



I chose
Division II

The National Collegiate Athletic Association
DIVISION II
ORGANIZED
COMPETITION GUIDE
FOR COACHES



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NCAA Division II Organized Competition Guide for Coaches

What is the Purpose of this Guide?

The purpose of this guide is to provide education and foster greater understanding of the recent changes to the NCAA Division II Organized Competition Rule that were adopted by the Division II membership at the 2010 NCAA Convention.

Please note that while it is hoped that the guide will increase coaches' understanding of the new rule and offer practical information, this guide is not to be used as the sole resource when there are questions about the rule. For additional information, please refer to the NCAA Division II Manual or the NCAA Legislative Services Database for the Internet (LSDBi) at www.NCAA.org. In addition, coaches should always remember to use institutional compliance administrators, who can then contact the NCAA academic and membership affairs staff on a coach's behalf, to provide interpretations of the legislation.

This guide will only cover the organized competition rule, as adopted at the 2010 Convention. The guide will not cover any amateurism issues in Bylaw 12 of the Division II Manual.

Finally, please note that the certification of each prospective student-athlete is a joint and collaborative effort between the NCAA Eligibility Center and the institution. Institutions are responsible for notifying the Eligibility Center when they have any additional information, or otherwise have cause to believe, that a previously certified prospect's amateur status has been jeopardized or changed. It is also each institution's responsibility to promptly report all discrepancies in information related to a student-athlete's amateurism certification to the Eligibility Center.

What is the New Organized Competition Rule?

This rule determines the number of seasons of competition that a prospective student-athlete, domestic or international, would have remaining at the time of initial full-time collegiate enrollment if the prospect participated in

certain types of organized competition before enrollment at a collegiate institution.

According to the new rule, prospects have a “grace period” to participate in organized competition without being charged seasons of competition. The grace period ends one calendar year after high school graduation. If the prospect does not enroll full time in college at the next opportunity to enroll after that one-calendar year period has elapsed, the prospect will be charged with a season of competition for every 12-month period (or partial period) that he or she participates in organized competition.

In addition, once the organized competition rule is triggered, the prospect must fulfill an academic year in residence upon enrollment at any NCAA institution before being able to compete in the specific sport for a Division II institution.

This is the general organized competition rule as stated in Bylaw 14.2.4.2. However, there are many components and several exceptions to the rule. This guide is intended to walk you through the different parts and provide some case studies to make it easier to understand. In addition, the bylaws related to the organized competition rule have been included at the end of the guide.

Please note that the terms “prospective student-athlete” and “prospect” are used throughout this guide to refer to any individual who has not yet enrolled full time at a Division II institution. It is also important to keep in mind that once a student enrolls full time at a collegiate institution, he or she is no longer subject to the organized competition rule.

When is the New Rule Effective?

The new rule becomes effective August 1, 2010, for individuals who are issued a final amateurism certification by the Eligibility Center beginning April 1, 2010. What this means is that any prospect who receives a final amateurism certification by the Eligibility Center on or after April 1, 2010, will be certified according to the new organized competition rule.

It is important to remember that this includes transfer students who might have already enrolled at an institution (at a two-year college, NAIA institution, a Division I or III institution, a foreign institution) and have not been previously issued a final Division II amateurism certification by April 1, 2010.

Finally, it is also important to keep in mind that this new rule will not be applied retroactively to student-athletes, including those who are currently enrolled at a Division II institution and who received a final Division II amateurism certification before April 1, 2010. These student-athletes will not be re-certified.

How Do I Determine High School Graduation Date, Grace Period and Next Opportunity to Enroll?

According to the new organized competition rule, prospective student-athletes will have a one-year grace period after their high school graduation date during which they can compete in organized competition without triggering the organized competition rule. Therefore, it is important to determine what the prospect's high school graduation date is in order to determine when the grace period starts and ends. In addition, once the grace period is determined, it is important to know when the prospect's next opportunity to enroll in college is.

High School Graduation. Please keep in mind that there could be a difference between the "expected" date of high school graduation and the "actual" date of high school graduation for a prospect, and both dates are equally as important for a correct application of the rule.

According to Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.1, an individual's high school graduation shall be considered to be the graduation date of the final high school class (e.g., junior, senior) of which he or she was a member.

In addition, the NCAA International Student Records Committee has determined the expected date of high school graduation for international prospective student-athletes. For more information, please contact your compliance administrator or refer to the NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility at www.NCAA.org.

Grace Period/Next Opportunity to Enroll. According to the organized competition rule, the prospect has a one-year period [plus summer(s), if applicable] after high school graduation to enroll full time at a collegiate institution without being charged seasons of competition for participation in organized competition.

Case Study: A prospect starts high school in 2006 and graduates in May 2010. What is the prospect's high school graduation date?

The expected high school graduation date based on initial high school enrollment is May 2010. The prospect graduated as expected; therefore, that is also the actual high school graduation date.

What is his or her grace period and next opportunity to enroll?

According to the rule, the prospect has a one-year grace period (from May 2010 until May 2011). However, the next opportunity to enroll full time in college after the grace period is the fall semester of 2011. Provided the prospect enrolls full time in college during fall 2011, he or she will not be subject to the organized competition rule.

Early High School Graduation. If a prospect graduates from high school early, he or she becomes a member of that class and the date of graduation for that prospect is the expected date of that class (Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.1.1).

Case Study: A prospect starts high school in 2006 and graduates in December 2009. What is the prospect's high school graduation date?

The prospect graduated early, making him or her a member of that class. Although the expected high school graduation date was different (May/June 2010), the actual high school graduation date is December 2009.

What is his or her next opportunity to enroll after the grace period?

According to the rule, the prospect has a one-year grace period (from December 2009 until December 2010). However, the next opportunity to enroll full time in college after the grace period is the winter quarter

or spring semester of 2011. Provided the prospect enrolls full time in college during winter/spring 2011, he or she will not be subject to the organized competition rule.

Late High School Graduation. If due to academic reasons, a prospect is required to repeat an entire year of high school attendance, he or she becomes a member of the new class and the expected date of graduation for that prospect is the expected date of that class (Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.1.2).

Case Study: A prospect starts high school in 2006 and does not graduate until May 2011 because the prospect was required to repeat the junior year of high school. What is the prospect's high school graduation date?

The prospect was required to repeat an entire year of high school attendance due to academic reasons, making him or her a member of that class. The prospect's graduation date is May 2011.

What is his or her next opportunity to enroll after the grace period?

According to the rule, the prospect has a one-year grace period (from May 2011 until May 2012). However, the next opportunity to enroll full time in college after the grace period is the fall semester of 2012. Provided the prospect enrolls full time in college during fall 2012, he or she will not be subject to the organized competition rule.

Discontinued High School Enrollment. A prospect who discontinues high school enrollment is treated as if the actual date of the discontinued high school enrollment is the date of high school graduation. Therefore, if he or she discontinues high school enrollment and then participates in organized competition, he or she uses one season of competition for each consecutive 12-month period after the grace period has elapsed (Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.1.3).

Case Study: A prospect starts high school in 2006 and drops out of high school in May 2009. What is the prospect's high school graduation date?

The prospect discontinued high school enrollment in spring of 2009, making him or her a member of that class. The prospect's high school

graduation date according to the rule is the actual date the prospect dropped out of high school in May 2009.

What is his or her next opportunity to enroll after the grace period?

According to the rule, the prospect has a one-year grace period (from May 2009 until May 2010). However, the next opportunity to enroll full time in college after the grace period is the fall semester of 2010. Provided the prospect enrolls full time in college during fall 2010, he or she will not be subject to the organized competition rule.

Part-Time Collegiate Enrollment. Part-time collegiate enrollment does not prevent an individual from continuing to trigger seasons of competition per the organized competition rule.

Case Study: A prospect graduates from high school in May 2010 and enrolls part time in a college in August 2010. The prospect drops out of college and begins to compete with a team in October 2010. The prospect continues participation with the team until full-time collegiate enrollment in the fall of 2012. Is the prospect subject to the organized competition rule after the prospect enrolled part time in college?

Yes, the prospect would be subject to the organized competition rule from his or her next opportunity to enroll after the grace period (fall 2011) to the date of initial full-time collegiate enrollment (fall 2012), regardless of whether the prospect was ever enrolled part time at a college.

What Activities Are Considered Organized Competition?

According to Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.2, if a prospect who delays collegiate enrollment participates in competition after his or her grace period that meets any one of the following criteria, he or she will be subject to the organized competition rule:

- Competition is scheduled in advance;
- Official score is kept;
- Individual or team standings or statistics are maintained;
- Official timer or game officials are used;

- Admission is charged;
- Teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined;
- Team uniforms are used;
- An individual or team is privately or commercially sponsored; or
- The competition is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, an organization or any other agency.

Case Study: A prospect graduates from high school in December 2009. The prospect starts swimming with a club in October 2009 and continues through May 2011. The swim club maintained individual and team statistics for the participants at all meets, but did not charge for admissions. The prospect enrolls full time in college in fall 2011. Did the prospect participate in organized competition?

Yes, the prospect participated in competition in which individual and team statistics were maintained. This participation extended beyond his or her grace period and next opportunity to enroll (winter quarter/spring semester of 2011).

Please keep in mind that after the grace period, the prospect only has to meet one of the conditions listed above to trigger the use of seasons of competition per the organized competition rule. Therefore, if you are recruiting a prospect who has delayed collegiate enrollment after high school graduation and has engaged in some sort of competition after the grace period and next opportunity to enroll, you should assume that he or she has triggered the organized competition rule, unless the prospect can demonstrate otherwise.

Please also note that while this definition of organized competition is similar to the definition of organized competition for the participation after 21st birthday rule in NCAA Division I (Division I Bylaw 14.2.3.5.3), the conditions differ slightly.

It is also important to remember that this new rule applies to all student-athletes participating in any sport at a Division II institution, including Division II championships sports, National Collegiate Championships sports and emerging sports for women.

In addition, the application of the rule is sport-specific. Therefore, if the prospect triggers the organized competition rule in one sport, he or she might still be immediately eligible to compete in a different sport at a Division II institution.

Case Study No. 1: A soccer and tennis prospect graduates from high school in May 2009. The prospect competes on the satellite tennis circuit (in which competition is scheduled in advance) until initial full-time enrollment in August 2011. Did the prospect participate in organized competition?

Yes, the prospect participated in tennis competition, which was scheduled in advance. This participation extended beyond his or her grace period and next opportunity to enroll (fall 2010). However, the prospect will be immediately eligible in all other sports, including soccer, if the prospect meets all other academic requirements.

Case Study No. 2: A prospect graduates from high school in May 2008 and competes in different road racing events, in which he or she is sponsored by a local business, until July 2011. Did he or she participate in organized competition?

Yes, the prospect participated in road racing competition in which he or she was individually sponsored. In addition, according to Bylaw 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. Therefore, the prospect will be subject to the organized competition rule in cross country and track and field.

How Do I Determine the Number of Seasons of Competition that a Prospective Student-Athlete Has Used?

Once it is determined that a prospect has participated in organized competition, it is important to determine how many season(s) of competition the prospect has used. According to Bylaw 14.2.4.2, if a prospect does not enroll full time in college at the next opportunity to enroll after the grace period has elapsed, the prospect will be charged with one season of competition

for every 12-month period (or partial period) that he or she participates in organized competition.

Case Study: A prospect graduates from high school in June 2009. Immediately after high school graduation, the prospect joins a traveling soccer league. The type of competition triggers the definition of organized competition (competition is scheduled in advance, official score is kept, team uniforms are used, team rosters are predetermined). The prospect continues to compete in this league until July 2011. The prospect decides to enroll at a Division II institution for the fall semester of 2011. How many seasons of competition has the prospect used?

The prospect will use one season of competition for the participation on the soccer team from fall 2010 (next opportunity to enroll after the grace period) until initial full-time collegiate enrollment in fall 2011.

Would the certification be different if the prospect continues to compete in the league until December 2011 and delays full-time enrollment until the spring of 2012?

Yes. In this case, the prospect will use two seasons of competition for the participation on the soccer team — one for participation from fall 2010 through summer 2011, and one for participation from fall 2011 through December 2011.

What is the Academic Year in Residence?

As a result of competing beyond the grace period and triggering the use of one or more seasons of competition, the prospect will also have to sit one year in residence according to Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.3. The student-athlete will be permitted to practice and receive athletically related aid during the year in residence (provided all other initial-eligibility standards are met), but will not be allowed to participate in competition.

In addition, the year in residence may be served at any NCAA institution (i.e., Division I, II or III).

An academic year in residence is defined in Bylaw 14.5.1.1 (determination of year in residence). According to this rule, to satisfy a year of residence, a student shall: (a) be enrolled in and complete a minimum full-time program of studies for two full semesters of three full quarters; or (b) be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies for two full semesters or three full quarters and pass a number of hours that is at least equal to the sum total of the minimum load of each of the required terms.

Case Study: A prospect graduates from high school in June 2009 and enrolls full time at a Division I institution in the fall semester of 2011. He or she does not compete at the Division I institution for the 2011-12 academic year. The prospect would like to transfer to a Division II institution for the fall semester of 2012, after a year at the Division I institution. During the delay in collegiate enrollment, the prospect used one season of competition in Division II due to participation in outside volleyball in which game officials were used. Since the prospect triggered the use of one season of competition, the prospect must also serve an academic year in residence. Will the prospect have to serve a year in residence upon enrollment at the Division II institution?

Assuming the prospect served a year in residence at the Division I institution per Bylaw 14.5.1.1, the prospect would be immediately eligible to compete upon enrollment at the Division II institution. The prospect will have three seasons of competition remaining.

Exception. There is a new exception to the requirement to serve an academic year in residence. According to Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.3.1, a transfer student who has attended at least two full-time semesters or three full-time quarters at a two-year or four-year college, and has completed an average of 12 transferable degree credits for each full-time term of attendance, is not required to serve an academic year in residence.

Case Study: A prospect graduates from high school in June 2009 and participates in outside basketball competition for a couple of years. The prospect enrolls full time at a two-year college in the fall semester of

2011. The prospect is immediately eligible to compete in basketball at the two-year college. The prospect competes for the college during the 2011-12 academic year. The prospect spends two full-time semesters at the two-year college, and earns 26 credits. The prospect would like to transfer to a Division II institution for the fall semester of 2012. However, during the delay in collegiate enrollment, the prospect triggered the use of one season of competition according to the organized competition rule. Since the prospect triggered the use of one season of competition, the prospect must also serve a year in residence. Will the prospect have to serve a year in residence upon enrollment at the Division II institution?

Assuming the prospect meets the requirements outlined in Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.3.1 (average of 12 credit hours of transferable degree credit for two full-time semesters), the prospect would be immediately eligible to compete upon enrollment at the Division II institution, even though he or she competed at the two-year college. The prospect will have two seasons of competition remaining.

Please note that this new exception may be applied for students transferring to a Division II institution on or after August 1, 2010.

Finally, please keep in mind that it is the responsibility of each institution to certify whether the individual meets the exception to the year in residence. In addition, the institution must provide the Eligibility Center staff with verification, in writing, confirming that the individual meets the exception. Such confirmation and accompanying written verification shall be completed by the institution's academic authorities outside the athletics department (e.g., registrar).

Are There Exceptions to the Organized Competition Rule?

There are three exceptions to the organized competition rule. If a prospect meets any of these exceptions for each 12-month period in which the prospect participates in organized competition, the prospect will not be charged with seasons of intercollegiate competition.

U.S. Armed Forces Exception. According to Bylaw 14.2.4.2.2.1, if the individual triggers the rule for participation in organized competition after the grace period and that competition takes place during time spent in the U.S. armed forces and it is organized and administered by the military, then that competition is excepted and the individual will not be charged seasons of competition.

Please note that the exception is only for time spent while on duty for the U.S. armed forces and does not provide relief for similar participation while on duty for a foreign military force.

Case Study: An international prospect participated in two years of organized competition (as defined in the legislation) after his or her grace period, while fulfilling mandatory military service in his or her country. Can the prospect use the military exception?

No. Even if the foreign military service is mandatory, the exception does not apply. The exception is limited to participation in organized competition during time spent in the U.S. military. Therefore, the prospect must fulfill an academic year in residence upon full-time enrollment at an NCAA institution and will have two seasons of competition remaining.

National/International Competition Exception. Bylaw 14.2.4.2.2.2 provides an exception for a maximum of one year for participation in activities that meet the definition of organized competition if the activities are national or international and include participation in the following:

- (a) Official Pan American, World Championships, World Cup, World University 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).

Case Study: An international student-athlete graduates from high school in May 2009 and waits until the fall semester of 2011 to enroll at a Division II institution. Between August 2009 and August 2011, in preparation for Olympic tryouts, the prospect trains and competes with a local club team associated with the National Governing Body (NGB). The competition is scheduled in advance. What is his or her eligibility status?

The prospect is permitted a grace year between August 2009 and August 2010. If the participation between August 2010 and August 2011 meets the criteria in the exception, then the prospect fits under the one-year limit and does not trigger the use of a season of competition. However, if the activities between August 2010 and August 2011 do not meet the criteria in the exception, then the participation must be evaluated in accordance with the definition of organized competition to determine whether the prospect has used a season of competition.

Skiing Exception. According to Bylaw 14.2.4.2.2.3, for a maximum of two years, participation that triggers the use of a season of competition according to the new organized competition rule shall be excepted in skiing, when such participation is part of competition sanctioned by the U.S. Skiing Association and its international counterparts.

Finally, please note that the exception for competition while enrolled in a postgraduate college preparatory school was eliminated and is not an exception under the new organized competition rule.

What Questions Should I Ask When Recruiting?

Below is a list of questions that are useful to ask when recruiting a prospective student-athlete to determine whether the prospect might be subject to the use of one or more seasons of competition according to the new organized competition rule:

- What is the prospect's date of high school graduation?
- Did the prospect graduate with his or her class?
 - If not, what are the reasons (e.g., did the prospect graduate early, was the prospect required to repeat a year)?
- Has and when did the prospect enroll full time in any collegiate institution?
 - If the prospect has not enrolled full time at any collegiate institution, when does the prospect expect to enroll full time at a collegiate institution?
- If there is a delay in full-time collegiate enrollment, did the prospect participate in any outside competition during that delay?
 - If the prospect participated in any type of outside competition, does it meet any of the criteria according to the definition of organized competition?
- If the prospect triggers the use of a season(s) of competition, does the competition meet the criteria for any of the exceptions to the rule?
- If the prospect has to serve a year in residence, can the prospect meet the exception under the new rule?

Notification of Organized Competition Legislation. When asking these questions of a prospect, it is important to remember that you now have the obligation to provide him or her with information regarding the organized competition rule. According to Bylaw 14.2.4.2.3, your institution is required to do this at the earliest practical opportunity after you begin recruiting the prospect, but not later than the day before the prospect's signed acceptance of the National Letter of Intent or written offer of admission and/or financial aid. You may provide the information in hard-copy or electronic form (e.g., electronic mail, link to Web site).

Please note that if you do not comply with this requirement for each prospect that is being recruited, a secondary violation must be filed with the NCAA staff.

Is There Any Additional Information I Should Know?

Waiver Requests. Please note that the NCAA Division II Committee for Legislative Relief has the authority to review and grant waivers of the organized competition legislation. In addition, the NCAA Division II Management Council has approved specific guidelines for the committee to follow when evaluating requests to waive the rule. For more information on the guidelines, please visit www.NCAA.org.

It is important to remember that if an individual has violated an amateurism rule, the Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee has the authority to review an application for reinstatement. However, for those circumstances in which a prospect has not violated a rule, but simply triggered the use of a season of competition according to the organized competition rule, the Committee for Legislative Relief has the authority to review a waiver request.

I Want to Know More About How the Organized Competition Rule Was Developed.

The original organized competition rule was a recommendation from the Division II Amateurism Project Team, which was created in 1998 to examine issues related to competitive equity and amateurism. The project team's work culminated with a proposal approved by the Division II membership at the 2001 Convention (Proposal No. 2001-12), which permitted prospective student-athletes to participate in certain activities before initial collegiate enrollment without jeopardizing their amateurism eligibility. This same proposal created the organized competition rule.

From August 2001 through August 2006, institutions were responsible for certifying the eligibility of prospective student-athletes under the organized competition rule. However, after a couple of years of the rule being in effect, individuals in the membership argued that the rule was not being applied consistently, and that prospective student-athletes who should have been charged with seasons of competition and been serving a year in residence under the rule did not do so. Therefore, at the 2006 Convention, the membership adopted Proposal No. 2006-19, which established an amateurism clearinghouse and required amateurism certifications of any prospective stu-

dent-athlete (including transfers) initially enrolling at a Division I or II institution. Currently, the Eligibility Center handles these amateurism certifications.

In January 2008, the NCAA governance structure started a new review of issues related to organized competition. The main reason behind this review was a growing concern that the rule, as adopted in 2001, made compensation the main standard for determining what was organized competition. In addition, when the certification responsibility was shifted to the Eligibility Center, waiver requests increased enough to indicate that the membership had either changed its mind on what it wanted the rule to accomplish or was confused about how to apply it.

A task force was created in 2008 to determine whether changes in the current legislation were necessary and to forward any recommendations to the appropriate governance committee for review. The NCAA Division II Legislation Committee was charged with the duty of determining whether the impact of a college prospect's participation in outside, organized competition should be measured by the competitive advantage gained, rather than if compensation is involved. The Legislation Committee's work ended with the proposal approved by the membership at the 2010 Convention (see Proposal No. 2010-11), which is explained in detail in this guide.

Text of Organized Competition Bylaws.

The organized competition Bylaws, as they appear in the Division II Manual, are below:

Bylaw 14.2.4.2 Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment. An individual who does not enroll in a collegiate institution as a full-time student in the regular academic term that begins immediately after a one-year time period (the next opportunity to enroll after the one calendar-year period has elapsed) following his or her high school graduation date shall use one season of intercollegiate competition for each consecutive 12-month period after the one-year time period and before initial full-time collegiate enrollment in which the individual participates in organized competition per Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.2.

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1 Administration of Participation in Organized Competition.

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.1 High School Graduation. An individual's high school graduation date (or the international equivalent as specified in the NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility) shall be considered to be the graduation date of the final high school class (e.g., junior, senior) of which he or she was a member.

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.1.1 Early High School Graduation. If an individual graduates early from high school, he or she becomes a member of that class and the date of graduation for the individual is the expected date of that class.

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.1.2 Late High School Graduation – Required Repeat Year. If an individual is required to repeat an entire year of high school attendance, he or she becomes a member of that class and the date of graduation for the individual is the expected date of that class.

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.1.3 Discontinued High School Enrollment. An individual who discontinues high school enrollment and then participates in organized competition per Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.2 shall use one season of intercollegiate competition for each consecutive 12-month period after a one-year time period (the next opportunity to enroll after one calendar year has elapsed) following the discontinued enrollment and before initial full-time collegiate enrollment.

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.2 Organized Competition. Athletics competition shall be considered organized if any one of the following conditions exists:

- (a) Competition is scheduled in advance;
- (b) Official score is kept;
- (c) Individual or team standings or statistics 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) An individual or 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.

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.3 Academic Year in Residence. An individual who uses a season of competition in a specific sport per Bylaw 14.2.4.2 shall fulfill an academic year in residence at any member institution before being eligible to represent the certifying institution in that specific sport in intercollegiate competition.

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.3.1 Exception. A student who has attended a two-year or a four-year collegiate institution for at least two full-time semesters or three full-time quarters and who has satisfactorily completed an average of at least 12 semester or 12 quarter hours of transferable degree credit for each full-time academic term of attendance at the two-year or four-year collegiate institution is not required to fulfill an academic year in residence before being eligible to represent the certifying institution in that specific sport in intercollegiate competition. (See Bylaws 14.4 and 14.5 for progress-toward-degree and transfer requirements.)

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.2 Exceptions to Participation in Organized Competition. An individual shall not be charged with a season of intercollegiate competition, provided the individual satisfies any of the following exceptions for each consecutive 12-month period in which the individual participates in organized competition per Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.2 following the one-year time period after the individual's high school graduation and before initial full-time collegiate enrollment.

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.2.1 U.S. Armed Forces Exception. Participation in organized competition per Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.2 during time spent in the U.S. armed forces shall be excepted as long as the competition is organized and administered by the military.

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.2 National/International Competition Exception. For a maximum of one year, participation in organized competition per Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.2 shall be excepted if the competition is national or international competition that includes participation in:

- (a) Official Pan American, World Championships, World Cup, World University 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).

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.3 Skiing Exception. For a maximum of two years, participation in organized competition per Bylaw 14.2.4.2.1.2 shall be excepted in skiing when such participation is part of competition sanctioned by the U.S. Skiing Association and its international counterparts.

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.3 Notification of Organized Competition Legislation. Institutions shall provide to high school, preparatory school, two-year and four-year college prospective student-athletes and their parents or legal guardians information regarding the organized competition legislation contained in Bylaw 14.2.4.2. The information shall be provided at the earliest practical opportunity after the institution begins recruiting the prospective student-athlete, but not later than the day before the prospective student-athlete's signed acceptance of the National Letter of Intent or institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid. An institution may provide the information in hard-copy or electronic form (e.g., electronic mail, link to Web site). Violations of this bylaw shall be considered institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1; however, such violations shall not affect the prospective student-athlete's eligibility.

Bylaw 14.2.4.2.4 Waiver. The Committee for Legislative Relief shall have the authority to review and grant waivers of the organized competition legislation.

[illegible]

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