

- Getting an additional 60 days after finishing the degree isn’t automatic.
  - A postseason event must fall within 60 days of graduation, such as an NCAA championship
  - If it does, then a student-athlete may participate in the post season event and any practice or regular season competition that leads up to the postseason event.

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**Early Graduation Exception**

- SAs who graduate early (3.5 years or less) are allowed to participate in postseason events that occur more than 60 days after graduation
  - The time must be consecutive.
Full-Time Enrollment
Open Discussion

Transfers

Two-Year College Transfers

General Analysis - Immediately eligible if:
1. Never used a season at a Division III school or otherwise participated at a non-Division III school; or
2. If never attended a four-year school then SA was athletically and academically eligible at the two-year school; or
3. If attended a four-year school then academically and athletically eligible at the four-year or two semesters and 24 transferable-degree credit at the two-year school(s).

Bylaw 14.5.4.1
Two-Year Example

Boomer (III)
- Suspended for academics.
- Condition of reinstatement = 12 hrs. and a B average.
- Satisfied condition of reinstatement returned to school.

Penny (I)
- Left school academically ineligible.
- Completed necessary credits at a two-year school and transferred the credits back to the original school.
- Transferred to DIII.

4-4 Transfers

4-4 Transfer Exception
- Bylaw 14.5.5.1.1: A 4-4 transfer SA is immediately eligible if he/she:
  (a) has never practiced or competed in intercollegiate athletics;
  (b) would have been academically and athletically eligible, at the time of transfer to the certifying institution, had he/she remained at the previous institution; or
  (c) transfers from a four-year collegiate institution that did not sponsor his/her sport and, while at that institution, earned at least 24 semester or 36 quarter credits and was at that school for at least two full-time semesters or three full-time quarters.
4-4 Transfer Exception

Bylaw 14.5.5.1.1-(b):
A 4-4 transfer SA is immediately eligible if he/she would have been academically and athletically eligible, at the time of transfer to the certifying institution, had he/she remained at the previous institution.

- The determination is based on when the SA comes to you—not on when the SA leaves them.
- Ask: If he/she had stayed at that school for this term instead of transferring to you, would he/she be eligible?

4-4 Transfer Exception: Case Study No. 1

- SA is a 4-4 transfer from a Division I school.
- SA enrolled there full time in the fall but withdrew from classes in the middle of the term.
- SA received W grades, which did not affect his GPA, and the Division I school says that he is still in good academic standing there.
- However, when you ask whether SA is eligible, the answer is no.
- *Wait...what?*

4-4 Transfer Exception: Case Study No. 1

- The Division I school says SA is not eligible because of the withdrawal.
- Even though he was eligible at the time when he left in the fall, if he returned in the spring he would not have been eligible.
- He wouldn't have earned enough credits in that term to make progress toward his degree.
4-4 Transfer Exception: Case Study No. 1

- Confused? Remember – eligibility is based on when SA comes to you – not when SA leaves them.
  - Ask: If SA had remained at the previous institution, would he/she be eligible?
- Watch out for Division I and Division II specific eligibility requirements. Make sure you get a good understanding of why SA is ineligible.

4-4 Transfer Exception: Case Study No. 2

- SA enrolls at School A for the spring term and withdraws after only four days of classes.
- SA then enrolls at School B a few days later, before the drop/add period ends, and starts classes.
- SA did not participate with School A’s team.
  - Is SA a transfer student?
  - Is SA eligible?

4-4 Transfer Exception: Case Study No. 2

- **SA is a transfer.** He was enrolled full time at School A and went to classes (Bylaw 14.5.2 – conditions affecting transfer status).
- Apply the 4-4 transfer rule in 14.5.5.1-(b). If SA had remained at the previous institution, would he/she be eligible?
- **SA is eligible.** At the time of his transfer to School B, SA would be eligible had he remained at School A.
Competition During the Year of Transfer

Situation:
May a midyear transfer SA compete for the second school if she already competed in that sport for the first school?
Yes. Divisions I and II have a rule prohibiting SAs from competing for more than one institution during the traditional segment in the same season but Division III does not have this prohibition.

4-4 Transfer Exception:
Case Study No. 3

• 2011-12: SA enrolled at School A and played football.
• Fall 2012: SA played football but quit school in the middle of the term.
• Spring 2013 and Fall 2013: Transferred to School B. SA did not participate with School B’s team.
• Spring 2014: SA left School B ineligible at the end of the term.
• Fall 2014: SA wants to transfer to your school.

SA is ineligible under the 4-4 transfer exception. Can he use the two-year nonparticipation exception to be eligible to compete?

4-4 Transfer Exception:
Case Study No. 3

• Yes. SA is able to use the two-year nonparticipation exception once two years have passed, even if he is ineligible. The two-year nonparticipation exception supersedes the 4-4 transfer exception legislation.

• The exception is also able to be used even if the SA has already transferred to the new institution, as long as two years have passed before SA begins participating.
**4-4 Transfer Exception: Case Study No. 3**

- The timing of the exception is very specific: it is two years, not four semesters or six quarters. SA may practice and compete after 730 days have passed.

- When do you start counting? Figuring out the last day a SA practiced can be difficult. If you can’t find concrete documentation, we recommend:
  - If the SA officially withdrew from school two years ago, you can start counting from that day.
  - If the SA quit school, but did not officially withdraw, start counting after the last day of that institution’s term.

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**Two-Year Nonparticipation Exception**

Bylaw 14.5.5.1.3: Two-Year Nonparticipation Exception. The SA is eligible if he/she has not practiced or competed in their sport for the last two years right before the date the SA begins participating at the institution.

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**Two-Year Nonparticipation Exception**

- Any time before the SA first enrolls in college does not count toward the two years.
- The two years have to be consecutive.
- If the SA practices/competes on a college team, or practices/competes on an amateur team while he/she is enrolled in college, both of those situations count as participating in athletics.
Graduate/Postbaccalaureate Participation

Graduate/Postbaccalaureate Transfers

Bylaw 14.1.9: Graduate/Postbaccalaureate Student Participation. After completing his/her undergraduate degree, a SA may continue to participate in athletics as a graduate student or while completing coursework that would apply toward a second baccalaureate degree, ONLY if he/she is continuing at the same institution where he/she earned the undergraduate degree.

SA may not transfer to another institution and participate in athletics as a graduate or postbaccalaureate student.

Graduate/Postbaccalaureate Transfers

• The Subcommittee for Legislative Relief reviews waivers of this legislation; however, the requirements are very stringent.
  • The SA must have graduated early (in less than four years).
  • The SA must have a 3.000 GPA or higher.
Graduate/Postbaccalaureate Transfers

- Facts that are not considered an extraordinary circumstance to warrant a waiver:
  - The SA has never participated in athletics before.
  - The SA came from a different division and was redshirted in the past.
  - The SA received a hardship waiver.

Transfers
Open Discussion

Outside Competition
Outside Competition

Impermissible outside competition = During any year in which a student-athlete is a member of an intercollegiate team, and competes as a member of any outside team in any non-collegiate, amateur competition during the institution's intercollegiate season in the sport.

Bylaw 14.7.1

Outside Competition Exception: Competing Unattached

Outside competition is permissible provided the student-athlete represents only himself or herself in the competition and does not engage in such competition as a member of or receive expenses from an outside team.

Bylaw 14.7.2.5
Education Column 11/17/05

Outside Competition Case Examples

• National teams.
• Competition conflicting with nontraditional segment.
• Events on campus.
• Competition between segments.
Outside Competition
Open Discussion

Questions?