Fundamental Introduction
NCAA Division III Bylaw 14

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Overview

• General Eligibility.
  o Full-time and part-time enrollment.
  o Good academic standing and satisfactory progress.

• Seasons of Participation.
  o 10 semester/15 quarter.
  o Use of a semester or quarter and season of participation.
  o Male practice player.

Overview

• Transfer Regulations.
  o General rule.
  o Academic year in residence.
  o Transfer triggers.
  o Two-year college transfers.
  o Four-year college transfers.
Session Objectives

• Understand the application of good academic standing and satisfactory progress.
• Demonstrate an understanding of the general eligibility legislation.
• Recognize the use of a semester/quarter and the use of a season of participation.
• Identify the general transfer rule, conditions affecting transfer and the basic exceptions to the transfer legislation.

General Eligibility

• Demonstrate an understanding of the general eligibility legislation.
• Understand the application of good academic standing and satisfactory progress.

Full-Time and Part-Time Enrollment
Case Study No. 1

• Katie is enrolled full time at her institution. The institution considers nine credits full-time enrollment. What is her eligibility status?
  o Katie cannot practice or compete.
  o Katie can practice, but cannot compete.
  o Katie can practice and compete.

Case Study No. 1

• Katie is only eligible to practice. She is enrolled full time, but a student-athlete (SA) must also be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours to compete.

Bylaw 14.1.8.1 – Requirement for Practice or Competition

• To be eligible to practice, the SA must be enrolled full time at his/her institution.

• To be eligible to compete, the SA also must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours, regardless of what the institution considers full time.
Case Study No. 2

- Caroline is enrolled in 12 credit hours and drops a class. The class shows up on her transcript as three credit hours of a withdrawal. Is she able to compete?
  - Yes. She was enrolled in 12 credit hours at one point during the term.
  - No. She is only in nine credit hours and is short three credit hours to meet the rule.
  - Yes. She is still enrolled in 12 credit hours on her transcript.

Case Study No. 2

- Caroline is only enrolled in nine credit hours and is short three credit hours to meet the rule. SA is ineligible to compete until she gets back into 12 credit hours.

- She only has to go through reinstatement if she competed while she was in less than 12 credit hours. Your institution must also report the secondary violation.

Dropping or Adding a Course: Timing

- **Drops:** effective based on your institution's official drop-add policies for all students.
- **Adds:** effective as soon as it is approved by the appropriate department head and gets submitted to the registrar.

- Rule is designed to give SAs the benefit of the timing when it comes to red tape.
- Bylaw 14.1.8.1.1
- **Add before you drop.**
Final Semester/Quarter

• In his/her last semester/quarter, SA can compete while enrolled in less than 12 credit hours if he/she is enrolled in all of the remaining credits for the degree during that term.

Bylaw 14.1.8.1.6.3

Waivers

• Bylaw 14.1.8.1.7
• Process is available.
• NCAA Division III Management Council Subcommittee on Academic Issues is the group that reviews waiver requests.

Graduate/Postbaccalaureate Participation

• Once the SA graduates, if he/she has eligibility remaining, he/she can participate while he/she is a graduate student or while going for another degree if it’s where the SA earned the undergraduate degree.

Bylaw 14.1.9.
Case Study No. 3

• Michael finishes his degree and wants to go to another school because his current school doesn’t have his graduate program. May he participate at his new school?

Case Study No. 3

• No. Michael is not eligible to participate at the new institution because he did not graduate from there.

• Rule still applies even if there is no opportunity for the SA to keep playing at his old school.

• Division III: four-year, undergraduate experience.

Good Academic Standing
Satisfactory Progress
Good Academic Standing

- SAs must be in good academic standing to be eligible to compete.
- Good academic standing is determined by your institution's academic authorities and must be the same rules that apply to all students at the school.
- You must still follow any conference academic rules, even if those rules are stricter than your own.

Bylaw 14.01.2.1

Case Study No. 4

- Chris is a freshman enrolled in the fall and earns a 1.900 GPA at the end of the term. Your school requires students to earn a 2.000 or better GPA after their first year of school.
- Your conference requires SAs to have a cumulative GPA of 2.000 or better each term.
  - Is Chris eligible at your school?
  - Can he compete?

Case Study No. 4

- Yes. Your institution's rule does not apply until the end of the year, he is still considered eligible at the mid-year point.
- No. Even if the SA is meeting your school's academic requirements, he/she must also meet your conference's requirements. Chris is not meeting the minimum GPA requirement for the conference and won't be able to compete.
Seasons of Participation

- Recognize the use of a semester/quarter and a season of participation.

Case Study No. 5

- Jeff, a soccer SA at State University participates in preseason practice and competed in the first regular season contest.
- Jeff attends the first day of classes but decides to drop to a less than full-time program of studies.

Case Study No. 5

- Did Jeff use a semester or quarter and a season of participation?
  - Yes.
  - No.
  - Not sure.
Case Study No. 5

• Yes to both, because Jeff represented the institution in intercollegiate athletics even though he was enrolled for a less than full-time program of studies. Additionally, even if Jeff remained as a full-time student he would have used a semester or quarter.

Bylaws 14.2.2.1, 14.2.3.1, and 14.2.4.1

Use of a semester or quarter

• A semester or quarter is used when the SA attends class while officially registered in collegiate institution:
  - In a regular term;
  - During an academic year;
  - Full time as determined by the institution.
    - Includes domestic and foreign institutions.
  - Enrolled less than full time and represents the institution in intercollegiate competition.

Bylaws 14.2.2.1, and 14.2.3.1

Season of Participation

• A season of intercollegiate participation shall be counted in the SA’s sport when the SA participates (practices or competes):
  - During or after the first contest in the traditional segment following the SA's initial participation of that academic year at that institution;
  - OR
    - When the SA engages in intercollegiate competition during the nontraditional segment in that sport.

Bylaw 14.2.4.1
Case Study No. 5

• How many semesters or quarters does Jeff have remaining?
  o 10 semesters/15 quarters.
  o Nine semesters/14 quarters.
  o 14 semesters/nine quarters.

Case Study No. 5

• Since it was determined that Jeff used a semester or quarter, Jeff has nine semesters/14 quarters remaining to complete his seasons of participation.

10-Semester/15-quarter rule

• The SA shall complete his or her seasons of participation during the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters of full-time collegiate enrollment.
  o Full-time enrollment determined by regulations of that institution.

Bylaw 14.2.2
Case Study No. 5

- Things did not work out for Jeff on the men’s soccer team so he decided to quit the team. Jeff still had a desire to be around the sport so he reached to the women’s soccer coach to find out if he was eligible to be a practice player with the women’s team.

Case Study No. 5

- Is there such thing as a male practice player for a women’s sport? If so, are there any eligibility requirements?
  - No, there is no such thing.
  - Yes, Jeff can be a male practice player and there are no eligibility requirements.
  - Yes, Jeff can be a male practice player and there are eligibility requirements.

Case Study No. 5

Is there such thing as a male practice player for a women’s sport? If so, are there any eligibility requirements?

- Yes, Jeff can be a male practice player and there are eligibility requirements.
**Male Practice Player**

In order for a male student to be eligible to practice with a women’s team he must be certified as eligible under all applicable NCAA eligibility requirements to participate:

• Be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies,
• Sign a student-athlete statement and drug testing consent form; and
• Have eligibility remaining under the 10 semester rule.

Bylaw 14.1.11

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**Case Study No. 5**

Participating in practice with the women’s team for two seasons has re-ignited Jeff’s fire to actually compete in the sport he loves, soccer. Jeff decides that he wants to go back to the men’s team and compete. How many seasons of participation does Jeff have remaining?

• Four seasons of participation remaining.
• One season of participation remaining.
• Two seasons of participation remaining.

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**Male Practice Player**

Jeff only has one season of participation remaining.

• Jeff used one season during his initial year of enrollment with the men’s team and used two seasons when he was practicing with the women’s team.
• A male student who practices with a women’s team in a sport that is also sponsored as a men’s sport by the NCAA or is considered the same sport under amateurism regulations, is charged with a season of participation in the men’s sport.

Bylaw 14.2.4.7
Transfer Regulations

- Identify the general transfer rule, conditions affecting transfer and the basic exceptions to the transfer legislation.

General Transfer Rule

- The SA who transfers to a member institution from any collegiate institution is required to complete an academic year in residence at the certifying institution before being eligible to compete for or to receive travel expenses.

Bylaw 14.5.1
Academic Year in Residence

• Enrolled in and complete a minimum full-time program of studies for two full semesters or three full quarters;

OR

• Enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies for two semesters or three quarters and pass a number of hours that is at least equal to the sum total of the minimum load of each required term.

Bylaw 14.02.10.1

Common Transfer Triggers

• Officially registered and enrolled full time and attended class during academic year.

• Reported for regular squad practice (including practice or conditioning activities that occur prior to start of academic year).

• Participated in practice/competition in a given sport even though enrolled part time.

Bylaw 14.5.2

Two-Year Transfers
Case Study No. 6

John is a transfer to State University from a two-year college. John wishes to participate on the men’s tennis team at State University. The tennis coach presents you with John’s file and you determine the following about John:

- He was enrolled full time, participated in tennis and exhausted his eligibility;
- He was never enrolled previously at a DIII institution; and
- He was put on academic probation after his last term at the two-year school.

Is John eligible for competition immediately at State University?

- No.

No, John is not eligible for competition immediately and he must serve an academic year in residence because he would not have been academically eligible had he remained at the two-year college.
Two-Year College Transfer Exceptions

The SA may participate without sitting out if he/she:

• Has not previously used a season of participation at a Division III institution and has never practiced or competed at a non-Division III institution;

OR

• Academically and athletically eligible at the time of transfer had the SA remained at the previous institution.

Bylaws 14.5.4.1 (a) and 14.5.4.1 (b)

Case Study No. 6

• After further review, it was determined that the tennis coach did NOT provide you with all the information about John. Apparently, John appealed his academic probation and it was overturned so John would have been eligible had he remained at the two-year school........BUT,

Case Study No. 6

• John was enrolled full time at a four-year institution before enrolling at the two-year college. You also determine that while at the two-year college for two full-time terms, John completed 21 hours of transferable credit.

  • Does that change John’s immediate eligibility status?
Case Study No. 6

• No, John is not eligible for competition immediately and he must serve an academic year in residence because he did not satisfy the credit-hour requirements at the two-year college.

Two-Year College Transfer with Previous Four-Year College Attendance Exceptions

The SA may participate without sitting out if he/she:

• Was academically and athletically eligible at the time of transfer had the SA remained at the previous institution;

OR

• Completed at least 24-semester/36-quarter hours of transferable-degree credit and spent at least two semesters/three quarters in attendance at the two-year college.

Bylaw 14.5.4.1(c)

Four-Year Transfers
Four-Year Transfer Exceptions

• The SA may participate without sitting out if he/she:
  o Has never practiced or competed in intercollegiate athletics;
  o When he/she arrives at the DIII school, he/she is eligible both at the DIII school and at the previous school;

Case Study No. 7

• Joe attends Institution A for one year and plays football. He gets straight A’s.
• Joe transfers and is admitted to your school meeting all requirements and wants to play.
• Is Joe eligible to compete immediately, or does he have to sit out for a year?

• An SA may participate without sitting out if he/she:
  o Comes from a school that didn’t sponsor the sport and completes two special requirements.
    ▪ Have to be at the previous school for two semesters/three quarters.
    ▪ Have to earn 24 credits while there.
Case Study No. 7
- Joe is eligible to play immediately.
- Part B of the transfer exception:
  - When Joe arrives at your school, he is eligible both at your school and at his previous school.

Case Study No. 8
- Erica enrolls at a four-year quarter school. She wanted to play volleyball there, but they do not sponsor that sport.
- After spending a full academic year at Institution No. 1, she earns 27 credits. Erica decides to transfer to your school so she can play volleyball.
- Is she immediately eligible to compete?
  - Yes. Erica is eligible to play immediately.
  - Part C of the transfer exception:
    - Erica’s previous school did not sponsor her sport.
    - She spent three quarters at the school.
    - She earned at least 24 credits.
Case Study No. 9

- Karen is a student at Oxford University. She is coming to your school to study for one term in the fall only, and is not considered a degree-seeking student. Can she play soccer at your school when she arrives?
  - Yes.
  - No.

Case Study No. 9

- Yes. Karen can be eligible based on the exchange student exception to the transfer rule.
- the SA who transfers to your institution can be immediately eligible if he/she is enrolled at your school for a specified period of time as an exchange student.
- The exchange program has to be a formal and established program that is recognized by your institution's academic authorities.

Bylaw 14.5.5.1.2.

Case Study No. 10

- Aaron enrolled at Institution No. 1 for the 2010-11 academic year and the 2011 fall term. He played football both seasons while he was there.
- At the end of fall 2011, Aaron failed all of his classes and left school. He worked for his family's business and didn't play sports.
- He has decided that he will come back to school and wants to come to your institution for fall 2014. Is he eligible?
  - Yes.
  - No.
Case Study No. 10

• The SA is eligible based on the two-year nonparticipation exception to the transfer rule.
• The SA may be immediately eligible if a two-year period has passed since the last time the SA participates in athletics activity.
  o Includes both practice and competition.
  o Is based on 365 days, not on terms.
• The same exception exists for two-year transfers as well.

Bylaw 14.5.5.1.3.

Summary

• General Eligibility.
• Seasons of participation.
• Transfer Regulations.

Questions