

## BYLAW, ARTICLE 12

# Amateurism and Athletics Eligibility

## 12.01 General Principles.

**12.01.1 Eligibility for Intercollegiate Athletics.** Only an amateur student-athlete is eligible for intercollegiate athletics participation in a particular sport.

**12.01.2 Clear Line of Demarcation.** Member institutions' athletics programs are designed to be an integral part of the educational program. The student-athlete is considered an integral part of the student body, thus maintaining a clear line of demarcation between college athletics and professional sports.

**12.01.3 "Individual" vs. "Student-Athlete."** NCAA amateur status may be lost as a result of activities prior to enrollment in college. If NCAA rules specify that an "individual" may or may not participate in certain activities, this term refers to a person prior to and after enrollment in a member institution. If NCAA rules specify a "student-athlete," the legislation applies only to that person's activities after enrollment.

**12.01.4 Permissible Grant-in-Aid.** A grant-in-aid administered by an educational institution is not considered to be pay or the promise of pay for athletics skill, provided it does not exceed the financial aid limitations set by the Association's membership.

## 12.02 Definitions and Applications.

**12.02.1 Agent. [A]** An agent is any individual who, directly or indirectly: *(Adopted: 1/14/12)*

- (a) Represents or attempts to represent an individual for the purpose of marketing his or her athletics ability or reputation for financial gain; or
- (b) Seeks to obtain any type of financial gain or benefit from securing a prospective student-athlete's enrollment at an educational institution or from a student-athlete's potential earnings as a professional athlete.

**12.02.1.1 Application. [A]** An agent may include, but is not limited to, a certified contract advisor, financial advisor, marketing representative, brand manager or anyone who is employed or associated with such persons. *(Adopted: 1/14/12)*

**12.02.2 Actual and Necessary Expenses.** Actual and necessary expenses are limited to: *(Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)*

- (a) Meals;
- (b) Lodging;
- (c) Apparel, equipment and supplies;
- (d) Coaching and instruction;
- (e) Health/medical insurance;
- (f) Transportation (expenses to and from practice and competition, cost of transportation from home to training/practice site at the beginning of the season/preparation for an event and from training/practice/event site to home at the end of season/event);
- (g) Medical treatment and physical therapy;
- (h) Facility usage;
- (i) Entry fees; and
- (j) Other reasonable expenses.

**12.02.2.1 Application** Unless otherwise permitted by the NCAA constitution or bylaws, actual and necessary expenses may be provided only if such expenses are for competition on a team or in a specific event or for practice that is directly related to such competition. The value of such expenses must be commensurate with the fair market value of similar goods and services in the locality in which the expenses are provided and must not be excessive in nature. Actual and necessary expenses shall not include the expenses or fees of anyone other than the individual who participates as a member of the team or in a specific event. *(Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)*

**12.02.3 Calculation of Actual and Necessary Expenses—Individual Sports.** In individual sports, the calculation of an individual's actual and necessary expenses shall be based on expenses incurred during each calendar year (January—December), rather than on an event-by-event basis. *(Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)*

**12.02.4 Family Member.** A family member is an individual with any of the following relationships to the prospective student-athlete: spouse, parent or legal guardian, child, sibling, grandparent, domestic partner or any individual whose close association with the prospective student-athlete is the practical equivalent of a family relationship. *(Adopted: 4/25/18)*

**12.02.5 Individual.** An individual, for purposes of this bylaw, is any person of any age without reference to enrollment in an educational institution or status as a student-athlete.

**12.02.6 Intercollegiate Competition.** Intercollegiate competition is considered to have occurred when a student-athlete in either a two-year or a four-year collegiate institution does any of the following: *(Revised: 1/10/91, 1/16/93, 1/11/94, 1/10/95, 1/9/06)*

- (a) Represents the institution in any contest against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified (e.g., scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice session with another institution's team) or whether the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies;
- (b) Competes in the uniform of the institution, or, during the academic year, uses any apparel (excluding apparel no longer used by the institution) received from the institution that includes institutional identification; or
- (c) Competes and receives expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, room or entry fees) from the institution for the competition.

**12.02.6.1 Exempted Events.** Participation in events listed in Bylaw 16.8.1.2 is exempted from the application of this legislation. *(Revised: 1/10/92)*

**12.02.6.2 Participation on an Institution's Club Team.** Participation on a collegiate institution's club team is exempted from the application of this legislation, provided the institution did not sponsor the sport on the varsity intercollegiate level at the time of participation. *(Adopted: 6/24/09)*

**12.02.7 Limited Benefit—Prior to Initial Full-Time Enrollment at an NCAA Institution—Expenses from a Permissible Source.** Prior to initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA institution, if an individual receives expenses from a permissible source (e.g., event sponsor, club team) that exceed his or her actual and necessary expenses by \$300 or less, the eligibility of the individual shall not be affected. *(Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)*

**12.02.8 Limited Benefit—Enrolled Student-Athlete—Expenses from a Permissible Source.** If a student-athlete engages in permissible outside competition and receives expenses from a permissible source (e.g., event sponsor, club team) that exceed his or her actual and necessary expenses by \$300 or less, the eligibility of the student-athlete shall not be affected and the institution is not required to submit a self-report of the infraction. *(Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)*

**12.02.9 Organized Competition.** Athletics competition shall be considered organized if any of the following conditions exists: *(Adopted: 7/31/14)*

- (a) Competition is scheduled and publicized in advance;
- (b) Official score is kept;
- (c) Individual or team standings are maintained;
- (d) Official timer or game officials are used;
- (e) Admission is charged;
- (f) Teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined;
- (g) Team uniforms are used;
- (h) A team is privately or commercially sponsored; or
- (i) The competition is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, an organization or any other agency.

**12.02.10 Pay.** Pay is the receipt of funds, awards or benefits not permitted by the governing legislation of the Association for participation in athletics.

**12.02.11 Professional Athlete.** A professional athlete is one who receives any kind of payment, directly or indirectly, for athletics participation except as permitted by the governing legislation of the Association.

**12.02.12 Professional Athletics Team.** A professional team is any organized team that: *(Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 8/8/02, 4/23/03, 4/24/04, 10/28/04)*

- (a) Provides any of its players more than actual and necessary expenses for participation on the team, except as otherwise permitted by NCAA legislation. Actual and necessary expenses are limited to the items listed in Bylaw 12.02.2, provided the value of these items is commensurate with the fair market value in the locality of the player(s) and is not excessive in nature; or
- (b) Declares itself to be professional.

**12.02.13 Religious Mission, Official.** An official religious mission is one that is established by the religious organization of which the individual is a member and that results in the individual being unable to attend a collegiate institution during the period of the mission. *(Revised: 1/9/06, 4/2/10)*

**12.02.14 Student-Athlete.** A student-athlete is a student whose enrollment was solicited by a member of the athletics staff or other representative of athletics interests with a view toward the student's ultimate participation in the intercollegiate athletics program. Any other student becomes a student-athlete only when the student reports for an intercollegiate squad that is under the jurisdiction of the athletics department, as specified in Constitution 3.2.4.5. A student is not deemed a student-athlete solely on the basis of prior high school athletics participation.

**12.02.15 Triathlon and Cross Country, Track and Field and Swimming.** Triathlon and cross country are considered the same sport, triathlon and track and field are considered the same sport, and triathlon and swimming are considered the same sport for purposes of Bylaw 12.1, 12.2, 12.3 and 12.8.3.2. *(Adopted: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/14)*

**12.02.16 Volleyball and Beach Volleyball.** Volleyball and beach volleyball are considered the same sport for the purposes of Bylaws 12.1, 12.2, 12.3 and 12.8.3.2. *(Adopted: 8/26/10, Revised: 7/31/14)*

## 12.1 General Regulations.

An individual must comply with the following to retain amateur status. (See Bylaw 12.12 regarding the eligibility restoration process.)

**12.1.1 Validity of Amateur Status.** As a condition and obligation of membership, it is the responsibility of an institution to determine the validity of the information on which the amateur status of a prospective student-athlete (including two-year and four-year college transfers initially enrolling at an NCAA Division I institution) and student-athlete is based. (See Bylaw 14.01.3.) *(Adopted: 1/9/06 effective 8/1/06 for all final certifications for student-athletes initially enrolling at a Division I or Division II institution on or after 8/1/07, Revised: 1/8/07, 4/30/07)*

**12.1.1.1 Amateurism Certification Process.** An institution shall use an initial eligibility center approved by the Board of Governors to determine the validity of the information on which the amateur status of a student-athlete is based. *(Adopted: 1/9/06 effective 8/1/06 for final certifications for student-athletes initially enrolling at a Division I or Division II institution on or after 8/1/07, Revised: 4/30/07, 10/30/14)*

**12.1.1.1.1 Scope.** The certification of amateur status issued by the NCAA Eligibility Center is limited to activities that occur prior to a prospective student-athlete's request for final amateurism certification or his or her initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I or II institution, whichever occurs earlier. *(Adopted: 4/30/07)*

**12.1.1.1.2 Institutional Responsibilities.**

**12.1.1.1.2.1 Amateur Status After Certification.** An institution is responsible for certifying the amateur status of a prospective student-athlete (including two-year and four-year college transfers initially enrolling at an NCAA Division I institution) from the time he or she requests that a final certification be issued by the NCAA Eligibility Center or from the time he or she initially enrolls as a full-time student at an NCAA Division I or II institution (whichever occurs earlier). *(Adopted: 4/30/07)*

**12.1.1.1.2.2 Sharing Information and Reporting Discrepancies.** If an institution receives additional information or otherwise has cause to believe that a prospective student-athlete's amateur status has been jeopardized, the institution is responsible for promptly notifying the NCAA Eligibility Center of such information. Further, an institution is responsible for promptly reporting to the NCAA Eligibility Center all discrepancies in information related to a student-athlete's amateurism certification. *(Adopted: 4/30/07)*

**12.1.1.1.3 Eligibility for Practice or Competition.** Prior to engaging in practice or competition, a student-athlete shall receive a final certification of amateur status based on activities that occur prior to his or her request for final certification or initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I or II institution (whichever occurs earlier). *(Adopted: 4/30/07)*

**12.1.1.1.3.1 Temporary Certification.** If a prospective student-athlete reports for athletics participation before the student's amateur status has been certified, the student may practice, but not compete, for a maximum period of 45 days. After this period, the student shall have his or her amateur status certified to continue to practice or to compete. *(Adopted: 1/9/06 effective 8/1/06 for all final certifications for student-athletes initially enrolling at a Division I or Division II institution on or after 8/1/07, Revised: 11/29/09)*

**12.1.1.1.3.2 Effect of Violations.** A violation of Bylaw 12.1.1.1.3 or Bylaw 12.1.1.1.3.1 in which the student-athlete is subsequently certified without conditions shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1 but shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility. *(Adopted: 10/29/15)*

**12.1.1.1.4 Eligibility for Practice After a Final Not-Certified Certification.** After a final not-certified certification is rendered, a student-athlete may continue to engage in practice activities, provided the institution has submitted a notice of appeal. At the point in which all appeal opportunities have been exhausted and no eligibility has been granted, the student-athlete may no longer participate in practice activities. *(Adopted: 3/21/07)*

**12.1.2 Amateur Status.** An individual loses amateur status and thus shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition in a particular sport if the individual: *(Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 4/23/03 effective 8/1/03, 4/29/10 effective 8/1/10)*

- (a) Uses his or her athletics skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport;
- (b) Accepts a promise of pay even if such pay is to be received following completion of intercollegiate athletics participation;

- (c) Signs a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any consideration received, except as permitted in Bylaw 12.2.5.1;
- (d) Receives, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization based on athletics skill or participation, except as permitted by NCAA rules and regulations;
- (e) Competes on any professional athletics team per Bylaw 12.02.12, even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received, except as permitted in Bylaw 12.2.3.2.1;
- (f) After initial full-time collegiate enrollment, enters into a professional draft (see Bylaw 12.2.4); or
- (g) Enters into an agreement with an agent.

**12.1.2.1 Prohibited Forms of Pay.** “Pay,” as used in Bylaw 12.1.2 above, includes, but is not limited to, the following:

**12.1.2.1.1 Salary, Gratuity or Compensation.** Any direct or indirect salary, gratuity or comparable compensation.

**12.1.2.1.2 Division or Split of Surplus.** Any division or split of surplus (bonuses, game receipts, etc.).

**12.1.2.1.3 Educational Expenses.** Educational expenses not permitted by the governing legislation of this Association (see Bylaw 15 regarding permissible financial aid to enrolled student-athletes).

**12.1.2.1.3.1 Educational Expenses or Services—Prior to Collegiate Enrollment.** A prospective student-athlete may receive educational expenses or services (e.g., tuition, fees, room and board, books, tutoring, standardized test preparatory classes) prior to collegiate enrollment from any individual or entity other than an agent, professional sports team/organization, member institution or a representative of an institution’s athletics interests, provided the payment for such expenses or services is disbursed directly to the individual, organization or educational institution (e.g., high school, preparatory school) providing the educational expense or service. *(Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 1/14/08)*

**12.1.2.1.3.2 Educational Expenses From Outside Sports Team or Organization—After Collegiate Enrollment.** Educational expenses provided to an individual after initial collegiate enrollment by an outside sports team or organization that are based on any degree on the recipient’s athletics ability [except for financial aid that is received from a team or organization that conducts a competitive sports program by an individual who is not a member of that team or organization (see Bylaw 15.2.6.3)], even if the funds are given to the institution to administer to the recipient. *(Revised: 1/10/95, 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 1/15/11 effective 8/1/11, 8/18/11)*

**12.1.2.1.3.2.1 Educational Expenses—Olympic Committee.** A student-athlete may receive educational expenses awarded by the U.S. Olympic Committee (or for international student-athletes, expenses awarded by the equivalent organization of a foreign country) pursuant to the applicable conditions set forth in Bylaw 15.2.6.4. *(Adopted: 4/15/97, Revised: 11/1/00, 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02)*

**12.1.2.1.3.2.2 Educational Expenses—National Governing Body.** A student-athlete may receive educational expenses awarded by a U.S. national governing body (or, for international student-athletes, expenses awarded by the equivalent organization of a foreign country) pursuant to the applicable conditions set forth in Bylaw 15.2.6.4. *(Adopted: 10/28/97 effective 8/1/98, Revised: 11/1/00, 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02)*

**12.1.2.1.4 Expenses, Awards and Benefits.** Excessive or improper expenses, awards and benefits.

**12.1.2.1.4.1 Cash or Equivalent Award.** Cash, or the equivalent thereof (e.g., trust fund), as an award for participation in competition at any time, even if such an award is permitted under the rules governing an amateur, noncollegiate event in which the individual is participating. An award or a cash prize that an individual could not receive under NCAA legislation may not be forwarded in the individual’s name to a different individual or agency. *(Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02)*

**12.1.2.1.4.1.1 Exception—Prospective Student-Athlete’s Educational Institution.** A financial award may be provided to a prospective student-athlete’s educational institution in conjunction with the prospective student-athlete being recognized as part of an awards program in which athletics participation, interests or ability is a criterion, but not the sole criterion, in the selection process. Such an award must also include nonathletics criteria, such as the prospective student-athlete’s academic record and nonathletics extracurricular activities and may not be based on the prospective student-athlete’s place finish or performance in a particular athletics event. In addition, it is permissible for an outside organization (other than a professional sports organization) to provide actual and necessary expenses for the prospective student-athlete (and the prospective student-athlete’s family members) to travel to a recognition event designed to recognize the prospective student-athlete’s accomplishments in conjunction with his or her selection as the recipient of a regional, national or international award. *(Adopted: 10/28/99, Revised: 4/25/18)*

**12.1.2.1.4.1.2 Operation Gold Grant.** An individual (prospective student-athlete or student-athlete) may accept funds that are administered by the U.S. Olympic Committee pursuant to its Operation Gold program. (*Adopted: 4/26/01 effective 8/1/01*)

**12.1.2.1.4.1.3 Incentive Programs for International Athletes.** An international prospective student-athlete or international student-athlete may accept funds from his or her country's national Olympic governing body (equivalent to the U.S. Olympic Committee) based on place finish in one event per year that is designated as the highest level of international competition for the year by the governing body. (*Adopted: 1/17/15 effective 8/1/15*)

**12.1.2.1.4.2 Expenses/Awards Prohibited by Rules Governing Event.** Expenses incurred or awards received by an individual that are prohibited by the rules governing an amateur, noncollegiate event in which the individual participates.

**12.1.2.1.4.3 Expenses from an Outside Sponsor.** An individual who participates in a sport as a member of a team may receive actual and necessary expenses for competition and practice held in preparation for such competition (directly related to the competition and conducted during a continuous time period preceding the competition) from an outside sponsor (e.g., team, neighbor, business) other than an agent or a representative of an institution's athletics interests (and, after initial full-time collegiate enrollment, other than a professional sports organization). An individual who participates in a sport as an individual (not a member of a team) may receive actual and necessary expenses associated with an athletics event and practice immediately preceding the event, from an outside sponsor (e.g., neighbor, business) other than an agent or a representative of an institution's athletics interests (and, after initial full-time collegiate enrollment, other than a professional sports organization). (*Revised: 8/26/10, 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13, 11/7/13*)

**12.1.2.1.4.3.1 Expenses Prior to Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment—Professional Sports Organization.** Prior to full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may accept up to actual and necessary expenses for competition and practice held in preparation for such competition from a professional sports organization that sponsors the event. (*Adopted: 10/16/12*)

**12.1.2.1.4.3.2 Expenses/Benefits Related to Olympic Games.** Members of an Olympic team may receive all nonmonetary benefits and awards provided to members of an Olympic team beyond actual and necessary expenses and any other item or service for which it can be demonstrated that the same benefit is available to all members of that nation's Olympic team or the specific sport Olympic team. (*Adopted: 11/1/00, Revised: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13*)

**12.1.2.1.4.4 Expenses for Family Members of Participants in Athletics Competition.** Expenses received by the family members of a participant in athletics competition from a nonprofessional organization sponsoring the competition in excess of actual and necessary travel, room and board expenses, or any entertainment expenses, unless such expenses are made available to the family members of all participants in the competition. (*Adopted: 1/16/93, Revised: 1/11/97, 4/25/18*)

**12.1.2.1.4.4.1 Postseason Bowl Event. [FBS]** On one occasion per year, a student-athlete may designate either additional individuals or substitutes (not to exceed a total of six individuals) to receive entertainment expenses related to an event organized by the nonprofessional sponsor of a postseason bowl game specifically for the family members of student-athletes participating in the postseason bowl. The additional individuals or substitutes designated by the student-athlete shall be subject to the review and approval of the institution's athletics director, or his or her designee. (*Adopted: 4/29/04 effective 8/1/04, Revised: 4/25/18*)

**12.1.2.1.5 Payment Based on Performance.** Any payment conditioned on the individual's or team's place finish or performance or given on an incentive basis that exceeds actual and necessary expenses, or receipt of expenses in excess of the same reasonable amount for permissible expenses given to all individuals or team members involved in the competition. (*Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13*)

**12.1.2.1.5.1 Operation Gold Grant.** An individual (prospective student-athlete or student-athlete) may accept funds that are administered by the U.S. Olympic Committee pursuant to its Operation Gold program. (*Adopted: 4/26/01*)

**12.1.2.1.5.2 Incentive Programs for International Athletes.** An international prospective student-athlete or international student-athlete may accept funds from his or her country's national Olympic governing body (equivalent to the U.S. Olympic Committee) based on place finish in one event per year that is designated as the highest level of international competition for the year by the governing body. (*Adopted: 1/17/15 effective 8/1/15*)

**12.1.2.1.5.3 Awards Based on Performance in Outside Competition.** An individual may receive an award (e.g., trophy, medal, saddle) based on place finish or performance in outside competition, subject to the applicable awards limits (see Bylaw 16.1). (*Adopted: 8/26/10*)

**12.1.2.1.6 Preferential Treatment, Benefits or Services.** Preferential treatment, benefits or services because of the individual's athletics reputation or skill or pay-back potential as a professional athlete, unless

such treatment, benefits or services are specifically permitted under NCAA legislation. [R] (Revised: 1/11/94, 1/14/08)

**12.1.2.1.7 Prize for Participation in Institution's Promotional Activity.** Receipt of a prize for participation (involving the use of athletics ability) in a member institution's promotional activity that is inconsistent with the provisions of Bylaw 12.5 or approved official interpretations. (Revised: 11/1/07 effective 8/1/08)

**12.1.2.2 Use of Overall Athletics Skill—Effect on Eligibility.** Participation for pay in competition that involves the use of overall athletics skill (e.g., “superstars” competition) constitutes a violation of the Association's amateur-status regulations; therefore, an individual participating for pay in such competition is ineligible for intercollegiate competition in all sports. (See Bylaw 12.5.2.3.3 for exception related to promotional contests.) (Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02)

**12.1.2.3 Road Racing.** “Road racing” is essentially the same as cross country or track and field competition and cannot be separated effectively from those sports for purposes of Bylaws 12.1, 12.2 and 12.8.3.2. Therefore, a student-athlete who accepts pay in any form for participation in such a race is ineligible for intercollegiate cross country or track and field competition. (Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02)

**12.1.2.4 Exceptions to Amateurism Rule.**

**12.1.2.4.1 Exception for Prize Money Based on Performance—Sports Other Than Tennis.** In sports other than tennis, an individual may accept prize money based on his or her place finish or performance in an athletics event. Such prize money may not exceed actual and necessary expenses and may be provided only by the sponsor of the event. The calculation of actual and necessary expenses shall not include the expenses or fees of anyone other than the individual (e.g., coach's fees or expenses, family member's expenses). (Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 12/12/06 applicable to any expenses received by a prospective student-athlete on or after 8/23/06, 4/26/12, 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13, 4/25/18)

**12.1.2.4.2 Exception for Prize Money—Tennis.**

**12.1.2.4.2.1 Prior to Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment.** In tennis, prior to full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may accept up to \$10,000 per calendar year in prize money based on his or her place finish or performance in athletics events. Such prize money may be provided only by the sponsor of an event in which the individual participates. Once the individual has accepted \$10,000 in prize money in a particular year, he or she may receive additional prize money on a per-event basis, provided such prize money does not exceed the individual's actual and necessary expenses for participation in the event. The calculation of actual and necessary expenses shall not include the expenses or fees of anyone other than the individual (e.g., coach's fees or expenses, parent's expenses). (Adopted: 4/26/12, Revised: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)

**12.1.2.4.2.2 After Initial Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment.** In tennis, after initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may accept prize money based on his or her place finish or performance in an athletics event. Such prize money may not exceed actual and necessary expenses and may be provided only by the sponsor of the event. The calculation of actual and necessary expenses shall not include the expenses or fees of anyone other than the individual (e.g., coach's fees or expenses, family member's expenses). (Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13, Revised: 4/25/18)

**12.1.2.4.3 Exception for Payment Based on Team Performance.** An individual may accept payment from his or her amateur team or the sponsor of the event based on his or her team's place finish or performance, or given on an incentive basis (e.g., bonus), provided the combination of such payments and expenses provided to the individual does not exceed his or her actual and necessary expenses to participate on the team. The calculation of actual and necessary expenses shall not include the expenses or fees of anyone other than the individual (e.g., coach's fees or expenses, family member's expenses). (Adopted: 10/28/10, Revised: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13, 4/25/18)

**12.1.2.4.4 Exception for Insurance Against Disabling Injury or Illness, or Loss of Value.** [A] An individual may borrow against his or her future earnings potential from an established, accredited commercial lending institution exclusively for the purpose of purchasing insurance (with no cash surrender value) against a disabling injury or illness that would prevent the individual from pursuing a chosen career or for the purpose of purchasing loss-of-value insurance, provided a third party (including a representative of an institution's athletics interests) is not involved in arrangements for securing the loan. However, an institution's president or chancellor (or his or her designated representative from outside the department of athletics) may designate an institutional staff member (or staff members) (e.g., professional sports counseling panel) to assist a student-athlete with arrangements for securing the loan and insurance. The institution shall retain copies of all documents related to loan transactions and insurance policies, regardless of whether the institution is involved in the arrangements. (Revised: 1/16/93, 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97, 1/16/10, 1/17/15)

**12.1.2.4.5 Exception for Institutional Fundraising Activities Involving the Athletics Ability of Student-Athletes.** Institutional, charitable or educational promotions or fundraising activities that involve the use of athletics ability by student-athletes to obtain funds (e.g., “swim-a-thons”) are permitted only if: (Revised: 5/11/05)

- (a) All money derived from the activity or project go directly to the member institution, member conference or the charitable, educational or nonprofit agency;
- (b) The student-athletes receive no compensation or prizes for their participation; and
- (c) The provisions of Bylaw 12.5.1 are satisfied.

**12.1.2.4.6 Exception for USOC Elite Athlete Health Insurance Program.** An individual may receive the comprehensive benefits of the USOC Elite Athlete Health Insurance Program. (*Adopted: 1/10/90*)

**12.1.2.4.7 Exception for Training Expenses.** An individual (prospective or enrolled student-athlete) may receive actual and necessary expenses [including grants, but not prize money, whereby the recipient has qualified for the grant based on his or her performance in a specific event(s)] to cover development training, coaching, facility usage, equipment, apparel, supplies, comprehensive health insurance, travel, room and board without jeopardizing the individual's eligibility for intercollegiate athletics, provided such expenses are approved and provided directly by the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), the appropriate national governing body in the sport (or, for international student-athletes, the equivalent organization of that nation) or a governmental entity. (*Adopted: 1/10/91, Revised: 4/27/00, 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13*)

**12.1.2.4.8 Exception for Benefits to Family Members—National Team Competition.** A commercial company (other than a professional sports organization) or members of the local community may provide actual and necessary expenses for an individual's family members to attend national team competition in which the individual will participate. In addition, an individual's family members may receive nonmonetary benefits provided to the family members of all national team members in conjunction with participation in national team competition. (See Bylaw 16.02.4.) (*Adopted: 1/11/94, Revised: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13*)

**12.1.2.4.9 Exception for Payment of NCAA Eligibility Center Fee.** A high school booster club (as opposed to specific individuals) may pay the necessary fee for prospective student-athletes at that high school to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center, provided no particular prospective student-athlete is singled out because of his or her athletics ability or reputation. (*Adopted: 1/11/94, Revised: 5/9/07*)

**12.1.2.4.10 Exception for Camp or Academy Sponsored by a Professional Sports Organization.** An individual may receive actual and necessary expenses from a professional sports organization to attend an academy, camp or clinic, provided: (*Adopted: 1/10/95, Revised: 11/1/01 effective 8/1/02*)

- (a) No NCAA institution or conference owns or operates the academy, camp or clinic;
- (b) No camp participant is above the age of 15;
- (c) The professional sports organization provides to the participants nothing more than actual and necessary expenses to attend the camp or clinic and equipment/apparel necessary for participation;
- (d) Athletics ability or achievements may not be the sole criterion for selecting participants; and
- (e) Academy participants must be provided with academic services (e.g., tutoring).

**12.1.2.4.11 Exception for Receipt of Free Equipment and Apparel Items by a Prospective Student-Athlete.** It is permissible for prospective student-athletes (as opposed to student-athletes) to receive free equipment and apparel items for personal use from apparel or equipment manufacturers or distributors under the following circumstances: (*Adopted: 1/11/97*)

- (a) The apparel or equipment items are related to the prospective student-athlete's sport and are received directly from an apparel or equipment manufacturer or distributor;
- (b) The prospective student-athlete does not enter into an arrangement (e.g., open account) with an apparel or equipment manufacturer or distributor that permits the prospective student-athlete to select apparel and equipment items from a commercial establishment of the manufacturer or distributor; and
- (c) A member institution's coach is not involved in any manner in identifying or assisting an apparel or equipment manufacturer or distributor in determining whether a prospective student-athlete is to receive any apparel or equipment items.

**12.1.2.4.12 Expenses for Participation in Olympic Exhibitions.** An individual may receive actual and necessary expenses from the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), national governing body or the non-professional organizations sponsoring the event to participate in Olympic tours or exhibitions involving Olympic team members and/or members of the national team, provided that if the individual is a student-athlete, he or she misses no class time, and the exhibition does not conflict with dates of institutional competition. (*Adopted: 10/28/97 effective 8/1/98*)

**12.1.2.4.13 Commemorative Items for Student-Athletes Participating in Olympic Games, World University Games (Universiade), World University Championships, Pan American Games, World Championships and World Cup Events.** It is permissible for student-athletes to receive commemorative items incidental to participation in the Olympic Games, World University Games (Universiade), World University Championships, Pan American Games, World Championships and World Cup events through the applicable national governing body. These benefits may include any and all apparel,

leisure wear, footwear and other items that are provided to all athletes participating in the applicable event. *(Adopted: 11/1/00 effective 8/1/01, Revised: 1/14/12)*

**12.1.2.4.14 Exception—NCAA First-Team Program.** A prospective student-athlete who is a participant in the NCAA First-Team Mentoring Program may receive actual and necessary expenses to attend the First-Team Program's annual educational conference and training seminar. *(Adopted: 8/7/03)*

**12.1.3 Amateur Status if Professional in Another Sport.** A professional athlete in one sport may represent a member institution in a different sport and may receive institutional financial assistance in the second sport. *(Revised: 4/27/06 effective 8/1/06)*

## **12.2 Involvement With Professional Teams.**

### **12.2.1 Tryouts.**

**12.2.1.1 Tryout Before Enrollment—Men's Ice Hockey and Skiing.** In men's ice hockey and skiing, a student-athlete remains eligible in a sport even though, prior to enrollment in a collegiate institution, the student-athlete may have tried out with a professional athletics team in a sport or received not more than one expense-paid visit from each professional team (or a combine including that team), provided such a visit did not exceed 48 hours and any payment or compensation in connection with the visit was not in excess of actual and necessary expenses. The 48-hour tryout period begins at the time the individual arrives at the tryout location. At the completion of the 48-hour period, the individual must depart the location of the tryout immediately in order to receive return transportation expenses. A tryout may extend beyond 48 hours if the individual self-finances additional expenses, including return transportation. A self-financed tryout may be for any length of time. *(Revised: 12/22/08, 4/13/10 effective 8/1/10 applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/10)*

**12.2.1.1.1 Exception for National Hockey League Scouting Combine—Men's Ice Hockey.** In men's ice hockey, prior to full-time enrollment in a collegiate institution, a prospective student-athlete may accept actual and necessary expenses from the National Hockey League (NHL) to attend the NHL scouting combine, regardless of the duration of the combine. *(Adopted: 1/16/10)*

**12.2.1.1.2 Tryout Before Enrollment—Sports Other Than Men's Ice Hockey and Skiing.** In sports other than men's ice hockey and skiing, prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may participate in a tryout with a professional team or league, provided he or she does not receive more than actual and necessary expenses to participate. *(Adopted: 4/13/10 effective 8/1/10 applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/10)*

**12.2.1.1.3 Tryout After Enrollment.** After initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual who has eligibility remaining may try out with a professional athletics team (or participate in a combine including that team) at any time, provided the individual does not miss class. The individual may receive actual and necessary expenses in conjunction with one 48-hour tryout per professional team (or a combine including that team). The 48-hour tryout period shall begin at the time the individual arrives at the tryout location. At the completion of the 48-hour period, the individual must depart the location of the tryout immediately in order to receive return transportation expenses. A tryout may extend beyond 48 hours if the individual self-finances additional expenses, including return transportation. A self-financed tryout may be for any length of time, provided the individual does not miss class. *(Revised: 1/10/92, 4/24/03, 5/26/06, 4/26/07 effective 8/1/07)*

**12.2.1.3.1 Exception for Basketball Draft Combine.** In basketball, a student-athlete may accept actual and necessary travel, and room and board expenses from a professional sports organization to attend that organization's basketball draft combine regardless of the duration of the camp. [See Bylaw 14.6.4-(e).] *(Adopted: 4/23/03, Revised: 5/26/06, 4/26/07 effective 8/1/07, 11/7/13)*

**12.2.1.3.2 Exception—Men's Basketball.** In men's basketball, an individual may receive actual and necessary expenses each year in conjunction with one 48-hour tryout per professional team and in conjunction with a professional organization's draft combine. An individual who is invited to participate in a professional organization's draft combine is permitted to miss class for such participation and associated travel. *(Adopted: 1/14/16)*

**12.2.1.3.3 Exception for National Hockey League Scouting Combine—Men's Ice Hockey.** In men's ice hockey, a student-athlete may accept actual and necessary travel, and room and board expenses from the National Hockey League (NHL) to attend the NHL scouting combine, regardless of the duration of the combine. *(Adopted: 1/16/10)*

**12.2.1.3.4 Exception—Postseason Practice Session—Football. [FBS/FCS]** In football, a student-athlete may participate in a postseason practice per Bylaw 17.10.6.4 without such activity being considered a tryout with a professional team. *(Adopted: 4/25/18 effective 8/1/18)*

**12.2.1.3.5 Outside Competition Prohibited.** During a tryout, an individual may not take part in any outside competition (games or scrimmages) as a representative of a professional team.

## 12.2.2 Practice Without Competition.

**12.2.2.1 Practice Without Competition—Men's Ice Hockey and Skiing.** In men's ice hockey and skiing, an individual may participate in practice sessions conducted by a professional team, provided such participation meets the requirements of NCAA legislation governing tryouts with professional athletics teams (see Bylaw 12.2.1) and the individual does not: *(Revised: 4/13/10 effective 8/1/10)*

- (a) Receive any compensation for participation in the practice sessions;
- (b) Enter into any contract or agreement with a professional team or sports organization; or
- (c) Take part in any outside competition (games or scrimmages) as a representative of a professional team.

### 12.2.2.2 Practice Without Competition—Sports Other Than Men's Ice Hockey and Skiing.

**12.2.2.2.1 Before Enrollment.** In sports other than men's ice hockey and skiing, prior to initial full-time enrollment in a collegiate institution, an individual may participate in practice sessions conducted by a professional team, provided he or she does not receive more than actual and necessary expenses to participate. *(Adopted: 4/13/10 effective 8/1/10 applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/10)*

**12.2.2.2.2 After Enrollment.** In sports other than men's ice hockey and skiing, after initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may participate in practice sessions conducted by a professional team, provided such participation meets the requirements of Bylaw 12.2.1.3 and the individual does not: *(Adopted: 4/13/10 effective 8/1/10)*

- (a) Receive any compensation for participation in the practice sessions;
- (b) Enter into any contract or agreement with a professional team or sports organization; or
- (c) Take part in any outside competition (games or scrimmages) as a representative of a professional team.

**12.2.2.3 Prohibited Involvement of Institution's Coach.** An institution's coaching staff member may not arrange for or direct student-athletes' participation in football or basketball practice sessions conducted by a professional team.

## 12.2.3 Competition.

**12.2.3.1 Competition Against Professionals.** An individual may participate singly or as a member of an amateur team against professional athletes or professional teams. *(Revised: 8/24/07)*

**12.2.3.2 Competition With Professionals.** An individual shall not be eligible for intercollegiate athletics in a sport if the individual ever competed on a professional team (per Bylaw 12.02.12) in that sport. However, an individual may compete on a tennis, golf, two-person beach volleyball or two-person synchronized diving team with persons who are competing for cash or a comparable prize, provided the individual does not receive payment or prize money that exceeds his or her actual and necessary expenses, which may only be provided by the sponsor of the event. *(Revised: 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96, 1/14/97, 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 4/28/14, 7/31/15)*

**12.2.3.2.1 Exception—Competition Before Initial Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment—Sports Other Than Men's Ice Hockey and Skiing.** In sports other than men's ice hockey and skiing, before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may compete on a professional team (per Bylaw 12.02.12), provided he or she does not receive more than actual and necessary expenses to participate on the team. *(Adopted: 4/29/10 effective 8/1/10 applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/10)*

**12.2.3.2.2 Professional Player as Team Member.** An individual may participate with a professional on a team, provided the professional is not being paid by a professional team or league to play as a member of that team (e.g., summer basketball leagues with teams composed of both professional and amateur athletes).

**12.2.3.2.3 Professional Coach or Referee.** Participation on a team that includes a professional coach or referee does not cause the team to be classified as a professional team.

**12.2.3.2.4 Major Junior Ice Hockey.** Ice hockey teams in the United States and Canada, classified by the Canadian Hockey Association as major junior teams, are considered professional teams under NCAA legislation.

**12.2.3.2.4.1 Limitation on Restoration of Eligibility.** An appeal for restoration of eligibility may be submitted on behalf of an individual who has participated on a major junior ice hockey team under the provisions of Bylaw 12.12; however, such individual shall be denied at least the first year of intercollegiate athletics competition in ice hockey at the certifying institution and shall be charged with the loss of at least one season of eligibility in ice hockey. *(Revised: 1/11/89)*

**12.2.3.2.5 Exception—Olympic/National Teams.** It is permissible for an individual (prospective student-athlete or student-athletes) to participate on Olympic or national teams that are competing for prize money or are being compensated by the governing body to participate in a specific event, provided the student-athlete does not accept prize money or any other compensation (other than actual and necessary expenses). *(Adopted: 8/8/02)*

**12.2.3.3 Competition in Professional All-Star Contest.** A student-athlete who agrees to participate in a professional (players to be paid) all-star game becomes ineligible to compete in any intercollegiate contest that occurs after that agreement. Thus, a senior entering into such an agreement immediately following the last regular-season intercollegiate contest would not be eligible to compete in a bowl game, an NCAA championship or any other postseason intercollegiate contest.

## **12.2.4 Draft and Inquiry.**

**12.2.4.1 Inquiry.** An individual may inquire of a professional sports organization about eligibility for a professional-league player draft or request information about the individual's market value without affecting his or her amateur status.

**12.2.4.2 Draft List.** After initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual loses amateur status in a particular sport when the individual asks to be placed on the draft list or supplemental draft list of a professional league in that sport, even though: *(Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02)*

- (a) The individual asks that his or her name be withdrawn from the draft list prior to the actual draft;
- (b) The individual's name remains on the list but he or she is not drafted; or
- (c) The individual is drafted but does not sign an agreement with any professional athletics team.

### **12.2.4.2.1 Exception—Basketball—Four-Year College Student-Athlete.**

**12.2.4.2.1.1 Men's Basketball.** In men's basketball, an enrolled student-athlete may enter a professional league's draft each year during his collegiate career without jeopardizing eligibility in that sport, provided: *(Adopted: 4/30/09 effective 8/1/09, Revised: 4/28/11 effective 8/1/11, 1/14/16)*

- (a) The student-athlete requests that his name be removed from the draft list and declares his intent to resume intercollegiate participation not later than 10 days after the conclusion of the professional league's draft combine. If the professional league does not conduct a draft combine, the student-athlete must request that his name be removed from the draft list not later than the end of the day before the first day of the spring National Letter of Intent signing period for the applicable year;
- (b) The student-athlete's declaration of intent is submitted in writing to the institution's director of athletics; and
- (c) The student-athlete is not drafted.

**12.2.4.2.1.2 Women's Basketball.** In women's basketball, an enrolled student-athlete may enter a professional league's draft one time during her collegiate career without jeopardizing eligibility in that sport, provided the student-athlete is not drafted by any team in that league and the student-athlete declares her intention to resume intercollegiate participation within 30 days after the draft. The student-athlete's declaration of intent shall be in writing to the institution's director of athletics. *(Adopted: 1/11/94, Revised: 1/10/95, 1/14/97 effective 4/16/97, 4/24/03 effective 8/1/03, 4/30/09 effective 8/1/09)*

**12.2.4.2.2 Exception—Basketball—Two-Year College Prospective Student-Athlete.** A prospective student-athlete enrolled at a two-year collegiate institution in basketball may enter a professional league's draft one time during his or her collegiate career without jeopardizing eligibility in that sport, provided the prospective student-athlete is not drafted by any team in that league. *(Adopted: 4/24/03 effective 8/1/03)*

**12.2.4.2.3 Exception—Football. [FBS/FCS]** In football, an enrolled student-athlete (as opposed to a prospective student-athlete) may enter the National Football League draft one time during his collegiate career without jeopardizing eligibility in that sport, provided the student-athlete is not drafted by any team in that league and the student-athlete declares his intention to resume intercollegiate participation within 72 hours following the National Football League draft declaration date. The student-athlete's declaration of intent shall be in writing to the institution's director of athletics. *(Adopted: 10/31/02, Revised: 4/14/03, 12/15/06)*

**12.2.4.2.4 Exception—Sports Other Than Basketball and Football.** An enrolled student-athlete in a sport other than basketball or football may enter a professional league's draft one time during his or her collegiate career without jeopardizing his or her eligibility in the applicable sport, provided the student-athlete is not drafted and within 72 hours following the draft he or she declares his or her intention to resume participation in intercollegiate athletics. The student-athlete's declaration of intent shall be in writing to the institution's director of athletics. *(Adopted: 4/26/07 effective 8/1/07)*

**12.2.4.3 Negotiations.** An individual may request information about professional market value without affecting his or her amateur status. Further, the individual, his or her family members or the institution's professional sports counseling panel may enter into negotiations with a professional sports organization without the loss of the individual's amateur status. An individual who retains an agent shall lose amateur status. *(Adopted: 1/10/92, Revised: 4/25/18)*

**12.2.5 Contracts and Compensation.** An individual shall be ineligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if he or she has entered into any kind of agreement to compete in professional athletics, either orally or in writing, regardless of the legal enforceability of that agreement. *(Revised: 1/10/92)*

**12.2.5.1 Exception—Before Initial Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment—Sports Other Than Men’s Ice Hockey and Skiing.** In sports other than men’s ice hockey and skiing, before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may enter into an agreement to compete on a professional team (per Bylaw 12.02.12), provided the agreement does not guarantee or promise payment (at any time) in excess of actual and necessary expenses to participate on the team. *(Adopted: 4/29/10 effective 8/1/10 applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/10)*

**12.2.5.2 Nonbinding Agreement.** An individual who signs a contract or commitment that does not become binding until the professional organization’s representative or agent also signs the document is ineligible, even if the contract remains unsigned by the other parties until after the student-athlete’s eligibility is exhausted.

## 12.3 Use of Agents. [A]

**12.3.1 General Rule. [A]** An individual shall be ineligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if he or she ever has agreed (orally or in writing) to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing his or her athletics ability or reputation in that sport. Further, an agency contract not specifically limited in writing to a sport or particular sports shall be deemed applicable to all sports, and the individual shall be ineligible to participate in any sport.

**12.3.1.1 Exception—Baseball and Men’s Ice Hockey—Prior to Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment. [A]** In baseball and men’s ice hockey, prior to full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual who is drafted by a professional baseball or men’s ice hockey team may be represented by an agent or attorney during contract negotiations. The individual may not receive benefits (other than representation) from the agent or attorney and must pay the going rate for the representation. If the individual does not sign a contract with the professional team, the agreement for representation with the agent or attorney must be terminated prior to full-time collegiate enrollment. *(Adopted: 1/15/16, Revised: 1/19/18)*

**12.3.1.2 Representation for Future Negotiations. [A]** An individual shall be ineligible per Bylaw 12.3.1 if he or she enters into an oral or written agreement with an agent for representation in future professional sports negotiations that are to take place after the individual has completed his or her eligibility in that sport.

**12.3.1.3 Benefits from Prospective Agents. [A]** An individual shall be ineligible per Bylaw 12.3.1 if he or she (or his or her relatives or friends) accepts transportation or other benefits from: *(Revised: 1/14/97)*

- (a) Any person who represents any individual in the marketing of his or her athletics ability. The receipt of such expenses constitutes compensation based on athletics skill and is an extra benefit not available to the student body in general; or
- (b) An agent, even if the agent has indicated that he or she has no interest in representing the student-athlete in the marketing of his or her athletics ability or reputation and does not represent individuals in the student-athlete’s sport.

**12.3.1.4 Exception—Career Counseling and Internship/Job Placement Services. [A]** A student-athlete may use career counseling and internship/job placement services available exclusively to student-athletes, provided the student-athlete is not placed in a position in which the student-athlete uses his or her athletics ability. *(Adopted: 4/28/11)*

**12.3.2 Legal Counsel. [A]** Securing advice from a lawyer concerning a proposed professional sports contract shall not be considered contracting for representation by an agent under this rule, unless the lawyer also represents the individual in negotiations for such a contract.

**12.3.2.1 Presence of a Lawyer at Negotiations. [A]** A lawyer may not be present during discussions of a contract offer with a professional organization or have any direct contact (in person, by telephone or by mail) with a professional sports organization on behalf of the individual. A lawyer’s presence during such discussions is considered representation by an agent.

**12.3.3 Athletics Scholarship Agent. [A]** Any individual, agency or organization that represents a prospective student-athlete for compensation in placing the prospective student-athlete in a collegiate institution as a recipient of institutional financial aid shall be considered an agent or organization marketing the individual’s athletics ability or reputation.

**12.3.3.1 Talent Evaluation Services and Agents. [A]** A prospective student-athlete may allow a scouting service or agent to distribute personal information (e.g., high school academic and athletics records, physical statistics) to member institutions without jeopardizing his or her eligibility, provided the fee paid to such an agent is not based on placing the prospective student-athlete in a collegiate institution as a recipient of institutional financial aid.

**12.3.4 Professional Sports Counseling Panel. [A]** It is permissible for an authorized institutional professional sports counseling panel to: *(Adopted: 1/16/93, Revised: 1/11/94, 1/16/10)*

- (a) Advise a student-athlete about a future professional career;
- (b) Assist a student-athlete with arrangements for securing a loan for the purpose of purchasing insurance against a disabling injury or illness and with arrangements for purchasing such insurance;
- (c) Review a proposed professional sports contract;
- (d) Meet with the student-athlete and representatives of professional teams;
- (e) Communicate directly (e.g., in person, by mail or telephone) with representatives of a professional athletics team to assist in securing a tryout with that team for a student-athlete;
- (f) Assist the student-athlete in the selection of an agent by participating with the student-athlete in interviews of agents, by reviewing written information player agents send to the student-athlete and by having direct communication with those individuals who can comment about the abilities of an agent (e.g., other agents, a professional league's players association); and
- (g) Visit with player agents or representatives of professional athletics teams to assist the student-athlete in determining his or her market value (e.g., potential salary, draft status).

**12.3.4.1 Appointment by President or Chancellor. [A]** This panel shall consist of at least three persons appointed by the institution's president or chancellor (or his or her designated representative from outside the athletics department). *(Revised: 3/8/06)*

**12.3.4.2 Composition. [A]** The majority of panel members shall be full-time employees outside the institution's athletics department. No sports agent or any person employed by a sports agent or agency may be a member of the panel. All panel members shall be identified to the NCAA national office. *(Revised: 1/11/94, 1/10/05, 1/20/17 effective 8/1/17)*

## 12.4 Employment.

**12.4.1 Criteria Governing Compensation to Student-Athletes.** Compensation may be paid to a student-athlete: *(Revised: 11/22/04)*

- (a) Only for work actually performed; and
- (b) At a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services.

**12.4.1.1 Athletics Reputation.** Such compensation may not include any remuneration for value or utility that the student-athlete may have for the employer because of the publicity, reputation, fame or personal following that he or she has obtained because of athletics ability.

### 12.4.2 Specific Athletically Related Employment Activities.

**12.4.2.1 Fee-for-Lesson Instruction.** A student-athlete may receive compensation for teaching or coaching sport skills or techniques in his or her sport on a fee-for-lesson basis, provided: **[R]** *(Revised: 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96, 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 4/2/03 effective 8/1/03)*

- (a) Institutional facilities are not used;
- (b) Playing lessons shall not be permitted;
- (c) The institution obtains and keeps on file documentation of the recipient of the lesson(s) and the fee for the lesson(s) provided during any time of the year;
- (d) The compensation is paid by the lesson recipient (or the recipient's family member) and not another individual or entity;
- (e) Instruction to each individual is comparable to the instruction that would be provided during a private lesson when the instruction involves more than one individual at a time; and
- (f) The student-athlete does not use his or her name, picture or appearance to promote or advertise the availability of fee-for-lesson sessions.

**12.4.2.2 National Team Practice and Competition** A student-athlete may receive actual and necessary expenses and reasonable benefits associated with national team practice and competition (e.g., health insurance, broken-time payments). **[R]** *(Revised: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)*

**12.4.2.3 Athletics Equipment Sales.** A student-athlete may not be employed to sell equipment related to the student-athlete's sport if his or her name, picture or athletics reputation is used to advertise or promote the product, the job or the employer. If the student-athlete's name, picture or athletics reputation is not used for advertising or promotion, the student-athlete may be employed in a legitimate sales position, provided he or she is reimbursed at an hourly rate or set salary in the same manner as any nonathlete salesperson. **[R]**

**12.4.2.4 Goodwill Tour Commissions.** A student-athlete representing the institution in a goodwill tour during summer months, in conjunction with the tour, may sell such items as jackets, blazers or similar institutional promotional items to booster groups or other friends of the institution on a salary, but not a commission, basis. **[R]**

**12.4.3 Camp/Clinic Employment, General Rule.** A student-athlete may be employed by his or her institution, by another institution, or by a private organization to work in a camp or clinic as a counselor, unless otherwise restricted by NCAA legislation (see Bylaw 13.12 for regulations relating to camps and clinics).

**12.4.4 Self-Employment. [A]** A student-athlete may establish his or her own business, provided the student-athlete's name, photograph, appearance or athletics reputation are not used to promote the business. (*Adopted: 12/12/06*)

## 12.5 Promotional Activities.

### 12.5.1 Permissible.

**12.5.1.1 Institutional, Charitable, Education or Nonprofit Promotions.** A member institution or recognized entity thereof (e.g., fraternity, sorority or student government organization), a member conference or a noninstitutional charitable, educational or nonprofit agency may use a student-athlete's name, picture or appearance to support its charitable or educational activities or to support activities considered incidental to the student-athlete's participation in intercollegiate athletics, provided the following conditions are met: (*Revised: 1/11/89, 1/10/91, 1/10/92, 1/16/93, 1/9/96, 11/12/97, 4/26/01, 4/28/05, 4/27/06 effective 8/1/06, 5/6/08, 4/28/16 effective 8/1/16*)

- (a) The student-athlete's participation is subject to the limitations on participants in such activities as set forth in Bylaw 17;
- (b) The specific activity or project in which the student-athlete participates does not involve co-sponsorship, advertisement or promotion by a commercial agency other than through the reproduction of the sponsoring company's officially registered regular trademark or logo on printed materials such as pictures, posters or calendars. The company's emblem, name, address, telephone number and website address may be included with the trademark or logo. Personal names, messages and slogans (other than an officially registered trademark) are prohibited;
- (c) The name or picture of a student-athlete with remaining eligibility may not appear on an institution's printed promotional item (e.g., poster, calendar) that includes a reproduction of a product with which a commercial entity is associated if the commercial entity's officially registered regular trademark or logo also appears on the item;
- (d) The student-athlete does not miss class;
- (e) All moneys derived from the activity or project go directly to the member institution, member conference or the charitable, educational or nonprofit agency;
- (f) The student-athlete may accept actual and necessary expenses from the member institution, member conference or the charitable, educational or nonprofit agency related to participation in such activity;
- (g) The student-athlete's name, picture or appearance is not used to promote the commercial ventures of any nonprofit agency;
- (h) Any commercial items with names, likenesses or pictures of multiple student-athletes (other than highlight films or media guides per Bylaw 12.5.1.7) may be sold only at the member institution at which the student-athletes are enrolled, the institution's conference, institutionally controlled (owned and operated) outlets or outlets controlled by the charitable, educational or nonprofit organization (e.g., location of the charitable or educational organization, site of charitable event during the event). Items that include an individual student-athlete's name, picture or likeness (e.g., name on jersey, name or likeness on a bobble-head doll), other than informational items (e.g., media guide, schedule cards, institutional publications), may not be sold; and
- (i) The student-athlete and an authorized representative of the charitable, educational or nonprofit agency affirm that the student-athlete's name, image or appearance is used in a manner consistent with the requirements of this section.

**12.5.1.1.1 Promotions Involving NCAA Championships, Events, Activities or Programs.** The NCAA [or a third party acting on behalf of the NCAA (e.g., host institution, conference, local organizing committee)] may use the name or picture of an enrolled student-athlete to generally promote NCAA championships or other NCAA events, activities or programs. (*Adopted: 8/7/03*)

**12.5.1.1.2 Promotions Involving Commercial Locations/Sponsors.** A member institution, a member conference or a charitable, educational or nonprofit organization may use the appearance, name or picture of an enrolled student-athlete to promote generally its fundraising activities at the location of a commercial establishment, provided the commercial establishment is not a co-sponsor of the event and the student-athlete does not promote the sale of a commercial product in conjunction with the fundraising activity. A commercial establishment would become a co-sponsor if the commercial establishment either advertises the presence of the student-athlete at the commercial location or is involved directly or indirectly in promoting the activity. (*Adopted: 1/10/92*)

**12.5.1.1.3 Distribution of Institutional Items through Commercial Outlets.** A member institution may distribute noncommercial items that include names or pictures of student-athletes (items not for sale) at commercial establishments, provided the institution generally distributes such items to other commercial establishments in the community and the distribution of the items does not require the recipient to make a purchase at the commercial establishment. *(Adopted: 1/16/93, Revised: 5/21/08)*

**12.5.1.1.4 Player/Trading Cards.** A member institution or recognized entity thereof (e.g., fraternity, sorority or student government organization), a member conference or a noninstitutional charitable, educational or nonprofit agency may distribute but may not sell player/trading cards that bear a student-athlete's name or picture. *(Adopted: 1/11/94 effective 8/1/94)*

**12.5.1.1.4.1 Exception—Olympic/National Team.** A national governing body may sell player/trading cards that bear the name or picture of a student-athlete who is a member of the Olympic/national team in that sport, provided all of the funds generated through the sale of such cards are deposited directly with the applicable Olympic/national team. *(Adopted: 1/6/96)*

**12.5.1.1.5 Schedule Cards.** An advertisement on an institution's wallet-size playing schedule that includes the name or picture of a student-athlete may include language other than the commercial product's name, trademark or logo, provided the commercial language does not appear on the same page as the picture of the student-athlete. **[D]** *(Adopted: 1/10/92, Revised: 1/14/08, 5/21/08)*

**12.5.1.1.6 Effect of Violations.** The following violations of Bylaw 12.5.1.1 shall be considered institutional violations; however, the student-athlete's eligibility shall not be affected: *(Adopted: 1/14/97, Revised: 4/26/07, 10/29/09, 4/28/16 effective 8/1/16)*

- (a) An institution, without the student-athlete's knowledge or consent, uses or permits the use of the student-athlete's name or picture in a manner contrary to Bylaw 12.5.1.1; or
- (b) A violation in which the only condition of the legislation not satisfied is the requirement that the student-athlete and an authorized representative of the charitable, educational or nonprofit agency affirm that the student-athlete's name, image or appearance is used in a manner consistent with the requirements of Bylaw 12.5.1.1, provided the affirmation would have been given if requested.

**12.5.1.2 U.S. Olympic Committee/National Governing Body Advertisement Prior to Collegiate Enrollment.** Prior to initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may receive payment for the display of athletics skill in a commercial advertisement, provided: *(Adopted: 1/11/94)*

- (a) The individual receives prior approval to appear in the advertisement from the U.S. Olympic Committee or the applicable national governing body;
- (b) The U.S. Olympic Committee or national governing body approves of the content and the production of the advertisement;
- (c) The individual forwards the payment to the U.S. Olympic Committee or national governing body for the general use of the organization(s); and
- (d) The funds are not earmarked for the individual.

**12.5.1.3 Continuation of Modeling and Other Nonathletically Related Promotional Activities After Enrollment. [A]** If an individual accepts remuneration for or permits the use of his or her name or picture to advertise or promote the sale or use of a commercial product or service prior to enrollment in a member institution, continued remuneration for the use of the individual's name or picture (under the same or similar circumstances) after enrollment is permitted without jeopardizing his or her eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics only if all of the following conditions apply: *(Revised: 1/14/97, 3/10/04)*

- (a) The individual's involvement in this type of activity was initiated prior to his or her enrollment in a member institution;
- (b) The individual became involved in such activities for reasons independent of athletics ability;
- (c) No reference is made in these activities to the individual's name or involvement in intercollegiate athletics;
- (d) The individual does not endorse the commercial product; and
- (e) The individual's remuneration under such circumstances is at a rate commensurate with the individual's skills and experience as a model or performer and is not based in any way upon the individual's athletics ability or reputation.

**12.5.1.4 Congratulatory Advertisement.** It is permissible for a student-athlete's name or picture, or the group picture of an institution's athletics squad, to appear in an advertisement of a particular business, commercial product or service, provided: *(Revised: 11/1/07 effective 8/1/08, 5/21/08)*

- (a) The primary purpose of the advertisement is to publicize the sponsor's congratulations to the student-athlete or team;
- (b) The advertisement does not include a reproduction of the product with which the business is associated or any other item or description identifying the business or service other than its name or trademark;

- (c) There is no indication in the makeup or wording of the advertisement that the squad members, individually or collectively, or the institution endorses the product or service of the advertiser;
- (d) The student-athlete has not signed a consent or release granting permission to use the student-athlete's name or picture in a manner inconsistent with the requirements of this section; and
- (e) If the student-athlete has received a prize from a commercial sponsor in conjunction with participation in a promotional contest and the advertisement involves the announcement of receipt of the prize, the receipt of the prize is consistent with the provisions of Bylaw 12.5.2.3.3 and official interpretations.

**12.5.1.5 Educational Products Related to Sport-Skill Instruction.** It is permissible for a student-athlete's name or picture to appear in books, articles and other publications, films, videotapes, and other types of electronic reproduction related to sport-skill demonstration, analysis or instruction, provided: *(Revised: 1/9/06 effective 8/1/06)*

- (a) Such print and electronic media productions are for educational purposes;
- (b) There is no indication that the student-athlete expressly or implicitly endorses a commercial product or service;
- (c) The student-athlete does not receive, under any circumstances, any remuneration for such participation; however, the student-athlete may receive actual and necessary expenses related to his or her participation; and
- (d) The student-athlete has signed a release statement ensuring that the student-athlete's name or image is used in a manner consistent with the requirements of this section and has filed a copy of the statement with the student-athlete's member institution.

**12.5.1.6 Camps.** An institutional or privately owned camp may use a student-athlete's name, picture and institutional affiliation only in the camp counselor section in its camp brochure to identify the student-athlete as a staff member. A student-athlete's name or picture may not be used in any other way to directly advertise or promote the camp. **[D]** *(Revised: 4/26/01 effective 8/1/01, 4/17/02, 7/12/04, 1/9/06)*

**12.5.1.7 Promotion by Third Party of Highlight Video or Media Guide.** Any party other than the institution or a student-athlete (e.g., a distribution company) may sell and distribute an institutional highlight video or an institutional or conference media guide that contains the names and pictures of enrolled student-athletes only if: *(Revised: 1/16/93)*

- (a) The institution specifically designates any agency that is authorized to receive orders for the video or media guide;
- (b) Sales and distribution activities have the written approval of the institution's athletics director;
- (c) The distribution company or a retail store is precluded from using the name or picture of an enrolled student-athlete in any poster or other advertisement to promote the sale or distribution of the video or media guide; and
- (d) There is no indication in the makeup or wording of the advertisement that the squad members, individually or collectively, or the institution endorses the product or services of the advertiser.

**12.5.1.8 Promotion of NCAA and Conference Championships.** The NCAA [or a third party acting on behalf of the NCAA (e.g., host institution, conference, local organizing committee)] may use the name or picture of a student-athlete to generally promote NCAA championships. A student-athlete's name or picture may appear in a poster that promotes a conference championship, provided the poster is produced by a member that hosts a portion of the championship or by the conference. *(Adopted: 1/11/89, Revised: 8/7/03)*

**12.5.1.9 Olympic, Pan American, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games (Universiade) and World University Championships.** A student-athlete's name or picture may be used to promote Olympic, Pan American, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games (Universiade) or World University Championships as specified in this section. *(Adopted: 1/10/92, Revised: 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96, 1/14/12)*

**12.5.1.9.1 Sale and Distribution of Promotional Items.** Promotional items (e.g., posters, postcards, film, videotapes) bearing the name or picture of a student-athlete and related to these events may be sold or distributed by the national or international sports governing body sponsoring these events or its designated third-party distributors. It is not permissible for such organizations to sell player/trading cards that bear a student-athlete's name or picture, except as noted in Bylaw 12.5.1.1.4.1. Promotional items may include a corporate sponsor's trademark or logo but not a reproduction of the product with which the business is associated. The name or picture of the student-athlete may not be used by the distribution company or retail store on any advertisement to promote the sale or distribution of the commercial item. *(Adopted: 1/10/92, Revised: 1/16/93, 1/11/94 effective 8/1/94)*

**12.5.1.9.1.1 Corporate Sponsors.** A corporate sponsor may sell a promotional item related to these events that uses the name or picture of a team but not an individual student-athlete. *(Adopted: 1/10/92)*

## 12.5.2 Nonpermissible.

**12.5.2.1 Advertisements and Promotions After Becoming a Student-Athlete.** After becoming a student-athlete, an individual shall not be eligible for participation in intercollegiate athletics if the individual:

- (a) Accepts any remuneration for or permits the use of his or her name or picture to advertise, recommend or promote directly the sale or use of a commercial product or service of any kind; or
- (b) Receives remuneration for endorsing a commercial product or service through the individual's use of such product or service.

**12.5.2.1.1 Exceptions.** The individual's eligibility will not be affected, provided the individual participated in such activities prior to enrollment and the individual:

- (a) Meets the conditions set forth in Bylaw 12.5.1.3 that would permit continuation of such activities; or
- (b) Takes appropriate steps upon becoming a student-athlete to retract permission for the use of his or her name or picture and ceases receipt of any remuneration for such an arrangement.

**12.5.2.1.2 Improper Use of Student-Athlete's Name or Picture.** If an institution, without the student-athlete's knowledge or consent, uses or permits the use of the student-athlete's name or picture in a manner contrary to Bylaw 12.5.2.1, the violation shall be considered an institutional violation; however, the student-athlete's eligibility shall not be affected. *(Adopted: 1/11/97)*

**12.5.2.2 Use of a Student-Athlete's Name or Picture Without Knowledge or Permission.** If a student-athlete's name or picture appears on commercial items (e.g., T-shirts, sweatshirts, serving trays, playing cards, posters) or is used to promote a commercial product sold by an individual or agency without the student-athlete's knowledge or permission, the student-athlete (or the institution acting on behalf of the student-athlete) is required to take steps to stop such an activity in order to retain his or her eligibility for intercollegiate athletics. Such steps are not required in cases in which a student-athlete's photograph is sold by an individual or agency (e.g., private photographer, news agency) for private use. *(Revised: 1/11/97, 5/12/05)*

**12.5.2.3 Specifically Restricted Activities.** A student-athlete's involvement in promotional activities specified in this section is prohibited.

**12.5.2.3.1 Name-the-Player Contest.** A student-athlete may not permit use of his or her name or picture in a "name-the-player" contest conducted by a commercial business for the purpose of promoting that business.

**12.5.2.3.2 Athletics Equipment Advertisement.** A student-athlete's name or picture may not be used by an athletics equipment company or manufacturer to publicize the fact that the institution's team uses its equipment.

**12.5.2.3.3 Promotional Contests.** Receipt of a prize for winning an institutional or noninstitutional promotional activity (e.g., making a half-court basketball shot, being involved in a money scramble) by a prospective or enrolled student-athlete (or his or her family member) does not affect his or her eligibility, provided the prize is won through a random drawing in which all members of the general public or the student body are eligible to participate. *(Revised: 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96, 3/25/05, 6/12/07)*

**12.5.2.4 Other Promotional Activities.** A student-athlete may not participate in any promotional activity that is not permitted under Bylaw 12.5.1. *(Adopted: 11/1/01)*

**12.5.3 Media Activities. [A]** A student-athlete may participate in media activities, including but not limited to, radio, television and internet-based programs (e.g., coaches' shows), and writing projects when the student-athlete's appearance or participation is related in any way to his or her status as a student-athlete. The student-athlete shall not receive any remuneration for participation in the activity. The student-athlete shall not make any endorsement, expressed or implied, of any commercial product or service. The student-athlete may, however, receive actual and necessary expenses directly related to the appearance or participation in the activity. A student-athlete participating in such media activities may not miss class, except for class time missed in conjunction with away-from-home competition or to participate in an NCAA or conference-sponsored media activity. *(Revised: 1/16/93, 1/14/97, 1/9/06, 4/27/06, 1/20/17 effective 8/1/17)*

**12.5.4 Use of Commercial Trademarks or Logos on Equipment, Uniforms and Apparel.** A student-athlete may use athletics equipment or wear athletics apparel that bears the trademark or logo of an athletics equipment or apparel manufacturer or distributor in athletics competition and pre- and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met. **[D]** *(Revised: 1/11/94, 1/10/95, 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96, 2/16/00, 5/27/11)*

- (a) Athletics equipment (e.g., shoes, helmets, baseball bats and gloves, batting or golf gloves, hockey and lacrosse sticks, goggles and skis) shall bear only the manufacturer's normal label or trademark, as it is used on all such items for sale to the general public; and
- (b) The student-athlete's institution's official uniform (including numbered racing bibs and warm-ups) and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, head bands, T-shirts, wrist bands, visors or hats, swim caps and towels) shall bear only a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal label or trademark (regardless of the visibility of the

label or trademark), not to exceed 2-1/4 square inches in area (rectangle, square, parallelogram) including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform and all other items of apparel shall not bear a design element similar to the manufacturer's trademark/logo that is in addition to another trademark/logo that is contrary to the size restriction.

**12.5.4.1 Laundry Label.** If an institution's uniform or any item of apparel worn by a student-athlete in competition contains washing instructions on the outside of the apparel on a patch that also includes the manufacturer's or distributor's logo or trademark, the entire patch must be contained within a four-sided geometrical figure (rectangle, square, parallelogram) that does not exceed 2-1/4 square inches. **[D]** (*Adopted: 1/10/95*)

**12.5.4.2 Pre- or Postgame Activities.** The restriction on the size of a manufacturer's or distributor's logo is applicable to all apparel worn by student-athletes during the conduct of the institution's competition, which includes any pre- or postgame activities (e.g., postgame celebrations on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences) involving student-athletes. **[D]** (*Adopted: 1/10/95*)

**12.5.4.3 Outside Team Uniforms and Apparel.** The provisions of Bylaw 12.5.4-(b) do not apply to the official uniforms and apparel worn by outside teams.

**12.5.4.4 Title-Sponsor Recognition.** Racing bibs and similar competition identification materials (e.g., bowl-game patches) worn by participants may include the name of the corporate sponsor of the competition, provided the involved commercial company is the sole title sponsor of the competition. **[D]**

## 12.6 Financial Donations From Outside Organizations.

### 12.6.1 Professional Sports Organizations.

**12.6.1.1 To Intercollegiate Event.** A professional sports organization may serve as a financial sponsor of an intercollegiate competition event, provided the organization is not publicly identified as such. A professional sports organization may serve as a financial sponsor of an activity or promotion that is ancillary to the competition event and may be publicly identified as such. **[D]** (*Adopted: 1/10/92, Revised: 8/5/04, 1/14/12*)

**12.6.1.2 Developmental Funds to NCAA.** A professional sports organization may provide funds for intercollegiate athletics developmental purposes in a particular sport (e.g., officiating expenses, research and educational projects, the conduct of summer leagues, purchase of equipment). However, such funds shall be provided in an unrestricted manner and administered through the Association's national office.

**12.6.1.3 To Institution, Permissible.** A member institution may receive funds from a professional sports organization, provided: (*Adopted: 4/29/04 effective 8/1/04, Revised: 1/14/12, 4/17/12*)

- (a) The money is placed in the institution's general fund and used for purposes other than athletics;
- (b) The money is placed in the institution's general scholarship fund and commingled with funds for the assistance of all students generally;
- (c) The money is received by the institution as a result of the professional sports organization's financial sponsorship of a specific intercollegiate competition event and is placed in the institution's budget for the specific event, including ancillary activities and promotions; or
- (d) The money is received by the institution as a result of a reciprocal contractual marketing relationship and is placed in the athletics department's budget for the specific purpose of marketing and promoting any institutionally sponsored sport other than football and men's basketball.

**12.6.1.4 To Conference, Permissible.** A member conference may receive funds from a professional sports organization, provided the money is received by the conference as a result of the professional sports organization's financial sponsorship of a specific intercollegiate competition event and is placed in the conference's budget for the specific event, including ancillary activities and promotions. (*Adopted: 1/14/12*)

**12.6.1.5 To Institution, Nonpermissible.** A member institution shall not accept funds from a professional sports organization if:

- (a) The funds are for the purpose of recognizing the development of a former student-athlete in a particular sport. The receipt of such funds by an institution would make additional money available that could benefit student-athletes and thus result in student-athletes indirectly receiving funds from a professional sports organization;
- (b) The money, even though not earmarked by the donor, is received and credited to institutional funds for the financial assistance of student-athletes generally; or
- (c) The money is placed in the institution's general fund and credited to the athletics department for an unspecified purpose.

**12.6.1.6 Revenues Derived from Pro-Am Events.** The distribution of revenues from an event involving an intercollegiate athletics team and a professional sports team (e.g., a baseball game in which a member institution's team plays against a professional baseball team) or pro-am event (e.g., golf, tennis) that results in a member institution's receiving a share of receipts from such a contest is permitted, provided the institution has a formal agreement with the professional sports team regarding the institution's guarantee or share of receipts and

the contractual terms are consistent with agreements made by the professional team or individuals for similar intercollegiate or nonprofessional competition.

**12.6.1.7 Promotion of Professional Athletics Contests.** A member institution may host and promote an athletics contest between two professional teams from recognized professional sports leagues as a fundraising activity for the institution. *(Revised: 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96)*

**12.6.1.8 Reciprocal Marketing Agreements—Sports Other Than Football and Men's Basketball.** In sports other than football and men's basketball, an institution's marketing department may enter into a reciprocal contractual relationship with a professional sports organization for the specific purpose of marketing and promoting an institutionally sponsored sport. *(Adopted: 4/29/04 effective 8/1/04, Revised: 2/17/12)*

## **12.6.2 Organizations (Nonprofessional Sports Organizations).**

**12.6.2.1 Individual Athletics Performance.** A member institution shall not accept funds donated from a nonprofessional sports organization based on the place finish of a student-athlete or the number of student-athletes representing the institution in an event. However, the organization may donate an equal amount of funds to every institution with an athlete or team participating in a particular event.

**12.6.2.2 Individual and Team Rankings.** A member institution may accept funds donated to its athletics program from a nonprofessional sports organization based on an individual's or a team's national or regional ranking. *(Revised: 1/9/06 effective 8/1/06)*

**12.6.2.3 Academic Performance.** A member institution may accept funds donated to its athletics program from a nonprofessional sports organization based on an individual's or a team's academic performance (e.g., the number of Academic All-American award recipients).

## **12.7 Athletics Eligibility Requirements.**

**12.7.1 Postseason and Regular-Season Competition.** To be eligible for regular-season competition, NCAA championships, and for postseason football bowl games, the student-athlete shall meet all eligibility requirements.

**12.7.1.1 Postseason Competition—Midyear Enrollees—Football. [FBS/FCS]** In football, a midyear enrollee (freshman or transfer) is not eligible to participate in postseason competition that occurs before or during his or her initial term of enrollment at the institution. *(Adopted: 6/13/18)*

### **12.7.2 Student-Athlete Statement.**

**12.7.2.1 Content and Purpose.** Prior to participation in intercollegiate competition each academic year, a student-athlete shall sign a statement in a form prescribed by the Legislative Committee in which the student-athlete submits information related to eligibility, recruitment, financial aid, amateur status, previous positive-drug tests administered by any other athletics organization and involvement in organized gambling activities related to intercollegiate or professional athletics competition under the Association's governing legislation. Failure to complete and sign the statement shall result in the student-athlete's ineligibility for participation in all intercollegiate competition. Violations of this bylaw do not affect a student-athlete's eligibility if the violation occurred due to an institutional administrative error or oversight, and the student-athlete subsequently signs the form; however, the violation shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1. *(Revised: 1/10/92 effective 8/1/92, 1/14/97, 2/19/97, 4/24/03, 11/1/07 effective 8/1/08, 8/7/14, 10/4/17)*

**12.7.2.2 Administration.** The following procedures shall be used in administering the form: *(Revised: 8/4/89, 1/9/06 effective 8/1/06, 7/30/10)*

- (a) The statement shall be administered individually to each student-athlete by the athletics director or the athletics director's designee prior to the student's participation in intercollegiate competition each academic year; and
- (b) The statement shall be kept on file by the athletics director and shall be available for examination upon request by an authorized representative of the NCAA.

**12.7.2.3 Institutional Responsibility—Notification of Positive Test.** The institution shall promptly notify the NCAA's chief medical officer, in writing, regarding a student-athlete's disclosure of a previous positive test for banned substances administered by any other athletics organization. *(Adopted: 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97, Revised: 7/31/14)*

### **12.7.3 Drug-Testing Consent Form.**

**12.7.3.1 Content and Purpose.** Each academic year, a student-athlete shall sign a form maintained by the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports and approved by the Legislative Committee in which the student consents to be tested for the use of drugs prohibited by NCAA legislation. Failure to complete and sign the consent form prior to practice or competition, or before the Monday of the fourth week of classes (whichever occurs first) shall result in the student-athlete's ineligibility for participation (practice and competition) in all intercollegiate athletics. *(Adopted: 1/10/92 effective 8/1/92, Revised: 1/16/93, 1/10/95 effective 8/1/95, 1/14/97, 4/24/03, 8/5/04, 11/1/07 effective 8/1/08, 7/30/10, 8/7/14, 10/4/17)*

**12.7.3.2 Administration.** The following procedures shall be used in administering the form (see Constitution 3.2.4.7): (*Adopted: 1/10/92 effective 8/1/92, Revised: 4/27/00, 7/30/10, 7/31/14*)

- (a) The consent form shall be administered individually to each student-athlete by the athletics director or the athletics director's designee each academic year;
- (b) The athletics director or the athletics director's designee shall disseminate the list of banned drug classes to all student-athletes and educate them about products that might contain banned drugs. All student-athletes are to be notified that the list may change during the academic year, that updates may be found on the NCAA website ([www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)) and informed of the appropriate athletics department procedures for disseminating updates to the list; and
- (c) The consent form shall be kept on file by the athletics director and shall be available for examination upon request by an authorized representative of the NCAA.

**12.7.3.3 Exception—14-Day Grace Period.** A student-athlete who is “trying out” for a team is not required to complete the form until 14 days from the first date the student-athlete engages in countable athletically related activities or before the student-athlete participates in a competition, whichever occurs earlier. (*Adopted: 4/27/06 effective 8/1/06, Revised: 7/31/14*)

**12.7.3.4 Effect of Violation.** A violation of Bylaw 12.7.3 or its subsections shall be considered institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1; however, a violation shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility, provided the student-athlete signs the consent form. (*Revised: 4/28/05 effective 8/1/05, 7/30/10*)

#### **12.7.4 Student-Athlete Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Authorization/Buckley Amendment Consent Form—Disclosure of Protected Health Information.**

**12.7.4.1 Content and Purpose.** Each academic year, a student-athlete may voluntarily sign a statement in a form maintained by the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports and approved by the Legislative Committee in which the student-athlete authorizes/consents to the institution's physicians, athletics directors and health care personnel to disclose the student-athlete's injury/illness and participation information associated with the student-athlete's training and participation in intercollegiate athletics to the NCAA and to its Injury Surveillance Program (ISP), agents and employees for the purpose of conducting research into the reduction of athletics injuries. The authorization/consent by the student-athlete is voluntary and is not required for the student-athlete to be eligible to participate. **[D]** (*Adopted: 4/24/03, Revised: 8/7/03 effective 8/1/04, 11/1/07 effective 8/1/08, 8/7/14, 10/4/17*)

**12.7.4.2 Administration.** The following procedures shall be used in administering the form: **[D]** (*Adopted: 4/24/03, Revised: 8/7/03 effective 8/1/04, 7/30/10*)

- (a) The authorization/consent form shall be administered individually to each student-athlete by the athletics director or the athletics director's designee before the student-athlete's participation in intercollegiate athletics each academic year.
- (b) Signing the authorization/consent shall be voluntary and is not required by the student-athlete's institution for medical treatment, payment for treatment, enrollment in a health plan or for any benefits (if applicable) and is not required for the student-athlete to be eligible to participate.
- (c) Any signed authorization/consent forms shall be kept on file by the athletics director.

**12.7.5 Eligibility Requirements for Male Students to Practice With Women's Teams.** A male student may engage in practice sessions with women's teams subject to the following conditions: (*Revised: 5/12/05, 5/29/08, 7/31/14, 4/26/17, 4/26/17 effective 8/1/17*)

- (a) A male student who practices with an institution's women's team must be verified as eligible for practice in accordance with Bylaw 14.2.1 and must have eligibility remaining under the five-year rule (see Bylaw 12.8.1);
- (b) It is not permissible for an institution to provide a male student financial assistance (room and board, tuition and fees, and books) in return for practicing with a women's team. A male student who is receiving financial aid or any compensation for serving in any position in the athletics department may not practice with a women's team. A male student-athlete who is a counter in a men's sport may not engage in practice sessions with an institution's women's team in any sport;
- (c) It is not permissible for an institution to provide a male student room and board to remain on campus during a vacation period to participate in practice sessions with a women's team;
- (d) It is not permissible for a recruited male student-athlete who is serving an academic year of residence as a nonqualifier to participate in practice sessions with a women's team. A nonrecruited male student who is serving an academic year of residence as a nonqualifier may participate in practice sessions with a women's team;
- (e) It is permissible for an institution to provide practice apparel to a male student for the purpose of practicing with a women's team; and
- (f) A male student who practices with an institution's women's basketball team may participate in required summer athletic activities, provided he was enrolled full time at the conclusion of the regular academic term (e.g., spring semester or quarter) immediately preceding the institution's summer term.

## 12.8 Seasons of Competition: Five-Year Rule.

A student-athlete shall not engage in more than four seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport (see Bylaws 12.02.6 and 14.3.3). An institution shall not permit a student-athlete to represent it in intercollegiate competition unless the individual completes all of his or her seasons of participation in all sports within the time periods specified below: *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.1 Five-Year Rule.** A student-athlete shall complete his or her seasons of participation within five calendar years from the beginning of the semester or quarter in which the student-athlete first registered for a minimum full-time program of studies in a collegiate institution, with time spent in the armed services, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government being excepted. For international students, service in the armed forces or on an official religious mission of the student's home country is considered equivalent to such service in the United States. *(Revised: 4/2/10, 7/31/14)*

**12.8.1.1 Determining the Start of the Five-Year Period.** For purposes of starting the count of time under the five-year rule, a student-athlete shall be considered registered at a collegiate institution (domestic or foreign; see Bylaw 14.02.5) when the student-athlete initially registers in a regular term (semester or quarter) of an academic year for a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the institution, and attends the student's first day of classes for that term (see Bylaw 12.8.2). *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.1.2 Service Exceptions to the Five-Year Rule.** Time spent in the armed services, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government is excepted from the application of the five-year rule. Among such services that qualify a student-athlete for an extension of the five-year rule are: *(Revised: 4/2/10, 7/31/14)*

- (a) Military Sea Transport Service;
- (b) Peace Corps; or
- (c) Service as a conscientious objector ordered by the Selective Service Commission (or the equivalent authority in a foreign nation) in lieu of active military duty.

**12.8.1.2.1 Elapsed Time/Service to Enrollment.** If a student-athlete enrolls in a regular term of a collegiate institution at the first opportunity following completion of any one of the commitments described in the exceptions to this bylaw, the elapsed time (the exact number of calendar days) between completion of the commitment and the first opportunity for enrollment may be added to the exact number of days served on active duty in the armed services, with foreign aid services or on official religious missions and will not count toward the student-athlete's five years of eligibility. It is not permissible to extend the five-year period by any additional time beyond the first opportunity to enroll (the opening day of classes of the first regular term at the institution in which the student-athlete enrolls as a regular student immediately following the termination of the active-duty commitment). *(Revised: 4/2/10, 7/31/14)*

**12.8.1.2.2 Collegiate Enrollment Concurrent With Service Assignment.** Any time in which a student-athlete is enrolled for a minimum full-time load as a regular student in a collegiate institution while simultaneously on active duty in the U.S. military, on an official religious mission or with a recognized foreign aid service of the U.S. government shall count against the five calendar years in which the student-athlete's seasons of eligibility must be completed. *(Revised: 4/2/10, 7/31/14)*

**12.8.1.3 Academic Study Abroad Exception.** Time spent participating in a full-time study-abroad program during a regular term of an academic year may be excepted from the application of the five-year rule, provided: *(Adopted: 1/19/17 effective 8/1/17)*

- (a) The institution recognizes the student-athlete as a full-time student at the time he or she participates in the study-abroad program;
- (b) At the time of participation in the study-abroad program, the student-athlete is academically eligible for competition and is not subject to an athletically related suspension;
- (c) The student-athlete does not participate in practice or competition with the institution's team and does not engage in outside competition while participating in the study-abroad program;
- (d) The student-athlete satisfactorily completes the study-abroad program; and
- (e) The student-athlete earns a baccalaureate degree within five years or fewer.

**12.8.1.4 Internship or Cooperative Educational Work Experience Program Exception.** Time spent participating in a full-time internship or cooperative educational work experience program during a regular term of an academic year may be excepted from the application of the five-year rule, provided: *(Adopted: 1/19/17 effective 8/1/17)*

- (a) The institution recognizes the student-athlete as a full-time student at the time he or she participates in the internship or cooperative educational work experience program;
- (b) At the time of participation in the internship or cooperative educational work experience program, the student-athlete is academically eligible for competition and is not subject to an athletically related suspension;

- (c) The student-athlete does not participate in practice or competition with the institution's team and does not engage in outside competition while participating in the internship or cooperative educational work experience program;
- (d) The student-athlete satisfactorily completes the internship or cooperative educational work experience program; and
- (e) The student-athlete earns a baccalaureate degree within five years or fewer.

**12.8.1.5 Pregnancy Exception.** A member institution may approve a one-year extension of the five-year period of eligibility for a female student-athlete for reasons of pregnancy. *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.1.6 Athletics Activity Waiver.** The Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, or a committee designated by it, shall have the authority to waive this provision by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting to permit student-athletes to participate in: *(Revised: 1/10/91, 1/9/96, 1/14/12, 7/31/14)*

- (a) Official Pan American, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games (Universiade), World University Championships and Olympic training, tryouts and competition;
- (b) Officially recognized training and competition directly qualifying participants for final Olympic tryouts; or
- (c) Official tryouts and competition involving national teams sponsored by the appropriate national governing bodies of the U.S. Olympic Committee (or, for student-athletes representing another nation, the equivalent organization of that nation, or, for student-athletes competing in a non-Olympic sport, the equivalent organization of that sport).

**12.8.1.6.1 Junior Level Competition.** The athletics activity waiver does not apply to junior level training, tryouts or competition (e.g., Youth Olympic Games, U20 World Cup, Junior National Teams) that may be associated with the training, tryouts or competition specified in Bylaw 12.8.1.6. *(Adopted: 2/17/17)*

**12.8.1.6.2 Athletics Activity Waiver Criteria.** Extensions of the five-year period of eligibility for student-athletes by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, or its designated committee, shall be based on the following criteria: The member institution in which the student-athlete is enrolled must establish to the satisfaction of the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement (by objective evidence) that the student-athlete was unable to participate in intercollegiate athletics as a result of participation in one of the activities listed in the above legislation for a specific period of time. Further, such an extension shall be limited to one time and for a period not to exceed one year per student-athlete, per sport. *(Revised: 8/11/98, 7/31/14)*

**12.8.1.7 Five-Year Rule Waiver.** The Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, or its designated committee, by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting, may approve waivers of the five-year rule as it deems appropriate. *(Revised: 7/30/10, 7/31/14)*

**12.8.1.7.1 Waiver Criteria.** A waiver of the five-year period of eligibility is designed to provide a student-athlete with the opportunity to participate in four seasons of intercollegiate competition within a five-year period. This waiver may be granted, based upon objective evidence under the following circumstances: *(Revised: 4/17/91, 1/11/94, 8/10/94, 10/12/95, 4/27/00, 7/30/10, 7/31/14, 4/25/18 applicable to a student-athlete who qualifies for a waiver that would provide the opportunity to participate in four seasons of competition within a five-year period)*

- (a) The student-athlete did not use a season of intercollegiate competition in his or her initial year of full-time, collegiate enrollment due to an institutional decision to redshirt the student-athlete; the student-athlete was listed on the institution's squad list and was eligible for competition during the segment of the season that concludes with the NCAA championship; and the student-athlete was deprived of the opportunity to participate in intercollegiate competition in one other season due to circumstances beyond the control of the student-athlete or institution; or
- (b) The student-athlete is deprived of the opportunity to participate for more than one season in his or her sport within the five-year period of eligibility for reasons that are beyond the control of the student-athlete or the institution.

**12.8.1.7.1.1 Circumstances Beyond Control.** Circumstances considered to be beyond the control of the student-athlete or the institution and do not cause a participation opportunity to be used shall include, but are not limited to, the following: *(Adopted: 8/10/94, Revised: 10/12/95, 8/12/97, 1/9/06, 7/30/10, 7/31/14)*

- (a) Situations clearly supported by contemporaneous medical documentation, which states that a student-athlete is unable to participate in intercollegiate competition as a result of incapacitating physical or mental circumstances;
- (b) The student-athlete is unable to participate in intercollegiate athletics as a result of a life-threatening or incapacitating injury or illness suffered by a member of the student-athlete's immediate family, which clearly is supported by contemporaneous medical documentation;

- (c) Reliance by the student-athlete upon written, contemporaneous, clearly erroneous academic advice provided to the student-athlete from a specific academic authority from a collegiate institution regarding the academic status of the student-athlete or prospective student-athlete, which directly leads to that individual not being eligible to participate and, but for the clearly erroneous advice, the student-athlete would have established eligibility for intercollegiate competition;
- (d) Natural disasters (e.g., earthquake, flood); and
- (e) Extreme financial difficulties as a result of a specific event (e.g., layoff, death in the family) experienced by the student-athlete or by an individual upon whom the student-athlete is legally dependent, which prohibit the student-athlete from participating in intercollegiate athletics. These circumstances must be clearly supported by objective documentation (e.g., decree of bankruptcy, proof of termination) and must be beyond the control of the student-athlete or the individual upon whom the student-athlete is legally dependent.

**12.8.1.7.1.2 Circumstances Within Control.** Circumstances that are considered to be within the control of the student-athlete or the institution and cause a participation opportunity to be used include, but are not limited to, the following: (*Adopted: 8/10/94, Revised: 10/12/95, 10/9/96, 7/30/10, 7/31/14*)

- (a) A student-athlete's decision to attend an institution that does not sponsor his or her sport, or decides not to participate at an institution that does sponsor his or her sport;
- (b) An inability to participate due to failure to meet institutional/conference or NCAA academic requirements, or disciplinary reasons or incarceration culminating in or resulting from a conviction;
- (c) Reliance by a student-athlete upon misinformation from a coaching staff member;
- (d) Redshirt year;
- (e) Ineligibility to participate as a result of a transfer year of residence or fulfilling a condition for restoration of eligibility; and
- (f) A student-athlete's lack of understanding regarding the specific starting date of his or her five-year period of eligibility.

**12.8.1.7.1.3 Circumstances of Extraordinary or Extreme Hardship.** The Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement reserves the right to review requests that do not meet the more-than-one-year criteria of this waiver for circumstances of extraordinary or extreme hardship. (*Revised: 4/25/18*)

**12.8.1.7.1.4 Practice While Waiver is Pending.** A student-athlete who has exhausted his or her five years of eligibility may continue to practice (but not compete) for a maximum of 30 consecutive calendar days, provided the student-athlete's institution has submitted a waiver request. The student-athlete may not commence practice until the institution has filed such a request. Further, if such a request is denied prior to exhausting the 30-day practice period, the student-athlete must cease all practice activities upon the institution's notification of the denial. (*Revised: 4/25/18*)

## **12.8.2 Additional Applications of the Five-Year Rule.**

**12.8.2.1 Athletics Competition.** Even though a student is enrolled for less than a minimum full-time program of studies at a collegiate institution, the student's five-year period of eligibility begins if the individual represents the institution in intercollegiate athletics. (*Revised: 7/31/14*)

**12.8.2.2 Nonrecognized College.** Enrollment in a postsecondary, noncollegiate institution (e.g., technical school, seminary or business college) in the United States that is not accredited at the college level by an agency or association recognized by the secretary of the Department of Education and legally authorized to offer at least a one-year program of study creditable toward a degree, constitutes enrollment in the application of the five-year rule only if: (*Revised: 1/10/90, 8/8/02, 7/31/14*)

- (a) The student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies at such an institution that conducts an intercollegiate athletics program; or
- (b) The student, whether enrolled for a minimum full-time program of studies or not, represents the institution in intercollegiate athletics.

**12.8.2.3 Joint College/High School Program.** A student-athlete's eligibility under the five-year rule does not begin while a student is enrolled in a collegiate institution in a joint high school/college academic program for high school students in which the courses count as both high school graduation credit and college credit, provided the student has not officially graduated from high school and does not participate in intercollegiate athletics while enrolled in the joint program. (*Revised: 11/1/01 effective 8/1/02, 7/31/14*)

**12.8.2.4 Vocational Program.** A student-athlete's eligibility under the five-year rule does not begin while the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies as a part of a special vocational program that combines enrollment in regular college courses and participation in vocational training courses, provided the student is not considered to be regularly matriculated by the institution, does not go through the customary

registration and testing procedures required of all regular entering students and is not eligible for the institution's extracurricular activities, including athletics. *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.2.5 Eligibility for Practice.** To be eligible to participate in organized practice sessions, a student-athlete shall have eligibility remaining under the five-year rule (see Bylaws 14.2.1.7 and 14.2.1.8). A student-athlete receiving institutional financial aid after having engaged in four seasons of intercollegiate competition in a sport may continue to take part in organized, institutional practice sessions in that sport without being a counter (see Bylaw 15.02.3). **[D]** *(Revised: 8/5/04, 7/31/14, 3/27/18)*

### 12.8.3 Criteria for Determining Season of Competition.

**12.8.3.1 Minimum Amount of Competition.** Any competition, regardless of time, during a season in an intercollegiate sport shall be counted as a season of competition in that sport, except as provided in Bylaws 12.8.3.1.1, 12.8.3.1.2, 12.8.3.1.4, 12.8.3.1.5 and 12.8.3.1.6. This provision is applicable to intercollegiate athletics competition conducted by a two-year or four-year collegiate institution at the varsity or subvarsity level. *(Revised: 1/11/94, 4/28/05 effective 8/1/05, 5/9/06, 1/16/10 effective 8/1/10, 7/31/14, 6/13/18 effective 8/1/18 for competition that occurs on or after 8/1/18)*

**12.8.3.1.1 Two-Year College Scrimmages.** A two-year college prospective student-athlete may compete in a scrimmage as a member of a two-year college team without counting such competition as a season of competition, provided the competition meets all of the following conditions: *(Adopted: 1/11/94, Revised: 5/9/06, 7/31/14)*

- (a) The scrimmage is approved by the two-year college;
- (b) No official score is kept;
- (c) No admission is charged;
- (d) No official time is kept;
- (e) The scrimmage is played prior to the two-year college's first regularly scheduled outside competition; and
- (f) The prospective student-athlete participates in not more than two such scrimmages or dates of competition per academic year.

**12.8.3.1.2 Exception—Nonchampionship Segment Competition—Field Hockey, Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Women's Volleyball and Men's Water Polo.** In field hockey, men's soccer, women's soccer, women's volleyball and men's water polo, a student-athlete may engage in intercollegiate competition during the segment of the playing season that does not conclude with the NCAA championship without using a season of competition, provided the student-athlete was academically eligible during the segment that concludes with the NCAA championship. *(Adopted: 11/1/01, Revised: 8/8/02, 10/31/02, 5/9/06, 7/31/14)*

**12.8.3.1.3 Exception—Nonchampionship Segment Competition—Baseball, Women's Beach Volleyball, Lacrosse, Softball, Men's Volleyball and Women's Water Polo.** In baseball, women's beach volleyball, lacrosse, softball, men's volleyball and women's water polo, a student-athlete may engage in intercollegiate competition during the segment of the playing season that does not conclude with the NCAA championship without using a season of competition, provided the student-athlete remains academically eligible during the segment that concludes with the NCAA championship. *(Adopted: 6/28/17 may be applied retroactively to a student-athlete with eligibility remaining in his or her five-year period of eligibility)*

**12.8.3.1.4 Preseason Exhibitions/Preseason Practice Scrimmages.** A student-athlete may compete in preseason exhibition contests and preseason practice scrimmages (as permitted in the particular sport per Bylaw 17) without counting such competition as a season of competition. *(Revised: 5/9/06, 7/31/14, 4/26/17 may be applied retroactively to a student-athlete with eligibility remaining in his or her five-year period of eligibility)*

**12.8.3.1.5 Alumni Game, Fundraising Activity or Celebrity Sports Activity.** A student-athlete may engage in outside competition in either one alumni game, one fundraising activity or one celebrity sports activity during a season without counting such competition as a season of competition, provided the event is exempted from the institution's maximum number of contests or dates of competition as permitted in the particular sport per Bylaw 17. *(Adopted: 1/16/10 effective 8/1/10, Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.3.1.6 Exception—Football. [FBS/FCS]** In football, a student-athlete may compete in up to four contests in a season without using a season of competition. *(Adopted: 6/13/18 effective 8/1/18 for competition that occurs on or after 8/1/18)*

### 12.8.3.2 Delayed Enrollment—Seasons of Competition.

**12.8.3.2.1 Sports Other Than Men's Ice Hockey, Skiing and Tennis.** In sports other than men's ice hockey, skiing and tennis, a student-athlete who does not enroll in a collegiate institution as a full-time student in a regular academic term during a one-year time period after his or her high school graduation date or the graduation date of his or her class (as determined by the first year of high school enrollment or the international equivalent as specified in the NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics

Eligibility and based on the prescribed educational path in the student-athlete's country), whichever occurs earlier, shall be subject to the following: *(Adopted: 1/9/96 effective 8/1/97, Revised: 4/29/04 effective 8/1/04, 4/20/09, 4/29/10 effective 8/1/11 applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/11, 7/31/14)*

- (a) The student-athlete shall be charged with a season of intercollegiate eligibility for each calendar year after the one-year time period (the next opportunity to enroll after one calendar year has elapsed) and prior to full-time collegiate enrollment during which the student-athlete has participated in organized competition per Bylaw 12.02.9.
- (b) After the one-year time period, if the student-athlete has engaged in competition per Bylaw 12.02.9, on matriculation at the certifying institution, the student-athlete must fulfill an academic year of residence before being eligible to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition.

**12.8.3.2.1.1 Exception—National/International Competition.** For a maximum of one year after a prospective student-athlete's first opportunity to enroll full time in a collegiate institution following the one-year time period after his or her high school graduation date or the graduation date of his or her class, whichever occurs earlier, participation in the following organized national/international competition is exempt from application of Bylaw 12.8.3.2.1: *(Adopted: 1/15/11 effective 8/1/11, Revised: 1/14/12, 7/31/14, 4/25/18 effective 8/1/18 applicable to a student-athlete who initially enrolls full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/18)*

- (a) Official Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games (Universiade) and World University Championships competition or the junior level equivalents (e.g., Youth Olympic Games, U20 World Cup, junior national teams);
- (b) Officially recognized competition from which participants may directly qualify for final tryouts for a national team that will participate in the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships, World Cup or World University Games (Universiade), World University Championships or the junior level equivalents (e.g., Youth Olympic Games, U20 World Cup, junior national teams) and final tryout competition from which participants are selected for such teams; or
- (c) Official competition involving a national team sponsored by the appropriate national governing body of the U.S. Olympic Committee (or, for student-athletes representing another nation, the equivalent organization of that nation).

**12.8.3.2.1.2 Service Exceptions.** Participation in organized competition during time spent in the armed services, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government is exempt from the application of Bylaw 12.8.3.2.1. *(Adopted: 4/25/18 may be applied retroactively to a student-athlete with eligibility remaining in his or her five-year period of eligibility)*

**12.8.3.2.1.3 Track and Field and Cross Country.** A student-athlete who has participated in organized competition after the one-year time period (the next opportunity to enroll after one calendar year has elapsed) and prior to full-time collegiate enrollment during a cross country, indoor track and field, or outdoor track and field season (as opposed to general road racing events) shall be charged with a season of competition in the sport in which the student has participated for each calendar year after the one-year time period in which he or she participated in organized competition. *(Adopted: 4/29/10 effective 8/1/11 applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/11, Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.3.2.1.4 Road Racing.** A student-athlete who has participated in road racing activities after the one-year time period (the next opportunity to enroll after one calendar year has elapsed) and prior to full-time collegiate enrollment shall be charged with a season of competition in each of the sports of cross country, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, and triathlon for each calendar year after the one-year time period in which he or she participates in organized competition. *(Adopted: 4/29/10 effective 8/1/11 applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/11, Revised: 1/18/14 effective 8/1/14, 7/31/14)*

**12.8.3.2.2 Tennis.** In tennis, a student-athlete who does not enroll in a collegiate institution as a full-time student in a regular academic term within six months (or the first opportunity to enroll after six months have elapsed) after his or her high school graduation date or the graduation date of his or her class (as determined by the first year of high school enrollment or the international equivalent as specified in the NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility and based on the prescribed educational path in the student-athlete's country), whichever occurs earlier, shall be subject to the following: *(Adopted: 4/29/10 effective 8/1/12 applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/12, Revised: 7/31/14)*

- (a) The student-athlete shall be charged with a season of intercollegiate eligibility for each calendar year after the six-month period has elapsed (or the next opportunity to enroll) and prior to full-time collegiate enrollment during which the student-athlete has participated in organized competition per Bylaw 12.02.9.

- (b) After the six-month period, if the student-athlete has engaged in organized competition per Bylaw 12.02.9, on matriculation at the certifying institution, the student-athlete must fulfill an academic year of residence before being eligible to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition.

**12.8.3.2.2.1 Exception—National/International Competition.** For a maximum of one year after a prospective student-athlete's first opportunity to enroll full time in a collegiate institution following the six-month time period after his or her high school graduation date or the graduation date of his or her class, whichever occurs earlier, participation in the following organized national/international competition is exempt from application of Bylaw 12.8.3.2.2: *(Adopted: 1/15/11 effective 8/1/12, Revised: 1/14/12, 7/31/14, 4/25/18 effective 8/1/18 applicable to a student-athlete who initially enrolls full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/18)*

- (a) Official Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games (Universiade) and World University Championships competition or the junior level equivalents (e.g., Youth Olympic Games, U20 World Cup, junior national teams);
- (b) Officially recognized competition from which participants may directly qualify for final tryouts for a national team that will participate in the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships, World Cup or World University Games (Universiade), World University Championships or the junior level equivalent (e.g., Youth Olympic Games, U20 World Cup, junior national teams) and final tryout competition from which participants are selected for such teams; or
- (c) Official competition involving a national team sponsored by the appropriate national governing body of the U.S. Olympic Committee (or, for student-athletes representing another nation, the equivalent organization of that nation.)

**12.8.3.2.2.2 Service Exceptions.** Participation in organized competition during time spent in the armed services, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government is exempt from the application of Bylaw 12.8.3.2.2. *(Adopted: 4/25/18 may be applied retroactively to a student-athlete with eligibility remaining in his or her five-year period of eligibility)*

**12.8.3.2.2.3 Matriculation After 20th Birthday—Tennis.** In tennis, a student who is eligible under Bylaw 12.8.3.2.2, but who participates in organized tennis events after his or her 20th birthday and before full-time enrollment at the certifying institution shall be subject to the following: *(Adopted: 4/29/04 effective 8/1/04 for competition occurring after 8/1/04, Revised: 6/10/04, 7/31/14)*

- (a) The student will be charged with one season of intercollegiate tennis competition for each calendar year after his or her 20th birthday and prior to full-time enrollment at the certifying institution during which the student-athlete has participated in organized tennis competition per Bylaw 12.02.9. [Note: This includes participation in intercollegiate tennis while enrolled full time in another two-year or four-year institution; however, this provision replaces the season of competition counted in Bylaw 12.8 (only one season is used in any one year).]
- (b) Upon matriculation at the certifying institution, the student-athlete must fulfill an academic year of residence before being eligible to represent the institution in intercollegiate tennis, unless the student transfers to the certifying institution with a minimum of 24 semester hours (or equivalent) of transferable degree credit. (Note: All other NCAA transfer and academic eligibility requirements apply.)

**12.8.3.2.2.3.1 Exception—Continuous Full-Time Enrollment.** A student who is eligible under Bylaw 12.8.3.2.2 and who maintained full-time enrollment in a collegiate institution during each regular academic term from his or her initial full-time enrollment in a collegiate institution to his or her initial full-time enrollment at the certifying institution is not subject to the application of Bylaw 12.8.3.2.2.3. *(Adopted: 4/25/18 may be applied retroactively to a student-athlete with eligibility remaining in his or her five-year period of eligibility)*

**12.8.3.2.2.3.2 Exception—Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games (Universiade) and World University Championships Participation.** Participation in the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games (Universiade) and World University Championships or the junior level equivalents (e.g., Youth Olympic Games, U20 World Cup, junior national teams) is exempt from the application of Bylaw 12.8.3.2.2.3. *(Adopted: 4/26/07 effective 8/1/07, Revised: 1/14/12, 7/31/14, 4/25/18 effective 8/1/18 applicable to a student-athlete who initially enrolls full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/18)*

**12.8.3.2.2.3.3 Service Exceptions.** Participation in organized competition during time spent in the armed services, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government is exempt from the application of Bylaw 12.8.3.2.2. *(Adopted: 4/25/18 may be applied retroactively to a student-athlete with eligibility remaining in his or her five-year period of eligibility)*

**12.8.3.3 Track and Field and Cross Country.** Cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field shall be considered separate sports. *(Revised: 1/10/90, 7/31/14)*

**12.8.3.4 Intercollegiate Competition.** A student-athlete is considered to have engaged in a season of intercollegiate competition when he or she competes in an athletics event involving any one of the conditions characterizing intercollegiate competition (per Bylaw 12.02.6). *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.3.5 Participation After 21st Birthday—Men's Ice Hockey and Skiing.** In men's ice hockey and skiing, any participation as an individual or a team representative in organized sports competition by a student during each 12-month period after the student's 21st birthday and prior to initial full-time enrollment in a collegiate institution shall count as one year of varsity competition in that sport. Participation in organized competition during time spent in the armed services, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government shall be excepted. *(Revised: 1/10/90, 1/16/93, 1/10/95 effective 8/1/95, 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96, 6/10/04, 1/17/09 effective 8/1/10, 4/13/10 effective 8/1/11 applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/11, 7/31/14, 4/25/18 may be applied retroactively to a student-athlete with eligibility remaining in his or her five-year period of eligibility)*

**12.8.3.6 Foreign-Tour Competition.** A student-athlete who did not compete during the institution's season just completed and who represents the institution in a certified foreign tour after that intercollegiate season and prior to the start of the next academic year shall not be charged with a season of eligibility (see Bylaw 17.29.1.4). *(Revised: 8/11/98, 7/31/14)*

**12.8.3.7 Participation on an Institution's Club Team.** An individual is charged with a season of competition for participation in intercollegiate competition (see Bylaw 12.02.6) as a member of an institution's club team if that institution sponsored the sport as a varsity intercollegiate sport and as a club sport at the time of participation. *(Adopted: 6/24/09, Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.4 Hardship Waiver.** A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of competition by the conference or the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for reasons of "hardship." Hardship is defined as an incapacity resulting from an injury or illness that has occurred under all of the following conditions: *(Revised: 1/10/92 effective 8/1/92, 1/14/97, 8/1/97, 4/26/01 effective 8/1/01, 11/1/01, 4/3/02, 8/8/02, 3/10/04, 5/11/05, 9/18/07, 11/1/07 effective 8/1/08, 4/24/08, 7/31/14)*

- (a) The incapacitating injury or illness occurs in one of the four seasons of intercollegiate competition at any two-year or four-year collegiate institutions or occurs after the first day of classes in the student-athlete's senior year in high school;
- (b) The injury or illness occurs prior to the first competition of the second half of the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship in that sport (see Bylaw 12.8.4.3.4) and results in incapacity to compete for the remainder of that playing season;
- (c) In team sports, the injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete has not participated in more than three contests or dates of competition (whichever is applicable to that sport) or 30 percent (whichever number is greater) of the institution's scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition in his or her sport. Only scheduled or completed competition against outside participants during the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship, or, if so designated, during the official NCAA championship playing season in that sport (e.g., spring baseball, fall soccer), shall be countable under this limitation in calculating both the number of contests or dates of competition in which the student-athlete has participated and the number of scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition during that season in the sport. Dates of competition that are exempted (e.g., alumni contests, foreign team in the United States) from the maximum permissible number of contests or dates of competition shall count toward the number of contests or dates in which the student-athlete has participated and the number of scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition in the season, except for scrimmages and exhibition contests that are specifically identified as such in the sport's Bylaw 17 playing and practice season regulations. Scrimmages and exhibition contests that are not exempted from the maximum permissible number of contests or dates of competition may be excluded from the calculation only if they are identified as such in the sport's Bylaw 17 playing and practice season regulations; and
- (d) In individual sports, the injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete has not participated in more than three dates of competition or 30 percent (whichever number is greater) of the maximum permissible number of dates of competition as set forth in Bylaw 17 plus one date for a conference championship (e.g., gymnastics: 13+1=14, wrestling: 16+1=17), regardless of whether the team participates in the conference championship, provided the institution is a member of a conference and the conference holds a championship event in the applicable sport. Dates of competition that are exempted per Bylaw 17 (e.g., alumni contests, foreign team in the United States) from the maximum permissible number of dates of competition do not count toward the number of dates in which the student-athlete has participated.

**12.8.4.1 Administration of Hardship Waiver.** The hardship waiver shall be administered by the member conferences of the Association or, in the case of an independent member institution, by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement. *(Revised: 10/28/04, 4/20/09, 7/31/14)*

**12.8.4.1.1 Review of Denied Waiver.** A conference that denies an institution's hardship waiver may submit the waiver to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement. The committee shall have the authority to review and determine whether to approve the waiver based on circumstances that may warrant relief from the application of the legislated waiver criteria. (*Adopted: 4/20/09, Revised: 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2 Criteria for Administration of Hardship Waiver.**

**12.8.4.2.1 Use of Scheduled or Completed Contests.** An institution may use scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition, but it is not permissible to combine the two methods of calculation. (*Adopted: 8/4/05, Revised: 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.2 Nature of Injury/Illness.** It is not necessary for the incapacitating injury or illness to be the direct result of the student's participation in the institution's organized practice or game competition. (*Revised: 11/1/01, 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.3 Medical Documentation.** Contemporaneous or other appropriate medical documentation, from a physician (a medical doctor) who administered care at the time of the injury or illness, that establishes the student-athlete's inability to compete as a result of that injury or illness shall be submitted with any hardship-waiver request. (*Adopted: 4/20/99, Revised: 2/22/01, 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.4 First-Half-of-Season Calculation.**

**12.8.4.2.4.1 Team Sports.** In team sports, the first half of the season is measured by the number of scheduled contests or dates of competition not exceeding the maximum limitations in each sport as set forth in Bylaw 17 as set prior to the first scheduled contest or date of competition of the designated official NCAA championship playing season in the applicable sport or the number of completed contests or dates of competition. In determining if an injury or illness occurs prior to the first competition of the second half of the season that concludes with the NCAA championship in a sport with an odd number of scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition, the injury or illness must have occurred prior to the beginning of the scheduled or completed varsity contest or date of competition that starts the second half of the season that concludes with the NCAA championship (e.g., an injury or illness occurring at any time after the beginning of the scheduled sixth game of an 11-game schedule would be considered to be after the first half of the institution's season and would not qualify the student-athlete for a hardship waiver). (*Revised: 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97, 4/26/01 effective 8/1/01, 8/4/05, 4/24/08, 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.4.1.1 Contests or Dates of Competition Based on Championship Selection.** In sports in which the playing season may be divided into two segments, but championship selection is based on competition throughout the season (e.g., ice hockey), the first half of the season shall be measured by the institution's number of scheduled or completed varsity contests or dates of competition for the entire season (e.g., nonchampionship and championship segments). In sports in which the playing season may be divided into two segments, but championship selection is based on competition during only one segment of the season (e.g., spring baseball, fall soccer), the first half of the season shall be measured by the institution's number of scheduled or completed varsity contests or dates of competition for only the championship segment. (*Adopted: 4/23/08, Revised: 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.4.2 Individual Sports.** In individual sports, the first half of the season calculation is based on the number of days in the season that concludes with the NCAA championship, as declared by the institution, between the first date of competition used by any individual on the team and the last date of competition used by any individual on the team at the end of the declared playing season, including a conference championship and any regular-season competition scheduled after the conference championship (e.g., "last chance" meet). Any break in the declared season shall not be counted (e.g., institutional vacation period in which no practice or competition occurs). The total number of days in the championship season shall be divided by two in order to determine the first half of the season. A fractional portion of a day shall be rounded up to the next whole number. (*Adopted: 4/24/08, Revised: 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.4.2.1 Championship Selection Based on Entire Season.** In sports in which the playing season may be divided into two segments, but championship selection is based on competition throughout the season (e.g., golf, tennis), the first half of the season is based on the number of days in the entire season (e.g., nonchampionship and championship segments), as declared by the institution between the first date of competition used by any individual on the team and the last date of competition used by any individual on the team at the end of the declared playing season, including a conference championship and any regular-season competition scheduled after the conference championship (e.g., "last chance" meet). (*Revised: 9/2/10, 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.5 Reinjury in Second Half of Season.** A student-athlete who suffers an injury in the first half of the season that concludes with the NCAA championship or who suffers an injury after the first day of classes in his or her senior year of high school, attempts to return to competition during the second half of that season and then is unable to participate further as a result of aggravating the original injury does not qualify for the hardship waiver. (*Revised: 11/1/01, 8/8/02, 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.6 Percent Calculation.** The following requirements are to be met in determining the percent calculation under this waiver provision: (Note: The percent calculation requirements set forth in Bylaws 12.8.4 and 12.8.4.3.6 apply only to the waiver provisions of this section and do not apply to the maximum-and minimum-contests requirements in Bylaws 17 and 20.) (*Revised: 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.6.1 Denominator in Percent Computation.**

**12.8.4.2.6.1.1 Team Sports.** The denominator in the institution's percent calculation shall be based on the institution's number of scheduled or completed varsity contests or dates of competition [see Bylaw 12.8.4-(c)] as computed for playing and practice season purposes in Bylaw 17 for the applicable sport. [Note: Exempted events in Bylaw 17 are included in the percent calculation, except as provided in Bylaw 12.8.4-(c).] An institution participating in a single-elimination event may only count the actual contests in which the institution participates (as opposed to the number of contests scheduled in the event) in determining the number of scheduled or completed contests in the denominator. (*Revised: 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97, 2/11/98, 4/26/01 effective 8/1/01, 6/21/01, 8/4/05, 4/24/08, 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.6.1.1.1 Conference Championships.** A conference championship shall be counted as one contest or date of competition in determining the institution's scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition in that sport, regardless of the number of days or games involved in the championship. However, for purposes of this regulation, the calculation of scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition in a particular season does not include postseason competition conducted after the completion of the institution's regular-season schedule and conference tournament. (*Revised: 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97, 4/26/01 effective 8/1/01, 8/4/05, 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.6.1.1.2 Contests or Dates of Competition Based on Championship Selection.** In sports in which the playing season may be divided into two segments, but championship selection is based on competition throughout the season (e.g., ice hockey), the denominator shall be based on the institution's number of scheduled or completed varsity contests or dates of competition for the entire season (e.g., nonchampionship and championship segments). In sports in which the playing season may be divided into two segments, but championship selection is based on competition during only one segment of the season (e.g., spring baseball, fall soccer), the denominator shall be based on the institution's number of scheduled or completed varsity contests or dates of competition for only the championship segment. (*Adopted: 4/23/08, Revised: 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.6.1.2 Individual Sports.** The denominator in the institution's percent calculation shall be the maximum permissible number of dates of competition as set forth in Bylaw 17 plus one date for a conference championship (e.g., gymnastics:  $13+1=14$ , wrestling:  $16+1=17$ ), regardless of whether the team participates in the conference championship, provided the institution is a member of a conference and the conference sponsors a championship in the applicable sport. For institutions that sponsor both indoor and outdoor track and field, the denominator for indoor track and field shall be nine, plus one date for a conference championship, if applicable, and the denominator for outdoor track and field shall be nine, plus one date for a conference championship, if applicable. (*Adopted: 4/24/08, Revised: 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.6.2 Fraction in Percent Computation.** Any computation of the percent limitation that results in a fractional portion of a contest or date of competition shall be rounded to the next whole number (e.g., 30 percent of a 29-game basketball schedule—8.7 games—shall be considered nine games). (*Revised: 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97, 4/26/07, 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.7 Transfer Student-Athletes.** The application of the hardship legislation for a transfer student-athlete may be based on the method that would be most beneficial to the student-athlete (the rule applicable to the division in which the injury or illness occurred or the Division I rule). The application of a particular division's legislation must include all the applicable elements of that division's legislation. It is not permissible to use selected elements of the legislation of more than one division. (*Adopted: 11/12/97, Revised: 4/26/01 effective 8/1/01, 9/17/09, 7/31/14*)

**12.8.4.2.8 Foreign-Tour Competition.** A student-athlete who qualifies for a hardship for the previous academic year would not use a season of competition if the student-athlete represents the institution on a certified foreign tour during the summer-vacation period at the conclusion of that academic year. (*Adopted: 1/10/92, Revised: 4/26/01, 7/31/14*)

**12.8.5 Season-of-Competition Waiver—Competition While Ineligible.** In conjunction with a request for restoration of eligibility and any conditions imposed thereon per Bylaw 12.12, a student-athlete may be granted an additional season of competition by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement when the student-athlete participated in a limited amount of competition as a result of a good-faith, erroneous formal declaration of eligibility by the institution's appropriate certifying authority; or the student-athlete's good-faith, erroneous reliance on a coaching staff member's decision to put the student-athlete into competition prior to the coaching

staff member receiving a formal declaration of the student-athlete's eligibility from the institution's appropriate certifying authority. The competition must have occurred under all of the following conditions: *(Adopted: 1/16/93, Revised: 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97, 4/20/99, 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 8/4/05, 7/31/14)*

- (a) The competition occurred while the student-athlete was representing an NCAA member institution;
- (b) The competition occurred within 60 days of the date the student-athlete first reported for athletics participation;
- (c) The student-athlete did not participate in more than two events or 10 percent (whichever number is greater) of the institution's scheduled or completed events in his or her sport. All competition (including a scrimmage) against outside participants shall be countable under this limitation in calculating both the number of events in which the student-athlete participated and the number of completed events during that season (both segments) in the sport;
- (d) The student-athlete was involved innocently and inadvertently in the erroneous determination or declaration of eligibility, which permitted the student-athlete to compete while ineligible; and
- (e) In the case of a coaching staff member's erroneous decision, the student-athlete had reason to believe he or she would be eligible to participate, and the student-athlete did not contribute to the coaching staff member's erroneous decision to allow the student-athlete to participate.

**12.8.5.1 Administrative Criteria.** The following criteria shall be employed in the administration of the season-of-competition waiver: *(Adopted: 1/16/93, Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.5.1.1 Application—Use of Scheduled or Completed Contests.** An institution may use scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition, but it is not permissible to combine the two methods of calculation. *(Adopted: 8/4/05, Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.5.1.2 Ten-Percent Calculation.** The requirements specified in Bylaw 12.8.4.3.6 shall apply to the 10-percent calculation specified in this waiver. *(Adopted: 1/16/93, Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.6 Season-of-Competition Waiver—Competition While Eligible.** A student-athlete may be granted an additional season of competition by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement in a case in which the student-athlete participated in a limited amount of competition while eligible due to a coach's documented misunderstanding of the legislation or other extenuating circumstances. In cases in which a student-athlete does not meet the criteria of this waiver, the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement shall have authority to review and grant a waiver based on additional documented extenuating circumstances. *(Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 10/28/04, 7/31/14)*

**12.8.6.1 Application—Use of Scheduled or Completed Contests.** An institution may use scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition, but it is not permissible to combine the two methods of calculation. *(Adopted: 8/4/05, Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.6.2 Coach's Documented Misunderstanding.** The student-athlete participated as a result of good faith, reliance on a coaching staff member's decision to put the student-athlete in an alumni contest, exhibition contests, scrimmages, or nonchampionship segment contests based on the coach's documented misunderstanding of NCAA legislation and the competition occurred under the following conditions: *(Adopted: 10/28/04, Revised: 8/4/05, 7/31/14)*

- (a) The competition occurred while the student-athlete was representing an NCAA institution;
- (b) The competition occurred prior to the completion of the first 20 percent of the championship segment of the institution's declared playing and practice season; and
- (c) The student-athlete did not compete in more than two events or 10 percent (whichever number is greater) of the institution's scheduled or completed events in his or her sport. All competition (including a scrimmage) against outside participants shall be countable under this limitation in calculating both the number of events in which the student-athlete participated and the number of scheduled or completed events during that season (both segments) in the sport.

**12.8.6.2.1 Percent Calculation.** The requirements specified in Bylaw 12.8.4.3.6 shall apply to the percent calculation specified in this waiver. *(Adopted: 10/20/04, Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.8.6.3 Extenuating Circumstances.** Extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to, the following: *(Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 10/28/04, 7/31/14)*

- (a) The student-athlete failed to complete the entire season of competition at the institution as a result of a life-threatening injury or illness suffered by a member of the student-athlete's immediate family, that clearly is supported by contemporaneous medical documentation;
- (b) The student-athlete failed to complete the entire season of competition at the institution as a result of extreme financial difficulties as a result of a specific event (e.g., layoff, death in family) experienced by the student-athlete or an individual upon whom the student-athlete is legally dependent and prohibited the student-athlete from participating in intercollegiate athletics. These circumstances must be clearly supported by objective documentation (e.g., decree of bankruptcy, proof of termination) and must be

beyond the control of the student-athlete or the individual upon whom the student-athlete is legally dependent;

- (c) The student-athlete's institution dropped the sport (in which the student practiced or competed) from its intercollegiate program.

**12.8.6.3.1 Conditions of Competition.** The competition must have occurred under all of the following conditions: *(Adopted: 10/28/04, Revised: 8/4/05, 1/14/08 effective 8/1/04, 7/31/14)*

- (a) The competition occurred prior to the completion of the first half of the championship segment of the institution's declared playing and practice season; and
- (b) The student-athlete did not compete in more than three events or 30 percent (whichever number is greater) of the institution's scheduled or completed events in his or her sport. All competition (including a scrimmage) against outside participants shall be countable under this limitation in calculating both the number of events in which the student-athlete participated and the number of scheduled or completed events during that season (both segments) in the sport.

**12.8.6.3.1.1 Percent Calculation.** The requirements specified in Bylaw 12.8.4.3.6 shall apply to the percent calculation specified in this waiver. *(Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 10/28/04, 1/14/08, 7/31/14)*

## **12.9 U.S. Service Academy Exceptions, Special Eligibility Provisions.**

**12.9.1 Five-Year Rule.** The Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting, may approve waivers to the five-year rule (see Bylaw 12.8) for student-athletes of the national service academies who have exhausted eligibility in one sport but wish to compete in another sport or sports in which they have eligibility remaining. *(Revised: 4/24/03 effective 8/1/03, 7/31/14)*

**12.9.2 Transfer Status.** A student who has attended as a freshman (plebe) only in the official summer-enrollment program of one of the four national service academies is not considered a transfer in the application of the transfer regulations of Bylaw 14.5. *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

## **12.10 Certification of Eligibility.**

**12.10.1 Institutional Responsibility for Eligibility Certification.** The president or chancellor is responsible for approving the procedures for certifying the eligibility of an institution's student-athletes under NCAA legislation. The president or chancellor may designate an individual on the institution's staff to administer proper certification of eligibility. Certification of eligibility must occur prior to allowing a student-athlete to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition (see Bylaw 14.01.1). A violation of this bylaw in which the institution fails to certify a student-athlete's eligibility prior to allowing him or her to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1; however, such a violation shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility, provided all the necessary information to certify the student-athlete's eligibility was available to the institution and the student-athlete otherwise would have been eligible for competition. *(Revised: 3/8/06, 1/14/08, 7/31/14)*

**12.10.2 Squad-List Form.** The institution's athletics director shall compile on a form approved by the Legislative Committee a list of the squad members in each sport on the first day of competition and shall indicate thereon the status of each member in the designated categories. A student-athlete's name must be on the official institutional form in order for the student to be eligible to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition. Violations of this bylaw do not affect a student-athlete's eligibility if the violation occurred due to an institutional administrative error or oversight and the student-athlete is subsequently added to the form; however, the violation shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1. (See Bylaw 15.5.11 for details about the administration of the squad list.) *(Revised: 1/14/97, 11/1/07 effective 8/1/08, 7/31/14, 8/7/14, 10/4/17)*

## **12.11 Ineligibility.**

**12.11.1 Obligation of Member Institution to Withhold Student-Athlete From Competition.** If a student-athlete is ineligible under the provisions of the constitution, bylaws or other regulations of the Association, the institution shall be obligated to apply immediately the applicable rule and to withhold the student-athlete from all intercollegiate competition. The institution may appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility as provided in Bylaw 12.12 if it concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration. *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.11.2 Ineligibility Resulting From Recruiting Violation.** An institution shall not enter a student-athlete (as an individual or as a member of a team) in any intercollegiate competition if it is acknowledged by the institution or established through the Association's infractions process that the institution or representative(s) of its athletics interests violated the Association's legislation in the recruiting of the student-athlete. The institution may appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility as provided in Bylaw 12.12 if it concludes that circumstances warrant restoration. *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.11.2.1 Payment of Legal Fees During Appeal.** A member institution may provide actual and necessary expenses for a prospective student-athlete to attend proceedings conducted by the institution, its athletics conference or the NCAA that relate to the prospective student-athlete's eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics, provided the prospective student-athlete either has signed a National Letter of Intent with the institution or (if the institution is not a subscribing member of the National Letter of Intent program) the prospective student-athlete has been accepted for enrollment by the institution and has provided written confirmation of his or her intent to enroll at the institution. The cost of legal representation in such proceedings also may be provided by the institution (or a representative of its athletics interests). *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

**12.11.3 Application of Ineligibility Ruling Pending Appeal.** Once an interpretation (per Constitution 5.4.1.2) applicable to a member institution has been issued and results in the ineligibility of a student-athlete, it is necessary for the institution to apply the rule to the eligibility of the student-athlete, even if review of the interpretation (per Constitution 5.4.1.2.1.1 or 5.4.1.2.2) at the request of the institution is pending. Failure to withhold such a student-athlete from competition is a violation of the conditions and obligations of membership. *(Revised: 12/22/08, 7/31/14)*

#### **12.11.4 Ineligible Participation.**

**12.11.4.1 Loss of Eligibility.** A student-athlete shall be denied eligibility for intercollegiate competition in a sport if he or she participates in intercollegiate competition in that sport while ineligible under this bylaw or other applicable NCAA legislation. The certifying institution may appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility if it concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration (see Bylaw 12.12). *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

### **12.12 Restoration of Eligibility.**

**12.12.1 Basis for Appeal.** When a student-athlete is determined to be ineligible under any applicable provision of the constitution, bylaws or other regulations of the Association, the member institution, having applied the applicable rule and having withheld the student-athlete from all intercollegiate competition, may appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student's eligibility, provided the institution concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration of eligibility.

**12.12.2 Participation in Appeal Hearing.** Any appeal to restore a student-athlete's eligibility shall be submitted in the name of the institution by the president or chancellor (or an individual designated by the president or chancellor), faculty athletics representative, senior woman administrator or athletics director (for the men's or women's program). At least one of those individuals must participate in any hearing of the appeal that involves direct participation by the student-athlete or other individuals representing the institution or the student. *(Revised: 1/11/94, 3/8/06, 7/31/14)*

**12.12.3 Student Responsibility, Relationship to Restoration of Eligibility.** A student-athlete is responsible for his or her involvement in a violation of NCAA regulations (as defined in Bylaw 19), and the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement may restore the eligibility of a student involved in any violation only when circumstances clearly warrant restoration. The eligibility of a student-athlete involved in a major violation shall not be restored other than through an exception authorized by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement in a unique case on the basis of specifically stated reasons.