
NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



Casebook

Division I

Casebook

The following approved rulings are based on the official Eligibility Section and the Frequency of Play Section.

Scheduling: Frequency of Play, Section B, Item 1

Approved Ruling: The scheduling limitation is established per season. Any game, match or contest which must be cancelled may be re-scheduled with the same or another opponent so long as the total number of games played does not exceed the allowable limit for either institution or athletes.

Contests which are forfeited in accordance with approved NCCAA policy shall count against the allowable schedule limit (see Frequency of Contests).

Split Squads:

Approved Ruling: When a squad (i.e. golf, tennis, track) is split into two or more teams to compete in different matches or meets on a single day, and no individual athlete competes in more than one meet or match on that day, this competition will be counted as only one varsity contest as it applies to the limit on number of contests.

Tournaments, Pre- and Post-season:

Approved Ruling: Conference tournaments held at the end of the season are considered post-season and will be approved by the NCCAA. Such tournaments do not count in the maximum number of scheduled contests/dates allowed. Conference or other tournaments held prior to the end of the season shall count against the allowable schedule limitation.

Scrimmages and Scheduling: Frequency of Play, Section B, Item 2

Case: Are scrimmages allowed in all sports?

Approved Ruling: No. In the sports of cross country, golf, and track and field scrimmages are not allowed. In the above sports, all athletics competition against competitors not identified with the institution shall be included in the maximum number of varsity games, contests or playing dates the institution may schedule. Such contests also apply to the maximum number of playing dates, contests or games in which a student may compete in a sport during an academic year. This applies to contests meeting the definition of a scrimmage, and participation in such contests is considered regular season competition.

Break Periods: Frequency of Play, Section B, Item 5

Question: What constitutes a break during the 24-week practice and competition season?

Approved Ruling: A break is any week (Sunday 12:01 A.M. through Saturday 11:59 P.M.), or series of consecutive weeks, in which no practice or competition occurs. Scheduled breaks for the institution which meet the definition (such as Christmas vacation) must be counted as one of the three allowable breaks if no practice or competition occurs.

Conditioning: Frequency of Play, Section B, Item 6

Approved Ruling: Conditioning and weight-training activities that do not utilize equipment associated with a sport will not be considered practice in that sport.

Activity Classes:

Approved Ruling: A college activities class involving the teaching of sport skills which is open to all students will not be considered practice. A college activities class involving the teaching of sport skills open only to invited students shall apply to the practice/competition season of that sport.

Alumni Games/Season of Competition:

Approved Ruling: An alumni contest is considered by the NCCAA to be an "in house" event and shall be treated the same as an internal practice.

ELIGIBILITY, Section J

Change from Intercollegiate to Club Status, Notification

Question: Our institution has decided to participate in soccer at the club level rather than the intercollegiate level. We earlier notified the NCCAA that we were to be an intercollegiate program in soccer. What must we do to effect the change?

Approved Ruling: A letter must be sent to the Region Chair and the National Office with notification of the change. Your institution must also notify each institution you have scheduled in the sport of soccer. In that the NCCAA does not recognize club sport participation, the institutions whom you originally scheduled as an intercollegiate program cannot count your club games for their win-loss record or for statistics.

Playing date agreements need not be honored by a member institution due to your institution's change from intercollegiate to club status.

Change of Team Status—Ineligible for Postseason

Approved Ruling: If your institution changes the designation of a sport from club to intercollegiate status, or from intercollegiate to club status, that sport shall not be considered for NCCAA postseason competition for one calendar year from when the change occurred.

Unattached Competition: Eligibility, Section A

Question: We have a student practicing with our golf (or track) team who does not wish to represent our institution or use a season of competition this year, but is interested in competing on his own in open meets as an unattached athlete. Is this permissible?

Approved Ruling: Under certain conditions, this is allowable. As the word "unattached" states, the student would have no attachment to your institution's athletics program regarding the open event.

A coach or a representative of the athletics department cannot enter the student in the event; the institution cannot provide transportation to the event, from the event or at the event for the unattached athlete; the institution cannot provide meals or housing for the unattached athlete with regard to the event; the unattached athlete cannot wear an institutional uniform nor use the institution's name in the open event; students competing "unattached" are not covered by institutional athletic insurance for open competition and must be made aware of the restriction; the open competition and participation must conform to NCCAA amateur regulations.

Adherence to these conditions would allow a student practicing with your team to compete in open events without being charged a season of competition in a sport for such an open competition.

Submitting Eligibility Certificates Eligibility, Section B, Item 2

Approved Ruling: Your institution must certify the eligibility status of each athlete before the athlete participates in any intercollegiate contest. The NCCAA Official Eligibility Certificate, the Certificate of Clearance, and if applicable, the Freshman Eligibility Form, the Transfer Player Eligibility Statement, and the Non-Resident Student or Enrollment Competitive Experience Form must be sent to your Eligibility Chair before competition is allowed. Students competing prior to submitting the proper forms are participating ineligible. Penalties for delinquent filing can be severe.

Certification of student-athlete for Scrimmage/Exhibition:

Case: Must a student be certified as eligible to participate in scrimmage or practice contests with teams outside the institution?

Approved Ruling: Eligibility certification is required for all students before representing their institution in any manner (scrimmages or intercollegiate) against competitors not directly identified with the institution in any sport recognized by the NCCAA. Your institution must complete and mail (postmarked) the Official Eligibility Certificate to your Regional Chair prior to participation.

Junior Varsity/Freshman Team Competition:

Question: A student is not eligible under NCCAA eligibility rules. May the student play on the institution's junior varsity, freshman, or any other non-varsity team?

Approved Ruling: No.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION B, ITEM 8

Identification/9 Hour Rule

Question: A student entering college for the first time this fall is considering enrolling for eight hours at our institution and carrying four hours at a nearby institution. In that the student would carry a combined total of 12 hours, with the majority of those hours at our school, is the student eligible?

Approved Ruling: No. The student must be enrolled for a minimum of nine credit hours at an NCCAA institution and at least three (3) hours at another institution in order to be identified. The student mentioned above would not be charged a term of attendance at either institution.

Maintaining Institutional Identification:

Case: A student is carrying 12 hours at our institution this fall and is representing our institution in intercollegiate athletics. The student drops a four hour course but enrolls for four hours at a nearby institution the same day. Does this student retain eligibility since the 12 hours enrollment rule is still being met?

Approved Ruling: No. Upon reducing the class load to less than nine hours at a NCCAA institution with at least 3 hours at another institution or 12 hours at another institution, the student is no longer eligible.

Identification, Attending Two Institutions:

Question: A student plans to enroll and carry nine institutional credit hours at our institution (NCCAA) this fall and three credit hours at a nearby institution. The three hours at the other institution have been approved for institutional credit by our institution. Will this student satisfy the requirement of carrying 12 institutional credit hours at the time of participation?

Approved Ruling: Yes, the student is identified with your institution and meets the requirements of being enrolled in a minimum of 12 institutional credit hours.

Branch Campus Identification:

Question: A student is attending a branch campus of an NCCAA member institution. May the student compete in the intercollegiate program for the parent institution?

Approved Ruling: No, nor may a student at the parent institution participate for a branch campus.

Enrollment and Attendance of Class:

Question: A student was enrolled at another institution last year for the fall term but has stated to us that he did not attend any class. In that the definition for identification requires enrollment in 12 or more hours and attendance of any class, we are correct that the student is not charged with a term of attendance in this instance?

Approved Ruling: If indeed the student can verify non-attendance of any class for the term in question, then the term would not be charged as one of the 10 semesters, 12 trimesters, or 15 quarters that a student has to complete eligibility. In that the enrollment of courses for the term is listed on the transcript, the student must provide written verification from each instructor for the courses enrolled in that the student did not attend any class (or the instructor is not aware of attendance). Without such verification the student will be charged a term of attendance for this term.

Note: A student who did not attend any classes but who represented the institution in an intercollegiate contest will be charged with a term of attendance and a season of competition (this does not include scrimmages).

Participation Prior to Enrollment in the Fall:

Approved Ruling: When an institution has scheduled an intercollegiate contest prior to the opening of school in the fall, a student shall be allowed to represent the institution although the student is not officially enrolled at the time of such participation. The Official Eligibility Certificate must be filed with the Regional Chair with the column requesting "Degree Credit Hours and/or Required Credit Hours Enrolled in This Term" left blank. This column would then be completed during the first week of enrollment and a second, complete certificate would be sent to the Regional Chair.

Should a student compete and then not enroll in the term in which competition occurs, a season of competition and a term of attendance shall be charged for such competition.

Pre-enrollment Participation and Transfer:

Question: A student participates in a football game played before the fall term officially starts. May the student then transfer to another institution and be eligible immediately? Will the student be charged with a season of participation?

Approved Ruling: The student would not be eligible immediately. Since a student becomes identified with an institution upon participation in an intercollegiate contest, this student would have used one season of competition for football and be charged a term of attendance. In addition to applying the transfer rule, this student would be required to meet the normal progress rule for second, third or fourth season competition as applicable.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION B, ITEM 9

Required Courses to Meet the 12 Hour Enrollment Rule:

Question: Our institution requires some freshmen to take basic English and math or both. These courses are required by the institution, but no institutional credit is given. In that the courses are required for those students needing them to earn a degree, may we count these courses to fulfill the 12 institutional credit hour enrollment rule and for the 9/24/36 credit hour rule in the future?

Approved Ruling: No. In that these courses are not approved by your institution as credit courses they may not apply in meeting the 12-hour enrollment rule. The Registrar will be required to certify that each course being applied toward eligibility shall apply as credit towards graduation and/or is required and recognized as institutional credit hours. Each course stands on its own merit.

In this case, should the English and math courses (where no credit is given) reduce the student's class load to less than nine institutional credit hours, the student would not be charged with a term of attendance.

Graduate Hours and 12-Hour Enrollment Rule:

Question: May graduate credit hours be included in the 12 credit hours in which a student must be enrolled?

Approved Ruling: Yes.

Recognition of Credits:

Question: Our term ends this Friday. A student waiting to establish eligibility (the 24 credit hour rule) will have passed 26 credit hours at the close of the term. Is this student eligible as soon as the grades are turned in by the professors?

Approved Ruling: When the grades are submitted to the Registrar for posting on the transcript and the student is properly certified, the student is then recognized as having the credits apply in meeting NCCAA regulations.

Institutional Credit:

Approved Ruling: Students enrolling for courses must have those courses count toward an institutionally-approved degree, or courses must be required and recorded as institutional credit hours, in order to:

1. Use the course hours to apply the 12 credit hours participation rule.
2. Use the course hours to apply the 12 credit hour term of attendance rule.
3. Use the course hours to apply the 24/36 credit hour rule for continued eligibility.
4. Use the course hours to apply the progress rule for participation the second, third, and/or fourth season.

Each course shall be evaluated independently by the Registrar to determine if the course counts toward an institutionally approved degree or is required and awarded institutional credit.

Non-Credit Courses:

Approved Ruling: A remedial course for which institutional credit hours are not granted may not be counted toward satisfying the requirements of the 12-hour enrollment rule, the 9/24/36 hour rule, or the progress rule for participation the second, third, or fourth season.

Institutional/Required Courses:

Question: Students must be enrolled in 12 institutional credit hour courses or required credit courses. What other type courses are there?

Approved Ruling: Courses required by your institution but not recognized by your institution as college credit would not apply and never have applied to meet the 12-hour enrollment rule (or 24/36 credit hour rule). If, for example, your institution requires a student to take English 099 but notes “NC” or “no credit” or equivalent on the transcript, the student cannot count this course for eligibility certification. If English 099 is required and given credit and a grade, but not considered as degree credit for the student, it will apply for eligibility certification.

Should your institution accept only eight hours of a physical education activity to be applied to a degree and the student is enrolled in such an activity course having already earned the eight hours, the current enrolled course cannot be used to satisfy the 12 institutional credit hour enrollment rule or be applied to the 24/36 institutional credit hour rule for future terms.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION B, ITEM 10

Non-Collegiate Competition:

Question: A member institution schedules an athletic contest with a non-collegiate team or an institution that is not a member of the NCCAA. May ineligible players be used by the member institution for this contest?

Approved Ruling: No. The contest is considered to be intercollegiate for the member institution, and its students must meet all NCCAA eligibility requirements.

Discontinuance of Sport During a Season, Forfeits:

Approved Ruling: Once an institution announces discontinuance of a sport, it must notify all institutions remaining on the schedule, as well as its Regional Chair (as appropriate), the National Eligibility Chair and the National Office. The remaining games on the schedule shall be considered as “no contests” and cannot be counted as forfeit victories by the scheduled opponents.

Question: We have a student who has competed in an exhibition contest against an NCAA Division I team in basketball this past October, and we would like to “redshirt” the student for the season in order to save a year of eligibility. Is this possible?

Approved Ruling: No. Exhibition contests are applied to the definition of a season of competition and applied to the allowable contest limit for that sport. The student would be charged a season of competition in the sport of basketball.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION B, ITEM 11

Ten Semesters/Identification:

Question: One of our students completed nine semesters of attendance at the close of the spring term. The student wishes to compete in a spring sport. We understand the student could not enroll in 11 hours for the fall term, not be charged a term of attendance, and use the 10th semester in the spring and thus compete while completing degree work. Is this correct?

Approved Ruling: Yes, if this arrangement is considered academically sound by your institution's athletics committee, the student, and parents. Close evaluation should always be given whenever a student's academic pursuits are extended. In this instance, the student would not be identified with your institution in the fall (enrolled in a non-term) and would become eligible the day after the fall term ends.

Define a Term

Question: For the coming fall term, we will be enrolling a student in six hours of required remedial English and math courses. These courses will not apply to a degree and will not be recognized as credit hours by our institution. The student also will be enrolled in six (6) hours of degree work. We understand that this student will not be charged with a term of attendance for such enrollment (12 hours) this fall.

Approved Ruling: You are correct. A student is identified and charged a term upon enrolling in twelve (12) or more institutional credit hours at a single institution or at least nine (9) or more institutional credit hours at a single institution or at least nine (9) or more institutional credit hours at an NCCAA institution with at least three (3) hours at another institution and attending any class. Institutional credit hours are defined as those which count toward an institutionally-approved degree or are required by the institution and recognized as institutional credit hours on the transcript. The above student would only be enrolled in six (6) institutional credit hours as defined by the NCCAA and thus would not be identified.

If such a student were a recent high school graduate, NCCAA identification would not occur until spring enrollment and attendance (12 or more institutional credit hours), and the student would be considered an incoming freshman athletically at that time.

Summer Attendance:

Question: A student attends institution "A" during the regular school year and institution "B" during the subsequent summer session. The student returns to institution "A" for the fall term. Is the student's eligibility affected by his attendance at institution "B"?

Approved Ruling: If the student intends on using the credit hours earned at institution "B" for eligibility purposes (e.g. satisfaction of the 24-credit-hour, progress rule, etc.) at institution "A", institution "A" has to accept those hours and place those hours on its transcript. The student is not considered a transfer student.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION B, ITEM 16

16 Week Residency Period and Practice

Case: Can a student athlete, who must be in residence for the 16 week residency period, practice with the team during the 16 week residency period?

Approved Ruling: As long as the student is enrolled at the institution during the residency period, the student can practice with the team.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION B, ITEM 18

Attendance at a Non-Accredited Institution:

Case: A student attends a non-accredited college, either junior or senior college, which may or may not sponsor an intercollegiate athletics program. What is the status of such a student?

Approved Ruling: The NCCAA shall use the Accredited Institutions of Post Secondary Education book published by the Council on Post Secondary Accreditation by the American Council on Education in determining if terms are to be recognized by the NCCAA. If an institution is listed in the above named publication at the time of a student's attendance, the student transferring from this institution shall be charged terms of attendance, seasons of competition, and be required to meet residency regulations as applicable.

If the institution is not listed in the above named publication and is not an associate member of the NCCAA, the student is considered not to have attended an institution of higher learning with regard to athletic eligibility. Foreign postsecondary institutions are considered accredited when determining terms of attendance.

Alumni Games/Season of Competition

Approved Ruling: An alumni contest is considered by the NCCAA to be an "in house" event and shall be treated the same as an internal practice.

Discontinuance of Sport During a Season:

Question: When an institution discontinues a sport immediately, during the season, are the athletes charged a full season of competition?

Approved Ruling: If an institution cancels the remaining season in a sport having completed one half or less of its regular schedule, students on the team at the time of discontinuance shall not be charged with a season of competition in that sport, provided the students were eligible at the time the sport was discontinued.

Exhibition Contests/Season of Competition

Question: We have a student who has competed in an exhibition contest against an NCAA Division I team in basketball this past October, and we would like to "redshirt" the student for the season in order to save a year of eligibility. Is this possible?

Approved Ruling: No. Exhibition contests are applied to the definition of a season of competition and applied to the allowable contest limit for that sport. The student would be charged a season of competition in the sport of basketball.

Scrimmage/Season of Competition

Question: Our institution schedules five baseball scrimmages in the fall. No score is kept; the contest is not on either school's regular season schedule; no admission is charged. These scrimmages are a means of evaluating talent for our team in the spring. Are the students who compete in these scrimmages charged a season of competition?

Approved Ruling: As long as these "scrimmages" fit the definition of a scrimmage, this competition shall not apply to the season of competition definition. Students who compete only in scrimmages are not charged a season of competition.

Transfer Students and Seasons of Competition

Question: A student is transferring from one NCCAA institution to another NCCAA institution, how do we determine their seasons of competition?

Approved Ruling: The previous seasons of competition for a transfer student will be determined under the rules of the NCCAA.

Question: A student is transferring from an institution **which is not** governed by the NCCAA (ex. NCAA, NJCAA, etc.) to an NCCAA institution. How do we determine their seasons of competition?

Approved Ruling: The previous seasons of competition for a transfer student will be determined under the rules of the association (ex. NAIA, NCAA, NJCAA, NCCAA) from which the student transfers. For example, if a student is transferring from an NCAA institution to an NCCAA institution and the NCAA charged them with a season of

competition, even if the NCCAA would not have charged the same student with a season, upon transfer the NAIA will accept the NCAA's ruling on the number of seasons the student had used.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION B, ITEM 19

Define a Term:

Question: For the coming fall term, we will be enrolling a student in six hours of required remedial English and math courses. These courses will not apply to a degree and will not be recognized as credit hours by our institution. The student also will be enrolled in six hours of degree work. We understand that this student will not be charged with a term of attendance for such enrollment (12 hours) this fall.

Approved Ruling: You are correct. A student is identified and charged a term upon enrolling in 12 or more institutional credit hours at a single institution or at least nine (9) or more institutional credit hours at an NCCAA institution with at least three (3) hours at another institution and attending any class. Institutional credit hours are defined as those which count toward an institutionally approved degree or are required by the institution and recognized as institutional hours on the transcript. The above student would only be enrolled in six institutional credit hours as defined by the NCCAA and thus would not be identified.

If such a student were a recent high school graduate, NCCAA identification would not occur until spring enrollment and attendance (12 or more institutional credit hours), and the student would be considered an incoming freshman athletically at that time.

Attendance at a Non-Accredited Institution

Case: A student attends a non-accredited college, either junior or senior college, which may or may not sponsor an intercollegiate athletics program. What is the status of such a student?

Approved Ruling: For institutions in the United States, the NCCAA shall use the Accredited Institutions of Post Secondary Education book published by the Council on Post Secondary Accreditation by the American Council on Education in determining if terms are to be recognized by the NCCAA. If an institution is listed in the above publication at the time of a student's attendance, the student transferring from this institution shall be charged terms of attendance, seasons of competition, and be required to meet residency regulations as applicable.

If the institution is not listed in the Accredited Institutions of Post Secondary Education book and is not an associate member, the student is considered not to have attended an institution of higher learning with regard to athletic eligibility. Foreign post secondary institutions are considered accredited when determining terms of attendance.

Repeat Course/Term of Attendance

Question: A student is currently enrolled in 12 credit hours at our institution, but four of the hours are "repeat hours" from a course previously passed with a "D" grade. In that the NCCAA does not accept the repeat work toward satisfying the 24/36 credit hour rule, may we subtract the hours and thus not charge the student with a term of attendance.

Approved Ruling: No. All repeat courses previously passed shall be applied to the definition of a term of attendance. The allowing of one course previously passed with a "D" grade to count toward satisfying the 12 institutional credit hour rule is an exception to the 12 hour enrollment rule only.

Term of Attendance High School:

Approved Ruling: High school students may take 12 or more hours of college credits in a term without establishing a term of attendance.

Terms of Attendance Military Service:

Approved Ruling: Members of the armed services, while on active duty, may take 12 or more hours of college work during a term without establishing a term of attendance.

Ten Semesters/Identification

Question: One of our students completed nine (9) semesters of attendance at the close of the spring term. The student wishes to compete in a spring sport. We understand the student could enroll in eleven (11) hours for the fall term, not be charged a term of attendance, and use the 10th semester in the spring and thus compete while completing degree work. Is this correct?

Approved Ruling: Yes, if this arrangement is considered academically sound by your institution's athletics committee, the student, and parents. Close evaluation should always be given whenever a student's academic pursuits are extended. In this instance, the student would not be identified with your institution in the fall (enrolled in a non-term) and thus would not become eligible until the day after the fall term ends.

Withdrawal and Transfer:

Question: A prospective student enrolled for 12 credit hours at an institution this past fall and withdrew after attending classes for seven days. In that the student withdrew within the drop period established by the institution, the institution does not consider the student as having been identified. Since our institution will treat this student as an incoming freshman, will the student be eligible upon enrolling 12 credit hours this spring and attending one class?

Approved Ruling: No. While the student is recognized academically as an incoming freshman, the student must be treated athletically as a second term freshman. The student would be charged with one term and zero credit hours for enrolling and attending any class prior to withdrawing. This student would be required to earn nine credit hours before becoming eligible.

Term of Attendance, Night School, Extension, Correspondence:

Question: Does enrolling in night school, extension or correspondence courses for nine or more institutional credit hours at a single institution constitute a term of attendance?

Approved Ruling: Yes.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION C, ITEM 2(a)

Untimed ACT/SAT Scores:

Approved Ruling: Students diagnosed with a learning disability may use untimed ACT/SAT test results to meet freshman eligibility standards. However, the test must be arranged, approved and conducted according to the procedure established by the ACT or SAT national office for the administration of such tests. Minimum score results need to meet NCCAA freshman eligibility standards, and still must be achieved.

ACT/SAT Testing:

Question: We have a freshman student who has entered school the fall term but does not meet the freshman regulations only because of the ACT/SAT scores. May the student take the ACT/SAT during the current fall term and use the results to meet the freshman regulation, allowing the student to play in the spring?

Approved Ruling: Yes, provided the test is taken on a national testing date, the minimum score is achieved, and the results are received from the national test center in the usual manner before the student represents your institution. The key factor is that the test must be taken prior to the beginning of a term in which the student initially participates. The student would be eligible the first day he/she attends a class in the spring. As a reminder, residual tests are not acceptable.

ACT/SAT Results:

Approved Ruling: The ACT/SAT results must be obtained from the appropriate National Testing Center. The test score strip mailed by ACT/SAT and affixed on the high school transcript is acceptable. Residual tests are not acceptable.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION C, ITEM 2 (b & c)

Overall High School GPA of 2.00:

Approved Ruling:

1. Should a high school use a four point scale, the high school GPA shall be used.
2. Should a high school use other than a four point scale (example, a 12 point scale which uses the + and -), the Registrars shall convert all high school grades to the four point scale and then establish the GPA.
3. Should the high school report grades in percentages, the member institution is to receive from the high school the percent grading scale. A student in the “C” range is considered to have met this regulation.

High School Graduation in Upper Half of Class:

Approved Ruling: Graduation in the upper half of the student’s graduating class as certified by the high school is interpreted to mean the class ranking listed on the high school transcript. High schools that do not rank students on the transcript may elect to certify in writing on school letterhead and signed by the principal, headmaster, or registrar that the student has met this requirement. The class rank must appear on the student’s transcript, leaving certificate or other academic document. If the student’s class rank does not appear on the above-mentioned documents, a letter from the student’s principal or headmaster, written on the school’s letterhead and with the school’s official seal, stating that the student meets the class rank requirement, can be accepted.

Freshman Certification, GPA and Class Rank:

Approved Ruling: The GPA and class ranking shall be determined from the student’s high school transcript which includes all course work taken through the term immediately prior to graduation. (Example: The 8th term of school in which 8 terms is necessary for a student to graduate.)

Freshman Certification/Class Rank

Question: An incoming freshman student graduates number 50 out of a high school graduating class of 100. Does this meet the requirement of being in the upper half of the high school graduating class?

Approved Ruling: Based on the rulings of the National Eligibility Committee, this student would meet this requirement.

Freshman Certification and Prep School Attendance:

Question: May a high school graduate attend a prep school and use such attendance to meet the freshman entrance requirements?

Approved Ruling: Once a student graduates from high school, his or her class ranking will not change. Attendance at a preparatory school will not affect this regulation. Should a student be identified with a preparatory school for one full academic year, the GPA at the preparatory school shall be combined with the overall high school GPA for application to the freshman rule.

GED or “Home Schooling” and the Freshman Requirements:

Approved Ruling: The GED will be recognized as satisfying the grade point average equivalent. The GED student must achieve a score of 18 on the Enhanced ACT, or 860 on the SAT to meet the freshman requirements.

Home-Schooled students must receive the certificate (or equivalent) granted by the appropriate state verifying successful completion of home schooling requirements and achieve the minimum ACT/SAT score to meet the freshman requirements.

International Students and the Freshman Requirements:

Approved Ruling: An incoming freshman international student shall first be reviewed under the same conditions required of a regular freshman student. The evaluation listed below shall be applied only if the high school GPA and class ranking cannot be determined.

If a student has graduated from a high school outside the United States or one of the U.S. territories and the high school transcript is such that the grade point average cannot be determined and the class ranking is not available, this student can be ruled eligible by meeting the specific institution's admission criteria for international students and by meeting the following NCCAA criteria:

1. A score of 18 on the Enhanced ACT or 860 on the SAT.
2. Meet the entering freshman requirements as defined for students from each country in the most current Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility published by the NCAA (based on AACRAO guidelines).

The TOEFL will not be accepted for freshman certification.

NOTE: This guide may be ordered through the publication department of the NCAA, PO Box 6222, Indianapolis, IN 46209-6222, telephone: (317) 917-6222.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION C, ITEM 3

12-Hour Enrollment Rule

Case: During a term, a student drops a course, lowering the total hours of enrollment to less than twelve (12).

Approved Ruling: The student becomes immediately ineligible for participation as soon as the current academic load is reduced to less than 12 hours.

Identification, Attending Two Institutions

Question: A student plans to enroll and carry nine institutional credit hours at our institution this fall and three credit hours at a nearby institution. The three hours at the other institution have been approved for institutional credit by our institution. Will this student satisfy the requirement of carrying 12 institutional credit hours at the time of participation?

Approved Ruling: Yes, the student is identified with your institution and meets the requirements of being enrolled in a minimum of 12 institutional credit hours.

ELGIBILITY, SECTION C, ITEM 5

Summer Attendance

Question: A student enters college for the first time in the summer, and then enrolls at another college for the fall term. May the student apply the summer credit to meet the 9/24/36 institutional credit hour rule?

Approved Ruling: No. If the summer was the first enrollment for the student, and if that summer attendance does not identify a student with an institution, the hours earned in the summer cannot count toward the 9/24/36 hour rule.

Failing Grade:

Question: A student earns two "C's" and two "F's" the first freshman term in four, three-hour courses. Since all grades go on the permanent record of the student and these hours are, therefore, "credited to the student," does this satisfy the nine hour rule for a second term student to be eligible?

Approved Ruling: No. The student is not eligible in that the student did not pass nine institutional credit hours as required of all first term freshmen.

Incomplete Grades:

Question: A first-term freshman passes eight hours and receives four hours of incomplete work. An extension of time is granted to complete the work as the student is otherwise passing the incomplete course. Does this student satisfy the nine-hour rule required for second term freshmen?

Approved Ruling: No. The student has not passed the nine institutional credit hours required for all first term freshmen and is therefore ineligible. Upon making up this incomplete grade and having the grade submitted to the Registrar for posting on the transcript, the nine hour rule would then be satisfied. The athlete shall not compete until the incomplete is made up and the grade is submitted to the Registrar as described above. The same application of this rule applies to the 24/36-hour rule.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION C, ITEM 6

24/36 Hour Rule vs. Progress Rule

Case: Can you explain the difference between the 24/36 hour rule and the progress rule for participation in a second season of competition? If a student has earned 24/36 hours in the last two terms of attendance, isn't the progress rule met as well?

Approved Ruling: The 24/36 hour rule and the progress rule are two separate concepts and are to be applied independently. The 24/36 hour rule states that a student must have accumulated a minimum of 24/36 institutional credit hours in the two semesters/three quarters immediately previous terms of attendance. These hours are always taken at face value, even if a transfer is involved and the new institution does not accept all of the hours.

The progress rule involves institutional credit recognized by the student's current institution, with an exception for entering transfer students. Transfer students use the credit hours from the previous institution(s) only for the initial term at the new institution.

Summer Hours and the 24 Hour Rule

Question: A student passes 12 credit hours during the spring term, passes six (6) credit hours during the following summer term, and passes 6 credit hours during the next fall term (although enrolled in twelve (12) or more hours). Does this meet the requirements for the 24 hour rule?

Approved Ruling: Yes. However, you are reminded that at the close of the next term of attendance this student would lose 18 hours (12 from the spring and 6 from the summer) and would be required to again accumulate 24 institutional credit hours in addition to meeting all other academic rules.

Summer Credits and the 24-Credit-Hour Rule (Non-Identified Student)

Question: A prospective student passed only 21 credit hours the last two terms at the community college he attended during the last school year. The student completed three credit hours of "D" work during summer school at the community college, and the hours are recorded on the student's transcript. Our institution will not transfer "D" grades to our records. Can we use the summer credits of "D" work to satisfy the 24 credit hour rule?

Approved Ruling: In this situation, the summer credits may be used to satisfy the NAIA's 24 credit hour rule. These hours would also be applied in meeting the progress rule in order to participate for the second, third, and fourth season but only for the first term of attendance at your institution. The hours were taken in good faith at the institution where the student was identified, and that institution recognized the credits as evidenced by placing the credit hours on its transcript.

Summer Credits and 24-Credit-Hour Rule (Identified Student)

Case: A student who attended our institution and played for us last year passed 21 credit hours the last two terms. The student attended a summer session at a nearby institution and completed three hours of "D" work. Our institution will not transfer "D" grades to our records. Can we use the summer credits of "D" work to satisfy the 24 credit hour rule?

Approved Ruling: In this situation, the credits cannot be used to satisfy the 24 credit hour rule. Unlike the example above, this student was identified at your institution. The course work was not accepted by the institution where the student is identified. If the identifying institution will not accept the credit, the NAIA will not recognize such work. The key factor in determining if summer credit will be applied to meet the 24 hour rule are: 1) the hours are accepted by the institution where the student is identified.

CLEP, Correspondence, and Extension Courses

Question: A student starts and completes a three hour correspondence or extension course approved by the home institution after the beginning of the fall term. The three hours give the student 24/36 credit hours. Can these hours be applied to meet the 24/36 hour rule for fall eligibility?

Approved Ruling: No. Hours to be applied to meet the 24/36 hour rule must be earned prior to the current term.

If an extension course was first attended prior to the first day of class of a term or the student completed the first lesson of a correspondence course prior to the first day of class of a term, the credit would be applied to the term in which the institution would normally record the credit on the transcript.

Credit for CLEP courses is applied to the term in which the institution would normally record the credit on the transcript.

Non-Use of Summer Credit and the 24 Hour Rule

Question: A student passes 4 hours during the summer term, 12 hours during the following fall term, and 8 hours during the next spring term. Does this meet the requirements of the 24 hour rule?

Approved Ruling: No. In this case, the summer credit was earned prior to both terms of attendance. For summer credit to be applied, it must be earned after one or both of the two terms being applied.

Quarter System/36 Hour Rule

Question: We are on the quarter system and have a student who has completed 9, 12, and 12 credits the last three quarters. Is the student eligible under the 24/36 hour rule?

Approved Ruling: No. Under the 24 semester/36 quarter rule a student in an institution using the quarter system must complete and pass 36 institutional credit hours during the last three academic terms of attendance to be eligible to participate.

Quarter System/ 36 Hour Rule

Question: A student is transferring from an institution using the quarter system to an institution using the semester system. The student has completed 11, 14, and 11 credits in the last three terms. Is the student eligible under the 24/36 hour rule?

Approved Ruling: Yes. Under the 24 semester/36 quarter rule a student who completes 36 institutional credit hours during the last three quarter terms of attendance is eligible to complete, provided he meets all other eligibility requirements. Additionally, the student must pass 13 institutional credit hours the 1st term of attendance at the semester school to meet the 24 hour rule for the 2nd term at the semester school.

Transfer and the 24/36 Hour Rule

Case: A freshman student transfers from an institution which uses the quarter system to an institution which uses the semester system. In the fall and winter quarter terms she completes and passes 13 and 11 institutional credit hours. The student passes 12 credit hours in the spring semester at her new institution. Will she meet the requirements of the 24/36 hour rule due to her passing 36 hours in her previous three terms of attendance and be eligible for the fall semester?

Approved Ruling: No. A student must accumulate 36 institutional credit hours in the previous three quarter terms of attendance. If a student does not complete three quarter terms, the rule of accumulating 24 institutional credit hours in the previous two terms of attendance takes precedent. In this instance, the student has accumulated only 23 hours in the previous two terms of attendance and is not eligible.

Summer Attendance

Question: A student attends institution "A" during the regular school year and institution "B" during the subsequent summer session. The student returns to institution "A" for the fall term. Is the student immediately eligible to compete?

Approved Ruling: Since the student was identified with institution “A”, the hours taken during summer school at institution “B” must be transferable and placed on the transcript at institution “A” to be acceptable toward eligibility. The student is not considered a transfer student but must satisfy all other eligibility rules.

Summer Attendance:

Question: A student enters college for the first time in the summer, and then enrolls at another college for the fall term. May the student apply the summer credit to meet the 9/24 institution credit hour rule?

Approved Ruling: No. In that summer was the first enrollment for the student, and in that summer attendance does not identify a student with an institution, the hours earned in the summer cannot count toward the 9/24/36-hour rule.

Mixed Terms and the 24 Credit Hour Rule:

Question: A student completed 10 semester hours during the first term at a junior college and completed 12 quarter hours the next term at our institution. As a matter of institutional policy, we convert all hours to our terms, and thus the 10 semester hours would equal 15 quarter hours. Using this method, the 15 and 12 quarter hours would total more than 24 hours the two previous terms. Is this permissible in determining NCCAA eligibility?

Approved Ruling: No. Credits earned at a school are not to be converted but taken at face value when applying the 24 credit hour rule. In this case, the athlete has completed only 22 hours of credit during the last two terms and therefore would not be eligible.

Second, Third and Fourth Season – Converting Credits:

Approved Ruling: Credits used in satisfying the rule requiring the passing of 24/36 institutional credit hours the two semesters/three quarters immediately previous terms of attendance are taken at “face value” from the transcripts.

This is not true in certifying eligibility for the progress rule (second, third or fourth season). After one term of identification, these hours must be converted to the grading system used by the student’s identified institution. Only those converted credits recorded on the transcript may be used to meet the progress rule.

Graduating Junior College Student Exception

Approved Ruling: If a junior college student met the graduation requirements for an associate degree within five semesters or seven quarters of attendance, the student shall be exempt from meeting the 24 credit hour rule for the first term upon transferring to an NCCAA institution. This exception requires that graduation occurred. The institution applying for this exception on behalf of the student must submit a complete transcript from the junior college with the Official Eligibility Certificate. Students receiving this exception must pass a minimum of 12 institutional credit hours the first term at a member institution to retain eligibility for the second term.

ELIGIBILITY SECTION C, ITEM 8

2.00 GPA for Junior Academic Standing

Question: I understand all students classified as a junior or above academically must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00. Can you explain how this will be applied to transfers as opposed to students already identified with my institution?

Approved Ruling: The GPA for students with continuing identification at your institution shall be calculated according to the official institutional policy for all students. The GPA for entering transfer students shall be calculated by dividing all quality points achieved by the total number of hours attempted for all courses listed on all official transcripts from all institutions previously attempted.

Students already identified with your institution, and transfer students having completed one term at your institution, shall use the GPA determined by your institution’s transcript for certification.

NOTE: This regulation applies only to those students classified by your institution (Registrar) as having reached junior academic status or above.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION C, ITEM 9

24/36 Hour Rule vs. Progress Rule

Case: Can you explain the difference between the 24/36 hour rule and the progress rule for participation in a second season of competition? If a student has earned 24/36 hours in the last two terms of attendance, isn't the progress rule met as well?

Approved Ruling: The 24/36 hour rule and the progress rule are two separate concepts and are to be applied independently. The 24/36 hour rule states that a student must have accumulated a minimum of 24/36 institutional credit hours in the two semesters/three quarters immediately previous terms of attendance. These hours are always taken at face value, even if a transfer is involved and the new institution does not accept all of the hours.

The progress rule involves institutional credit recognized by the student's current institution, with an exception for entering transfer students. Transfer students use the credit hours from the previous institution(s) only for the initial term at the new institution.

Recognition of Credits

Question: Our term ends this Friday. A student waiting to establish eligibility (the progress rule) will have passed 24/36 credit hours at the end of the term. Is this student eligible as soon as the grades are turned in by the professors?

Approved Ruling: When the grades are submitted in the normal manner to the registrar for posting on the transcript and the student is properly certified, the student is then recognized as having the credits apply in meeting NCCAA regulations.

Progress Rule---Transfer Credit taken at Face Value First Term Only

Approved Ruling: A transfer student bringing in "D" credit may have the "D" credit hours applied to all academic requirements the first term the student is identified. Thereafter, only those credits that are accepted toward a degree or are required by your institution and placed on your institutional transcript may apply.

EXAMPLE: A transfer student played two seasons for a community college and has completed 12 credit hours each of his four semesters at the junior college. The student's 48 credit hours contain 14 hours of "D" which your institution will not transfer in, although it will accept the remaining hours. After attending your institution for one term, the student will be credited with having only 34 credit hours plus hours passed at your institution. The student must have 48 institutional credit hours to play the third season and so must have passed 14 institutional credit hours the first term to participate the second term.

Progress Rule—Converting Credits

Approved Ruling: Credits used in satisfying the rule requiring the passing of 24/36 institutional credit hours the two semesters/three quarters immediately previous terms of attendance are taken at "face value" from the transcripts for transfer students.

This is not true in certifying eligibility for the progress rule (second, third or fourth season) for transfer students. These hours must be converted after one term of identification to the grading system used by the student's identified institution.

Only those converted credits recorded on the transcript may be used to meet the progress rule.

2.00 GPA for Participants in Third and Fourth Seasons

Approved Ruling: Students must achieve a minimum GPA of 2.000 on a 4.000 scale in order to compete the third and/or fourth season in a sport. This GPA must be maintained during the grading period of competition.

The GPA for students with continuing identification at your institution shall be calculated according to the official institutional policy for all students. The GPA for entering transfer students shall be calculated by dividing all quality points achieved by the total number of hours attempted for all courses listed on all official transcripts from all institutions previously attended.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION C, ITEM 12

Re-taking a Failed Course:

Question: May a student repeat a course which was previously failed and have it count toward the current 12 hour enrollment requirement and, if passed, toward the 24/36-hour rule?

Approved Ruling: Yes. If the course was failed originally, it is not considered a repeat course.

Repeat Courses and the 12/24/36 Credit Hour Rules

Question: May a student repeat a course which was previously passed and count the credit hours toward satisfying the 12-hour enrollment and the 24/36-hour rule?

Approved Ruling: If the course was initially passed with a grade of “C” (or the equivalent) or better, it may not be counted to satisfy either rule. A maximum of one course per term that has previously been passed with a grade of “D” (or the equivalent) may be counted toward satisfying the 12-hour enrollment rule. However, repeat courses previously passed at any time during the student’s academic career may not be counted toward satisfying the 24/36-hour rule.

EXAMPLE: A student carried nine hours of new courses and three hours repeating a course in which he had earned a “D” or its equivalent. The student thereby meets the 12-hour enrollment rule for that term. However, since repeat courses may not be counted in meeting the 24/36-hour rule, this student can use only the nine hours of new courses to apply to the 24/36-hour rule. The student must have had a minimum of 15 hours passed the term before the current term to equal 24 hours and be eligible for the following term, or carry and pass 12 hours in addition to the repeat course.

Repeating a Required Course:

Case: We have a student who is required by institutional policy to repeat a course in which a grade of “D” was earned. While we understand the repeated course cannot be used to satisfy the 24 credit hour rule, may the repeat course be used to satisfy the 12-hour enrollment rule?

Approved Ruling: Yes. You are correct that the student who initially earned a grade of “D” or the equivalent may not count the repeated course to satisfy the 24/36 credit hour rule. A maximum of one course each term in which the student has previously earned a grade of “D” or equivalent may be counted toward satisfying the 12-hour enrollment rule.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION C, ITEM 13

Inter-term Identification:

Approved Ruling: A student attending a specific institution for the first time during an inter-term would become identified upon enrolling in at least three-fourths (or two-thirds if three-fourths is not appropriate) of the normal load and attending a class. Such students would be considered enrolled in the equivalent of 12 hours and, assuming all other applicable eligibility requirements are met, could represent the institution after being properly certified. Such students would not, however, be charged with a term of attendance for this inter-term session.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION C, ITEM 14

21 Days of Extension of Eligibility (except Graduation and 10 Semesters)

Approved Ruling: After the end of a term, an institution has 21 calendar days or until the first contest after the end of the term (whichever is later) to re-check the eligibility of all students who were certified as eligible for the term just ending. This applies only to students being re-certified. Students establishing eligibility for the second term must be certified prior to participation. During this 21-day period, all students who were eligible during the term just ended may continue

to represent their institution in intercollegiate athletics. Should a student continue to represent an institution after this 21-day period and not be re-certified, it shall be considered a violation. Further, students declared ineligible by the institution or conference shall lose eligibility immediately upon such declaration.

Eligibility Termination upon Completion of 10 Semesters:

Question: A student will complete the 10th semester of attendance on December 17 of this year. We have a tournament scheduled on December 27. May we apply the 21 days extension in order for the student to play in the tournament?

Approved Ruling: No. The 21 days extension period is to allow Registrars time to compile grades and re-certify eligibility. This is not applicable in this instance. Completion of 10 semesters of attendance terminates eligibility upon completion of the last class by the student (see "Extension of Sports Season" for exception).

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION C, ITEM 15

Late Enrollment:

Approved Ruling: A student completing enrollment after the date established and published by an institution for enrollment of regular full-time students must be withheld from all participation until establishing the full calendar weeks of residency. Competition may begin the 14th day after attending class.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION D, ITEM 2

Recognition of Credits

Question: Our term ends this Friday. A student waiting to establish eligibility (the 24/36 credit hour rule) will have passed 24/36 credit hours at the end of the term. Is this student eligible as soon as the grades are turned in by the professors?

Approved Ruling: When the grades are submitted in the normal manner to the registrar and are posted on the transcript and the student is properly certified, the student is then recognized as having the credits apply in meeting NCCAA regulations.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION D, ITEM 3

Trimesters, Not Attending Third Term:

Question: May a student participate in a spring sport during the third trimester although not enrolled?

Approved Ruling: Yes, if the student has completed 24 or more hours since the beginning of the current school year.

Trimesters, Attending Second and Third Terms:

Question: May a student attend only the second and third trimester and compete in spring sports?

Approved Ruling: Yes, if the student has passed at least 24 credit hours in the two previous terms attended and carries 12 or more hours during the term of participation.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION D, ITEM 5

Graduate/Second Baccalaureate Degree Students:

Approved Ruling: Students enrolled in a graduate program, a second baccalaureate program, a 5th year teacher education program, or continuing and completing a second major area of study may retain athletic eligibility within the NCCAA provided:

1. The student is returning to the same institution where the undergraduate degree was earned.

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2. The student has not completed 10 semesters, 12 trimesters, or 15 quarters of attendance.
 3. The student has not competed four seasons in the sport.

The Registrar must certify in writing to the Regional Chair that the above conditions have been met prior to participation of the student.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION E, ITEM 1

Eligibility Termination Upon Completion of 10 Semesters

Question: A student will complete the 10th semester of attendance on December 17 of this year. We have a tournament scheduled on December 27. May we apply the 21 days extension in order for the student to play in the tournament?

Approved Ruling: No. The 21 days extension period is to allow registrars time to compile grades and re-certify eligibility and this is not applicable in this instance. Completion of 10 semesters of attendance terminates eligibility upon completion of the last class by the student.

Counting Terms of Attendance (Semesters/Quarters/Trimesters):

Question: A student has transferred from a trimester or quarter institution to a semester (or the reverse, or combination). How does one calculate the number of terms of attendance?

Approved Ruling: All terms (not hours) are converted to the type of term used by the institution currently being attended. The terms are converted as follows:

- 1 semester = 1 1/2 quarters, 1 1/5 trimesters
- 1 quarter = 2/3 semester
- 1 trimester = 5/6 semester

NOTE: This conversion refers only to terms of attendance. Credit hours earned at a school are not converted but rather applied at face value.

Fraction of Terms:

Question: My total terms in both quarter and semester attendance add up to a fraction (9 1/3 semester terms). Am I eligible to participate if I have 2/3 of a term left?

Approved Ruling: Yes. Also, you are permitted to play out the entire term. However, if you have less than 1/2 a term remaining at the beginning of a term, you have completed your eligibility.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION E, ITEM 3

21 Days of Extension of Eligibility

Approved Ruling: After the end of a term, an institution has 21 calendar days, or until the first contest after the end of the term (whichever is later) to re-check the eligibility of all students who were certified as eligible for the term just ending. This applies only to students being re-certified. Students establishing eligibility for the second term must be certified prior to participation. During this 21 -day period, all students who were eligible during the term just ended may continue to represent their institution in intercollegiate athletics. Should a student continue to represent an institution after this 21 -day period and not be re-certified, it shall be considered a violation. Further, students declared ineligible by the institution or conference shall lose eligibility immediately upon such declaration.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION F, ITEM 3

Student Withdrawal Who Later Returns to Same Institution:

Case: A student becomes identified with an institution on September 5, the official opening date of classes as stated in the college catalog, and withdraws passing on September 28 because of illness or accident (23 days of attendance) and returns the following term to the same institution.

Approved Ruling: Because the student did not officially withdraw from college within 21 days following the official opening day of classes, a term of attendance will be charged. An institution may request an exceptional ruling regarding the 9/24/36 credit hour rule provided the withdrawal was medically documented, but the term will be charged.

Student Withdrawal Who Later Returns to Same Institution:

Case: A student becomes identified with an institution where classes officially open on September 13. The student then withdraws on October 4 and later returns to the same institution.

Approved Ruling: Because the 21 day rule begins the day following the official opening date of class (September 14 would be the first day), the student's 21st day would be on October 4 and a term of attendance would not be charged in this instance. However, if participation in a game takes place during this time, the student would be charged with a season of participation. NOTE: This only applies to students returning to the same institution.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION, F, ITEM 5

Student Withdrawal and Transfer:

Case: A student becomes identified with an institution where classes officially begin on September 13. The student withdraws October 4 or sooner and transfers to another institution.

Approved Ruling: Although the student withdrew within 21 days following the official opening date of classes, the 21-day rule would not apply because the student transferred to another institution. The student is charged with a term of attendance and zero hours credit at the first institution and must abide by the transfer rule, and the 24/36-hour rule. Upon completion of enrollment at the second institution, the student will be charged with a second term of attendance.

Withdrawal and Transfer

Question: A prospective student enrolled for 12 credit hours at an institution this past fall and withdrew after attending classes for seven days. In that the student withdrew within the drop period established by the institution, the institution does not consider the student as having been identified. Since our institution will treat this student as an incoming freshman, will the student be eligible upon enrolling in 12 credit hours this spring and attending one class?

Approved Ruling: No. While the student is recognized academically as an incoming freshman, the student must be treated athletically as a second term freshman. The student would be charged with one term and zero credit hours for enrolling and attending any class prior to withdrawing. This student would be required to earn 9 credit hours prior to the spring term, before becoming eligible.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION F, ITEM 6

Transfer, Suspension:

Question: A student has enrolled at our institution and was admitted in good standing. The student had been placed on suspension at the previous institution. In that our institution has admitted the student in good standing, does the previous suspension affect eligibility within the NCCAA?

Approved Ruling: Yes. The student must establish two full semesters (or the equivalent) at your institution or wait until the suspension period at the previous institution has been terminated before becoming eligible.

EXCEPTION: A transfer student who has been suspended (or its equivalent) for failure to meet institutional academic requirements, but still meeting NCCAA eligibility requirements, shall not be subject to this restriction provided the student has not participated in intercollegiate athletics at any collegiate institution for one full calendar year after suspension from the original institution.

Suspension within Previous Athletic Department

Question: A student has enrolled at our institution and was admitted in good standing. The student was placed on suspension by the previous institution's athletic department. In that our institution has admitted the student in good standing, does the previous suspension for violating athletic department policies affect eligibility within the NCCAA?

Approved Ruling: Yes. The student must establish two full semesters (or the equivalent) at your institution or until the institutional suspension policy at the suspending institution has been terminated, whichever is shorter. The residency of two semesters is still required if the student was allowed to attend the previous institution after the athletic department policy suspension. However, violation of team/coach's rules is not considered the same as institutional athletic department policies.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION F, ITEM 10

Participation at Different Institutions During Same Season/Transfer:

Question: A student participates in a given sport (basketball, fall tennis, etc.) during the first term of an academic school year. The student then transfers to an NCCAA member institution for a second term. May the student represent the institution in the same given sport during the second term?

Approved Ruling: Yes, if the student is otherwise eligible. Such a student would, however, be charged with two seasons of competition in the same academic year if the student is charged a season of competition by the first institution and charged a season of competition by the NCCAA institution.

Junior College Graduate Competing for Two Different Institutions, Same School Year

Approved Ruling: A junior college graduate who competed at the junior college and then transfers to a member institution during the same sport season and is otherwise eligible shall be charged only one season of competition in a sport for representing two different institutions in the same sport during an academic year.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION G, ITEM 1

Discontinued Institution and Transfer:

Question: If an institution discontinues operation, what is the eligibility status of an athlete from that institution if and when the student transfers to an NCCAA institution?

Approved Ruling: The 16 weeks residency requirement is waived for such a student, provided the student transfers within one calendar year of the discontinuance of that institution.

Discontinued Sport and Transfer:

Question: When a college or university drops a sport, may a student who participates in that sport transfer from that institution to another without having to satisfy the transfer rule?

Approved Ruling: Yes, provided the student satisfies all other eligibility requirements and transfers within the first two full terms after the institution announces the discontinuance of that sport and provided the institution does not announce reinstatement of that sport while the student is still attending the institution.

Institution Offering Associate and Baccalaureate Degrees

Case: A student receives an associate degree from an institution that offers a four-year degree. Upon receiving the associate degree, can the student transfer to an NCCAA institution and have the 16 week residency requirement waived?

Approved Ruling: No. The student is identified with the four-year institution athletically even though the student was in the two-year program. The 16 week residency requirement shall apply as applicable.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION G, ITEM 2

16 Week Residency/Quarter System

Question: A student transfers to an institution employing the quarter system at the start of the 12 calendar weeks spring quarter. Assuming this student must meet the 16 weeks residency requirement, when would this regulation be met?

Approved Ruling: The day following the end of the 16th week of residence.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION G, ITEM 3

Establishing Eligibility After the Close of the Regular Season:

Question: A student completes the 16 weeks transfer residency period and otherwise satisfies the academic requirement after the close of the regular sport season of the institution. May the student compete in NCCAA postseason competition that starts after this date?

Approved Ruling: No. The student must have been eligible during the regular season to be eligible for NCCAA postseason competition. The student is eligible for the next term of attendance.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION I

Military Service:

Approved Ruling: This exception automatically excuses a veteran from the application of all entrance requirements (freshman rule, residency rule, 24/36 credit hour rule, progress rule) and makes the veteran eligible immediately upon registration as a regular student carrying 12 or more credit hours.

The Regional Chair must be furnished with a copy of the student's discharge papers in order for a student to be certified under this exception.

Students using this exception shall be charged with terms of attendance and seasons of competition for terms and seasons used prior to entry into the military service.

To be eligible during the second term after re-entering college, the student (veteran) may use EITHER of two options:

1. Satisfying the regular 24/36-hour rule as it applies to the last term before entering service and the first term after returning.

OR

2. Passing nine credit hours in the first term after returning and being accepted as a student in good standing. (The last term before entering service would not apply under this option.)

Military Service Duration to Apply Exception:

Approved Ruling: The application of the Military Service Exception is limited to the first two full semesters/trimesters or first three full quarters following release from active duty.

Question: I was released from active duty in April 2003. I did not enroll in college in either the 2003 fall term or the 2004 spring term. I plan to enroll in the 2004 fall term. May I apply the Military Service Exception Rule?

Approved Ruling: No. You have exceeded the duration of application of the Military Service Exception and are entitled to no part of the exception.

Military Service Application to One Institution:

Approved Ruling: The Military Service Exception can be applied at one institution only. Upon transfer to a second institution all provisions of ARTICLE V apply.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION J, ITEM 1

Submitting Eligibility Certificates:

Approved Ruling: Your institution must certify the eligibility status of each student-athlete before the student-athlete participates in any intercollegiate contest. The Official Eligibility Certificate must be sent to your Regional Chair before competition is allowed. Students competing prior to submitting the Official Eligibility Certificate are participating ineligible. Penalties for delinquent filing are severe.

Certification of Scrimmage

Case: Must a student be certified as eligible to participate in a scrimmage or exhibition contest with teams outside the institution?

Approved Ruling: Eligibility certification is required for all students before representing their institution in any manner (scrimmages or intercollegiate) against competitors not directly identified with the institution in any sport recognized by the NCCAA. Your institution must mail (postmarked) eligibility certification to your Eligibility Chair prior to participation.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION J, ITEM 2

21 Days of Extension of Eligibility (Recertification)

Approved Ruling: After the end of a term, an institution has 21 calendar days or until the first contest after the end of the term (whichever is later) to re-check the eligibility of all students who were certified as eligible for the term just ending. This applies only to students being re-certified. Students establishing eligibility for the second term must be certified prior to participation. During this 21-day period, all students who were eligible during the term just ended may continue to represent their institution in intercollegiate athletics. Should a student continue to represent an institution after this 21 day period and not be re-certified, it shall be considered a violation. Further, students declared ineligible by the institution or conference shall lose eligibility immediately upon such declaration.

Attachment of Inter-term to First Term, Ineligible Student

Approved Ruling: A student who is academically ineligible at the start of the fall term cannot become eligible until the end of the inter-term. The institution has extended the first term through the inter-term by taking this option.

Even though a student may have passed enough hours at the end of the first academic term, that student would not be eligible for participation until the end of the extended term, which would be the end of the inter-term. Conversely, a student who is eligible at the beginning of the fall academic term cannot lose academic eligibility until the close of the inter-term.

Attachment of Inter-term to First Term, Ineligible Student:

Question: Our institution has declared its inter-term as part of the first term. We have a student who was not eligible during the fall term due to the 24/36 credit hour rule. At the close of our normal fall term, the student earned 14 credit hours and, combined with the credit hours earned last spring, the student now has 24 credit hours earned during the past two terms. Is this student eligible?

Approved Ruling: No. By institutional choice, your institution elected to attach the first term to the inter-term. For athletic eligibility certification, your institution's fall term does not end until the close of the interterm. In that your fall term does not close until four more weeks, and in that students cannot re-establish eligibility during a term, the student will not be certified as eligible until the completion of the inter-term and the recording of grades on the transcript.

Attachment of Inter-term to First Term, Eligible Student:

Approved Ruling: A student who would appear not to be academically eligible at the end of the "regular" term would still remain eligible until the end of the inter-term because the inter-term is part of the extended first term. Eligibility would not be checked until the end of the inter-term for determining eligibility. A first-term freshman enrolled in 12

credit hours would still remain eligible through the inter-term. At the end of the inter-term, eligibility would be checked, and at that time the student must have passed nine hours to remain eligible for the spring term.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION K

Request for an Eligibility Ruling:

Case: We have a student wanting to participate this weekend but there is some concern about the student's eligibility status as expressed by our Faculty Athletics Representative. Due to the lack of time, may our institution call the Regional Chair, a member of the National Eligibility Committee, or the National Office for a telephone ruling?

Approved Ruling: No. Neither the Regional Chair nor the National Office can rule on an eligibility case. The National Eligibility Committee is the only body designated within the Association that may rule on eligibility cases, and such rulings will be made only after receipt and review of all information pertaining to the case.

The Faculty Athletics Representative of each member institution is charged with the responsibility of certifying that a student has complied with all regulations established by the membership. While the Faculty Athletics Representative relies heavily upon the information received from the Registrar and, to some extent, the Athletics Director and coach, the final decision is that of the Faculty Athletics Representative.

The request for clarification of a specific rule may be requested by telephone from your Regional Chair, but the clarification shall apply only to the specific rule. The final determination with regard to eligibility status of an individual again rests with the institutional Faculty Athletics Representative.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION M, ITEM 1

Hardship—Contests against the Hardship Limit

Case: A student plays in six basketball games and discontinues participation because of illness or accident.

Approved Ruling: The student is charged with a season of competition in basketball in that the participation limit for basketball is five contests. Each sport has specific limitations and these are absolute.

NOTE: As an exceptional ruling, scrimmages shall not apply to the limitation of contests but must be listed on the hardship request and noted as a scrimmage. However, exhibitions are to be included when determining the number of contests participated in when processing medical hardship requests.

Hardship and Exceptional Ruling:

Question: If the hardship appeal is granted, does the term of attendance in which the student dropped out of school count as a term? What if no credits were earned during this term due to the student dropping out?

Approved Ruling: Yes, the term during which the student dropped out of college counts as a term of attendance, regardless of whether the credit is earned, unless the student withdraws within 21 days following the official opening date of classes and returns to the same institution. Since the term counts, the student must meet all regulations of the NCCAA before being eligible again for participation. If the withdrawal is medically supported, the institution may request an exceptional ruling, in addition to hardship, to not apply the term of withdrawal to meet the 24/36 institutional credit hour rule upon the student's return.

Hardship, Identification of a Transfer:

Question: Should a student receive an NCCAA hardship, may the student transfer and receive an automatic waiver of the 16-week residency requirement?

Approved Ruling: No. The student in this case did represent the previous four-year institution. While the hardship approval does waive the contests for the previous season with regard to applying the season as one of the four seasons allotted, the student is still considered to have competed.

Hardship, Transfer With No Previously-Approved Hardship:

Approved Ruling: Students transferring from non-member institution to a member institution who would qualify for NCCAA hardship consideration will have their requests honored for processing IF the requests are fully documented and include the appropriate verification from the previous institution.

Hardship – NJCAA:

Question: Does the NCCAA honor the rulings of hardship cases approved by the NJCAA?

Approved Ruling: No. The NCCAA does not honor hardship rulings approved by the NJCAA. Individual cases, which meet NCCAA standards and are well documented, may be submitted for consideration by the National Eligibility Committee.

Hardship – NCAA:

Question: Does the NCCAA honor the rulings on hardship cases approved by the NCAA?

Approved Ruling: NCAA-approved hardships are automatically honored by the NCCAA. They must be submitted to the National Eligibility Committee and meet the criteria for approval established by the NCCAA.

Hardship – NAIA:

Question: Does the NCCAA honor the rulings on hardship cases approved by the NAIA?

Approved Ruling: NAIA-approved hardships are automatically honored by the NCCAA. They must be submitted to the National Eligibility Committee and meet the criteria for approval established by the NCCAA.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION M, ITEM 2(b)

Scrimmage Contests for Hardship Requests:

Approved Ruling: Scrimmages shall not be included in the number of contests or dates established for hardship requests, but they must be listed on the hardship request and noted as a scrimmage.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION N

Competition Against Professional

Question: Is it permissible within NAIA eligibility rules for a student to compete on a collegiate team against a professional team?

Approved Ruling: Yes, if the game is under the sponsorship or has written approval of the NCCAA or of the sport's governing body. No, if the game does not have the approval of the NCCAA.

Playing with Players Having Lost Amateur Standing

Question: May a student compete on a non-professional team where some players are receiving compensation in excess of travels, meals and lodging?

Approved Ruling: Yes, provided the team is not considered professional in any manner and the student in question receives no more than actual expenses for travel, meals, and lodging. Such expenses must be documented and itemized.

Officiating/Coaching

Approved Ruling: A student may coach or officiate at the amateur, recreational or interscholastic level for reasonable compensation. A student may coach at the intercollegiate level as long as compensation (if any) meets the criteria set forth in the NCCAA Handbook and as compensation is institutionally controlled, must be included in the year-end report

as institutionally-related financial aid. The student may belong to an official's association without prejudice to amateur standing.

Employment of Students

Case: May an athlete be employed in a position where athletics skill is utilized without jeopardizing eligibility?

Approved Ruling: With certain restrictions, employment in areas such as summer camps, recreation programs, Municipal centers, or private clubs will not jeopardize an athlete's eligibility. Students may solicit and be paid a reasonable amount on a lesson basis or wages must be paid on a fixed hourly, weekly, or monthly basis that is commensurate with overall job requirements. Students may not endorse or promote for remuneration, in money or in kind, any commercial venture or product.

ELIGIBILITY, SECTION N #2 AND #4

Tryouts at Professional Camps

Approved Ruling: Attendance at a professional camp to participate in a tryout is not a violation of amateur standing in the NCCAA if there is a) no contract (player or agent); b) no financial payment (may be housed and fed); c) no participation against other teams.

Semi-Professional Teams

Question: We have a student who has signed an agreement to play for a semi-professional soccer team. Although this team bills itself as "semi-professional", none of the players receive more than actual expenses of travel, meals, and lodging. Has the student lost amateur standing?

Approved Ruling: Yes, because the team includes the word "professional" in its advertising. The student is considered to have signed an agreement with a professional team.