



16-C-01

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION: COUNCIL FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Amend Constitution Article VII, Section A, as follows:

The National Coordinating Committee (NCC) shall consist of the chair and the chair-elect of the National Administrative Council (NAC), ~~and~~ the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives (CFAR), **and the Council for Student-Athletes (CSA)**, plus three at-large members elected by the membership of the NAIA at the annual meeting of the Association. An at-large member cannot be from the same institution or conference as the NAC, ~~or~~ CFAR, **or CSA representatives**. Candidates shall be nominated and elected in a manner to ensure gender equity.

Intent: To include the chair and chair-elect of the Council for Student-Athletes as members of the National Coordinating Committee.

Effective date: April 19, 2016

Submitted by: National Coordinating Committee

**16-C-02****SUBJECT: COUNCIL FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES COMPOSITION**

Amend Constitution Article VIII, Section C, as follows:

Each council shall be elected by its constituency. The term of office shall be for three years unless otherwise noted. Individuals may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Each council shall have a chair and chair-elect.

The National Administrative Council shall consist of one representative from each affiliated conference, the President and Vice- President of the Athletics Directors Association, the chair and vice-chair of the Conference Commissioners Association, the President of the NAIA Sports Information Directors of America, the President of the Athletic Trainers Association, one representative from the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) per 10 members of the A.I.I., and a sufficient number of at-large members to ensure gender requirements are met. There will be a minimum of 10 athletics directors and 10 conference commissioners on the National Administrative Council.

The Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall consist of 14 faculty athletics representatives selected with appropriate geographic balance, the chair and chair-elect of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, the chair of the National Eligibility Committee and an elected officer of the NAIA Registrars Association.

The Council for Student-Athletes shall consist of one representative from the Council of Presidents, one representative from the Conference Commissioners Association, one representative from the Athletic Directors Association, two representatives from the Athletic Trainers Association, one representative from the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, **one representative from the Sports Information Directors Association**, four members of NAIA coaches associations, the four elected officers of the Association of Student-Athletes, ~~six~~ **seven** at-large representatives from the Association of Student-Athletes and one member of the Champions of Character Advisory Committee. Representatives from NAIA coaches associations shall serve a single two-year term, and four different sports (two men's sports and two women's sports) shall be represented at all times. Terms for officers from the Association of Student-Athletes shall coincide with the individual's term as an officer of the ASA. At-large representatives from the Association of Student-Athletes shall serve one-year terms, and individuals may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The initial council selection shall be staggered in order to ensure adequate council retention each year.

Intent: To include a representative of the Sports Information Directors Association on the Council for Student-Athletes, and add an additional member of the Association of Student-Athletes to maintain the balance of students and representatives from NAIA councils, associations and committees.

Effective date: April 19, 2016

Submitted by: Council for Student-Athletes



16-C-03

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION, REPRESENTATION

Amend Constitution Article VII, Section A, as follows:

The National Coordinating Committee (NCC) shall consist of the chair and the chair-elect of the National Administrative Council (NAC), and the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives (CFAR), plus three at-large members elected by the membership of the NAIA at the annual meeting of the Association. An at-large member cannot be from the same institution or conference as the NAC or CFAR. **Should any one individual serve as a chair or chair-elect of multiple councils, the respective council may choose another member to serve as its representative on the NCC.** Candidates shall be nominated and elected in a manner to ensure gender equity.

Intent: To permit a council to appoint a replacement representative should its chair or chair-elect already serve on the committee.

Effective date: April 19, 2016

Submitted by: National Coordinating Committee



16-B-01

SUBJECT: LACROSSE SCHEDULING LIMITS

Amend Article I Section F, Items 1-2 as follows:

- 1. The maximum number of varsity games, contests or playing dates an institution may schedule is listed below. The number of junior varsity or freshman games, contests or playing dates scheduled during the academic year cannot exceed the number of varsity games, contests or playing dates scheduled during that academic year. Further, no student may compete in a sport in an academic year in more than the number of games, contests or playing dates listed below (this includes varsity, junior varsity, freshman, etc.), excluding NAIA-approved postseason participation.

Sport	Number of Games/Contests/Playing Dates
Baseball	55 contests
Basketball (men's and women's)	30 games. A student who participates in a varsity contest and a junior varsity contest, on the same day, and at the same location, is considered to have participated only in one game. A student is limited to participating in no more than 40 games.
Competitive cheer and dance	10 cheerleading contests and 10 dance contests. A student may not participate on more than 10 total dates.
Cross country (men's and women's)	8 meets
Football	11 games, with a student limited to participating in no more than 15 contests. (This includes varsity, junior varsity, freshman games and scrimmages.)
Golf	14 matches/tournaments
Lacrosse (men's and women's)	18 games
Soccer (men's and women's)	18 games played at any time during the sport season. Three additional dates to be played only after the fall term has concluded. The three additional dates may be played only during weekends and other nonscheduled class dates, according to the academic calendar.
Softball	28 dates
Swimming and diving (men's and women's)	12 meets
Tennis	24 dates/tournaments and/or scrimmages (except for the ITA exception listed below).
Indoor track and field (men's and women's)	10 meets counted on the basis of an individual student's participation in the meet
Outdoor track and field (men's and women's)	10 meets or (12 meets if indoor track is not sponsored) counted on the basis of an individual student's participation in the meet
Volleyball	28 dates
Wrestling	20 dates

In the sports of baseball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor track, outdoor track, volleyball and wrestling, an institution is allowed one exhibition competition per season. In the sport of competitive cheer and dance, an institution is allowed one cheer exhibition competition and one dance exhibition competition per season. The competition must meet the definition of an exhibition under Article V, Section B, item 6 of the NAIA bylaws. The exhibition competition will count as one varsity game, contest or playing date within the limits stated above.



Exhibition competition is not allowed in the sport of football.

For the sport of basketball, an institution is allowed one or more exhibition competitions per season so long as the total number of games, exhibitions and scrimmages does not exceed 32. For the sport of basketball, an exhibition competition will not count as a varsity game.

EXCEPTION: In the sport of tennis, the Fall ITA regional and national singles and doubles tournaments shall not count towards the student's playing limits.

AND

Amend Article I Section F, Item 2 as follows:

- 2. The following number of scrimmage dates per sport will be allowed in addition to the maximum number of varsity games, contests or playing dates which an institution may schedule or in/on which a student may compete.

Sport	Number of Scrimmage Dates
Baseball	2
Basketball (men's and women's)	2
Competitive cheer and dance	0
Cross country (men's and women's)	0
Football	1
Golf	0
Lacrosse (men's and women's)	2
Soccer (men's and women's)	2
Softball	2
Swimming and diving (men's and women's)	0
Tennis (men's and women's)	1
Indoor and outdoor track and field (men's and women's)	0
Volleyball	2
Wrestling	0

Intent: To establish 18 as the maximum number of contests in which a lacrosse team may compete in an academic year, and establish two as the maximum number of additional scrimmage dates.

Effective date: August 1, 2016

Submitted by: National Administrative Council

**16-B-02****SUBJECT: MEN'S VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULING LIMITS**

Amend Article I Section F, Items 1-2 as follows:

1. The maximum number of varsity games, contests or playing dates an institution may schedule is listed below. The number of junior varsity or freshman games, contests or playing dates scheduled during the academic year cannot exceed the number of varsity games, contests or playing dates scheduled during that academic year. Further, no student may compete in a sport in an academic year in more than the number of games, contests or playing dates listed below (this includes varsity, junior varsity, freshman, etc.), excluding NAIA-approved postseason participation.

Sport	Number of Games/Contests/Playing Dates
Baseball	55 contests
Basketball (men's and women's)	30 games. A student who participates in a varsity contest and a junior varsity contest, on the same day, and at the same location, is considered to have participated only in one game. A student is limited to participating in no more than 40 games.
Competitive cheer and dance	10 cheerleading contests and 10 dance contests. A student may not participate on more than 10 total dates.
Cross country (men's and women's)	8 meets
Football	11 games, with a student limited to participating in no more than 15 contests. (This includes varsity, junior varsity, freshman games and scrimmages.)
Golf	14 matches/tournaments
Soccer (men's and women's)	18 games played at any time during the sport season. Three additional dates to be played only after the fall term has concluded. The three additional dates may be played only during weekends and other nonscheduled class dates, according to the academic calendar.
Softball	28 dates
Swimming and diving (men's and women's)	12 meets
Tennis	24 dates/tournaments and/or scrimmages (except for the ITA exception listed below).
Indoor track and field (men's and women's)	10 meets counted on the basis of an individual student's participation in the meet
Outdoor track and field (men's and women's)	10 meets or (12 meets if indoor track is not sponsored) counted on the basis of an individual student's participation in the meet
Volleyball (men's and women's)	28 dates
Wrestling	20 dates

In the sports of baseball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor track, outdoor track, volleyball and wrestling, an institution is allowed one exhibition competition per season. In the sport of competitive cheer and dance, an institution is allowed one cheer exhibition competition and one dance exhibition competition per season. The competition must meet the definition of an exhibition under Article V, Section B, item 6 of the NAIA bylaws. The exhibition competition will count as one varsity game, contest or playing date within the limits stated above.



Exhibition competition is not allowed in the sport of football.

For the sport of basketball, an institution is allowed one or more exhibition competitions per season so long as the total number of games, exhibitions and scrimmages does not exceed 32. For the sport of basketball, an exhibition competition will not count as a varsity game.

EXCEPTION: In the sport of tennis, the Fall ITA regional and national singles and doubles tournaments shall not count towards the student’s playing limits.

AND

Amend Article I Section F, Item 2 as follows:

- 2. The following number of scrimmage dates per sport will be allowed in addition to the maximum number of varsity games, contests or playing dates which an institution may schedule or in/on which a student may compete.

Sport	Number of Scrimmage Dates
Baseball	2
Basketball (men’s and women’s)	2
Competitive cheer and dance	0
Cross country (men’s and women’s)	0
Football	1
Golf	0
Soccer (men’s and women’s)	2
Softball	2
Swimming and diving (men’s and women’s)	0
Tennis (men’s and women’s)	1
Indoor and outdoor track and field (men’s and women’s)	0
Volleyball (men’s and women’s)	2
Wrestling	0

Intent: To establish 28 as the maximum number of dates on which a men’s volleyball team may compete in an academic year, and establish two as the maximum number of additional scrimmage dates.

Effective date: August 1, 2016

Submitted by: National Administrative Council

**16-B-04****SUBJECT: ALL-STAR COMPETITIONS**

Amend Article I, Section F, Item 7d as follows:

7. All-Star Competitions:
 - a. A student-athlete may represent his/her NAIA institution in an all-star competition under the following conditions:
 - 1) The student is eligible for NAIA participation during the term in which the all-star contest occurs, or
 - 2) The all-star contest occurs during the academic year, or subsequent summer, in which the student completes his/her fourth season of competition and/or 10th semester/15th quarter term of attendance.
 - b. A student is limited to participating in all-star competition for a particular sport on no more than two dates between August 1st and May 15th. There is no limit on the number of all-star contests in which a student may participate between May 16th and July 31st.
 - c. Any or all expenses related to travel, meals and lodging for the competition may be paid by the student-athlete, his/her NAIA institution, affiliated conference or certified football conference, or the host of the all-star competition.
 - d. All-star contests in the sports of baseball, basketball, competitive cheer and dance, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball will not count toward team or individual contest limits in Article I, Section F, Item 1 of the NAIA bylaws. Practice activities in these sports directly related to the all-star competition, and consisting only of all-star competition participants, shall not count toward any team's 24-week season provided such activities occur no more than five days prior to the start of the competition.
 - e. All-star contests in all other sports shall count against frequency of play and scheduling limits listed in this section of the NAIA Bylaws.
 - f. NAIA coaches may administer, direct and/or conduct all-star related practice and game activities that involve student-athletes identified with other institutions. Such actions by a coach will not be considered violations of NAIA recruiting or tryout regulations, and will not trigger the notification requirement in Article II, Section D, Item 1.
 - g. All-Star competitions may not use the NAIA or Champions of Character trademarks without prior approval of the National Administrative Council. The terms and conditions of such approval are established by National Administrative Council Policy.

Intent: To allow an NAIA student-athlete to represent the student's institution in all-star competition in the sports of competitive cheer and dance, lacrosse and men's volleyball.

Effective date: August 1, 2016

Submitted by: National Administrative Council



16-B-05

SUBJECT: COUNCIL FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES DUTIES

Amend Bylaws Article IV, Section G, as follows:

The Council for Student-Athletes shall exercise authority in the following matters.

1. Initiating operational policies for the Champions of Character program, and conducting research and education that will benefit the health, safety and development of NAIA student-athletes.
2. Providing administrative supervision of the Champions of Character Advisory Committee, Athletic Trainers Association, Association of Student-Athletes and those committees assigned to it which deal with issues of student-athlete health, safety and development.
3. Reviewing and acting on all recommendations from those committees within its area of responsibility.
4. Conducting nominations and elections in accordance with the Constitution when openings on the Council arise.

The Council for Student-Athletes shall have two co-chairs: the chair of the Association of Student-Athletes, and a non-student representative of the council. The co-chair who represents the Association of Student-Athletes of the Council for Student-Athletes shall serve as an ex officio member of the Council of Presidents. The non-student co-chair shall serve on the National Coordinating Committee.

**If Constitutional Proposal 16-C-01 fails, this proposal shall be withdrawn.*

Intent: To clarify there are two co-chairs of the Council for Student-Athletes, the co-chair who represents the Association of Student-Athletes will serve as the ex officio member of the Council of Presidents, and the non-student co-chair will serve on the NCC.

Effective date: April 19, 2016

Submitted by: Council for Student-Athletes



16-B-06

SUBJECT: INSTITUTIONAL CREDIT

Amend Article V, Section B, Item 9 as follows:

9. Institutional Credit Hour: Any credit hour attributed to a course that is recorded on the transcript with a grade and credit hours earned. Institutional credit hours shall be accepted for eligibility certification purposes only after the instructor submits the completed course grade in the normal manner to the institutional registrar for posting on the transcript.

EXCEPTION: Coursework awarded earned credit hours with a grade of F (or the equivalent) shall not be considered institutional credit hours for purposes of the **Nine-Hour Rule (Article V, Section C, Item 9), 24/36-Hour Rule (Article V, Section C, Item 6) and the Progress Rule (Article V, Section C, Item 9).**

Credit hours attributed to a course in progress shall be considered institutional credit for purposes of determining identification and enrollment in 12 credits when, as applied to the general student body, the course would appear on the transcript with a grade and credit hours earned upon completion.

The grade assigned to a course may include, but is not limited to, a letter grade, credit/no credit, pass/fail, and satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Institutional credit hours shall be accepted for eligibility certification purposes only after the instructor submits the completed course grade in the normal manner to the institutional registrar and are posted on the transcript.

Intent: To prohibit courses passed with a failing grade from being considered institutional credit hours.

To create an exception which prohibits coursework that receives a failing grade but is awarded credit from being considered institutional credit hours for purposes of the 24/36-Hour Rule or the Progress Rule.

Effective date: May 1, 2016

Submitted by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee



16-B-07

SUBJECT: FRESHMAN ELIGIBILITY: CLASS RANK LETTERS

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 2c as follows:

2. An entering freshman student must meet two of the three entry-level requirements below. Students not meeting at least two of the three standards shall be denied athletics participation at a member institution for the first full year of attendance (two semesters, three quarters, or the equivalent) that such a student is identified with any institution(s). The three entry-level requirements are as follows:

...

- c. Graduate in the upper half of the student's high school graduating class. The class rank must appear on the student's transcript, leaving certificate or other academic document. If the student's class rank does not appear on the abovementioned documents, a letter from the student's principal or headmaster, **assistant or vice principal, guidance counselor or registrar**, written on the school's letterhead and with the school's official seal, stating that the student meets the class rank requirement can be accepted.

Intent: To include high school assistant or vice principals, guidance counselors and registrars as individuals who are authorized to issue written class rank letters that are recognized by the NAIA.

Effective date: May 1, 2016

Submitted by: Registrars Association

Co-sponsor: Association of Student-Athletes



16-B-08

SUBJECT: FRESHMAN ELIGIBILITY: CLASS RANK CALCULATION

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 2c as follows:

2. An entering freshman student must meet two of the three entry-level requirements below. Students not meeting at least two of the three standards shall be denied athletics participation at a member institution for the first full year of attendance (two semesters, three quarters, or the equivalent) that such a student is identified with any institution(s). The three entry-level requirements are as follows:

...

c. **Graduate Rank** in the upper half of the student's high school **graduating class, as it appears on the final high school transcript after the student's date of graduation.** The class rank must appear on the student's transcript, leaving certificate or other academic document. If the student's class rank does not appear on the abovementioned documents, a letter from the student's principal or headmaster, written on the school's letterhead and with the school's official seal, stating that the student meets the class rank requirement can be accepted.

Intent: To permit a high school's final class rank to be recognized for NAIA eligibility purposes, and remove the restriction that the class rank must be calculated based on all graduating students at the point of graduation.

Effective date: May 1, 2016

Submitted by: Registrars Association

Co-sponsor: Association of Student-Athletes



16-B-09

SUBJECT: 24/36-Hour Rule Exception

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 6, Exception 3 as follows:

6. After completion of the second semester term or third quarter term of attendance and from then on, a student must have accumulated a minimum of 24 institutional credit hours in the two immediately previous terms of attendance in a semester system or 36 institutional credit hours in the three immediately previous terms of attendance in a quarter system.

...

EXCEPTION 3: A student will be exempt from meeting 24/36-Hour Rule only during the first term in which the student initially competes in any sport at the intercollegiate level, provided the student has not previously participated in any intercollegiate sport at any institution, and meets one of the following:

- a. **Meets** ~~met~~ freshman eligibility requirements ~~upon initial identification with any institution~~ (applies only to students in the first four semesters/six quarters, or the equivalent, of attendance); or
- b. Has an overall GPA of 2.000 on a 4.000 scale calculated on the basis of all transcripts from all institutions (applies to students in all terms following the fourth semester/sixth quarter, or the equivalent, of attendance.).

Intent: To remove the restriction that students must have satisfied freshman eligibility requirements at the initial point of collegiate identification in order to use the exception.

Effective date: May 1, 2016

Submitted by: Association of Student-Athletes

Co-sponsor: Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives



16-B-10

SUBJECT: REPEAT COURSES

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 12 as follows:

12. A Repeat courses is defined as a course previously passed with a grade of "D" or better in any term, during summer or during a non-term, cannot count toward satisfying the 24/36-Hour Rule. and subsequently retaken.

Repeat courses previously passed with a grade of "D" in the initial attempt and retaken, earning a grade of "C" or better, shall be considered toward satisfying the 24/36-Hour Rule.

Repeat courses previously passed with a grade of "D" in the initial attempt and retaken, earning a grade of "D", shall be excluded and cannot be considered towards satisfaction of the 24/36-Hour Rule. Only the initial attempt shall be considered toward satisfying the 24/36-Hour Rule.

A maximum of one repeat course per term previously passed with a grade of "D" (or the equivalent) may be counted toward satisfying the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule.

Repeat courses previously passed with a grade of "C" or better cannot be applied to meet either the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule or the 24/36-Hour Rule.

Note: This rule applies to all student-athletes' coursework beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, regardless of when the coursework was completed.

Intent: To clarify the definition of a repeat course, and to allow repeat courses previously passed with a grade of "D" and subsequently passed with a "C" or better to each count toward satisfying the 24/36-Hour Rule.

Effective date: May 1, 2016

Submitted by: Registrars Association

Co-sponsor: Association of Student-Athletes

**16-B-11****SUBJECT: ELIGIBILITY TERMINATION**

Amend Article V, Section D, Item 5 as follows:

5. A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation from a four-year institution as defined by that institution shall no longer be eligible to compete in intercollegiate athletics.

EXCEPTION 1: A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation and ~~who is enrolled in the a graduate or professional school of the institution where he/she earned an undergraduate degree,~~ who is enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate or equivalent degree **at the same institution,** ~~who is enrolled in a fifth-year, post-baccalaureate degree teacher education program at the same institution,~~ or who is enrolled and pursuing a second major area of study **at the same institution** may participate in intercollegiate athletics provided the student has athletic eligibility remaining.

EXCEPTION 2: A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation and who is enrolled in a graduate program, professional school or fifth-year, post-baccalaureate degree teacher education program may participate in intercollegiate athletics provided the student has athletic eligibility remaining and the following conditions are satisfied.

1. The graduate must be enrolled in a full-time class load as defined by the school in lieu of 12 institutional credits at the time of participation.
2. To maintain eligibility status, the student must successfully complete the full-time class load as defined by the institution.
3. The registrar must certify in writing to the eligibility chair that the above conditions have been met prior to participation of the student.

AND

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 3 as follows:

3. The student must be identified and enrolled in a minimum of 12 institutional credit hours at the time of participation.

EXCEPTION: A student who will complete requirements for graduation within 10 semesters, 15 quarters, 12 trimesters or less may retain eligibility during the last term of attendance of the senior year by enrolling in fewer than 12 institutional credit hours. Official verification must be provided by the registrar that the student has completed all other academic requirements for graduation except for the currently enrolled credits. Such verification must be provided to the eligibility chair.

A student invoking the above exception who completes all academic requirements for graduation and who subsequently enrolls in ~~the of the institution where he/she earned an undergraduate degree,~~ who is enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate or equivalent degree **at the same institution, who enrolls in and pursues a second major area of study at the same institution,** who enrolls in a graduate or professional school, or who is enrolled in a fifth-year, post-baccalaureate degree teacher education ~~program at the same institution~~ is eligible to participate provided the student has athletic eligibility remaining and meets the criteria of the exception to Article V, Section D, Item 5.



The term in which the student invokes this exception shall be counted as a term of attendance. However, this term will not count in the calculation of the 24/36-Hour Rule. For a semester school to calculate the 24 credit hours, the institution should consider the two terms immediately preceding the term the student completes the requirements for graduation.

A student who invokes the above exception and does not graduate forfeits any remaining eligibility in all sports sponsored by the NAIA.

Intent: To remove the restriction preventing a graduate from participating in NAIA competition for an institution other than the institution at which the student completed the requirements for graduation when the student is enrolled in a graduate program, professional school, a second baccalaureate degree or major area of study, or a fifth-year, post-baccalaureate degree teacher education program.

Effective date: August 1, 2016

Submitted by: Competitive Experience Committee

**16-B-12****SUBJECT: PREVIOUS SUSPENSION: RESIDENCY**

Amend current Article V, Section F, Item 6 as follows; Reassign as Article V, Section D, Item 5:

5. A transfer student who has been suspended (or its equivalent) for any reason, including athletic department policy, from any institution of higher learning must establish residency of two ~~full~~ semesters, two ~~full~~ trimesters, or three ~~full~~ quarters ~~terms~~ of attendance at ~~the NAIA~~ a four-year institution or until the institutional suspension period at the suspending institution has been terminated, whichever is shorter, before intercollegiate participation at an NAIA institution shall be permitted.

EXCEPTION 1: If the suspension (or its equivalent) occurred at a two-year institution within the student's first two semester, three trimester, or three quarter terms of attendance, the required residency (if necessary) may take place at any two-year or four-year institution.

EXCEPTION 2: A transfer student who has been suspended (or its equivalent) for failure to meet institutional academic requirements, but still meeting NAIA eligibility requirements, shall not be subject to this restriction provided the student has not participated in intercollegiate athletics at any collegiate institution for one full calendar year after suspension from the original institution.

Note: This provision applies to all student-athletes beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, regardless of when the suspension and/or residency occurred.

Renumber as necessary

Intent: To remove restriction that the residency requirement (when applicable) must be served at the NAIA institution at which the student is seeking eligibility, and allow the required residency to be served at any four-year institution. As an exception, a student suspended from a two-year institution within his or her first academic year of collegiate identification may serve the residency requirement at any two-year or four-year institution.

Effective date: August 1, 2016

Submitted by: National Coordinating Committee



16-B-13

SUBJECT: PREVIOUS SUSPENSION: DISMISSAL

Amend current Article V, Section F, Item 6 as follows; Reassign as Article V, Section D, Item 5:

5. A transfer student who has been **dismissed/expelled** or suspended (or its equivalent) for any reason, including athletic department policy, from any institution of higher learning must establish residency of two full semesters, two full trimesters, or three full quarters of attendance at the NAIA institution or until the institutional **dismissal or** suspension period at the **suspending** **sanctioning** institution has been terminated, whichever is shorter, before intercollegiate participation at an NAIA institution shall be permitted.

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

Note: This provision applies to all student-athletes beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, regardless of when the suspension and/or residency occurred.

Renumber as necessary

Intent: To clarify that a student who has been dismissed or expelled from a previous institution must either serve one academic year in residence at the NAIA institution at which he or she wishes to compete or satisfy the terms of the initial dismissal/expulsion, and to remove the restriction that the provision applies only to transfer students.

Effective date: August 1, 2016

Submitted by: National Eligibility Committee



16-B-14

SUBJECT: LACROSSE MEDICAL HARDSHIP REQUESTS

Amend Article V, Section M, Item 2b as follows:

2. All hardship requests must meet the following criteria:

- a. They must involve an injury or illness which is beyond the control of the student or coach and which incapacitates the student from competing further during the sport season in question as verified by the attending physician (i.e. M.D. or D.O.) who must have examined the student during the sport season in question.
- b. The student involved shall not have participated in more contests or dates, excluding scrimmages, in the affected sport during the sports season than those listed for the sport:

Baseball	11 contests
Basketball	6 contests
Comp. cheer and dance	2 dates
Cross country *	2 meets
Football	2 contests
Golf *	2 contests
Lacrosse	4 contests
Soccer	4 contests

Softball	6 dates
Swimming and diving *	2 meets
Tennis	5 dates/tournaments
Indoor track and field *	2 meets
Outdoor track and field *	2 meets
Volleyball	6 dates
Wrestling	4 dates

* Scrimmages are not allowed in these sports.

NOTE 1: These limits shall be updated annually to reflect 20% of the maximum allowable contests or dates as listed in Article I, Section F, Item 1 of the NAIA Bylaws.

NOTE 2: These limits shall apply to injuries occurring on or after August 1, 2015. Medical Hardship requests for injuries occurring before August 1, 2015 will be evaluated based upon the rule(s) in place at the time of the injury.

- c. Hardships cannot be requested for students who are incapacitated in the last regular-season contest or postseason competition.
- d. All applicable information must appear on the completed certificate. This certificate, along with a current transcript, is to be sent to the National Office for processing.
- e. Participation by a student after being examined by a physician for the incapacitating injury or illness and before receiving written medical clearance shall nullify hardship considerations.

Intent: To establish four contests as the maximum number of dates in which a lacrosse student-athlete may participate and be eligible for a medical hardship.

Effective date: August 1, 2016

Submitted by: National Administrative Council



16-B-15

SUBJECT: MEN’S VOLLEYBALL MEDICAL HARDSHIP REQUESTS

Amend Article V, Section M, Item 2b as follows:

2. All hardship requests must meet the following criteria:

- a. They must involve an injury or illness which is beyond the control of the student or coach and which incapacitates the student from competing further during the sport season in question as verified by the attending physician (i.e. M.D. or D.O.) who must have examined the student during the sport season in question.
- b. The student involved shall not have participated in more contests or dates, excluding scrimmages, in the affected sport during the sports season than those listed for the sport:

Baseball	11 contests	Softball	6 dates
Basketball	6 contests	Swimming and diving *	2 meets
Comp. cheer and dance	2 dates	Tennis	5 dates/tournaments
Cross country *	2 meets	Indoor track and field *	2 meets
Football	2 contests	Outdoor track and field *	2 meets
Golf *	2 contests	Volleyball	6 dates
Soccer	4 contests	Wrestling	4 dates

* Scrimmages are not allowed in these sports.

NOTE 1: These limits shall be updated annually to reflect 20% of the maximum allowable contests or dates as listed in Article I, Section F, Item 1 of the NAIA Bylaws.

NOTE 2: These limits shall apply to injuries occurring on or after August 1, 2015. Medical Hardship requests for injuries occurring before August 1, 2015 will be evaluated based upon the rule(s) in place at the time of the injury.

- c. Hardships cannot be requested for students who are incapacitated in the last regular-season contest or postseason competition.
- d. All applicable information must appear on the completed certificate. This certificate, along with a current transcript, is to be sent to the National Office for processing.
- e. Participation by a student after being examined by a physician for the incapacitating injury or illness and before receiving written medical clearance shall nullify hardship considerations.

Intent: To establish six dates as the maximum number of dates in which a men’s volleyball student-athlete may participate and be eligible for a medical hardship.

Effective date: August 1, 2016

Submitted by: National Administrative Council

**16-B-16****SUBJECT: INFRACTIONS: DECLARATION OF INTENT**

Amend Article VI, Section B, Items 4-5 as follows:

4. Declaration of Intent to Participate in NAIA Postseason Competition

Should an institution declare its intent to participate in ~~baseball, basketball, competitive cheer and dance, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, volleyball and/or wrestling~~ ~~cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, volleyball, basketball and/or baseball in the men's program, or basketball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis and/or volleyball in the women's program~~, then decline an invitation to participate or change its declaration after the filing deadline, it shall be suspended in the affected sport for the next academic year in which the institution sponsors the sport on an intercollegiate level in the NAIA. Institutions suspended due to a failure to meet Declaration of Intent to Participate requirements shall not be permitted to participate in NAIA national championship competition. The suspended institution may, at the conference's discretion, be permitted to participate in conference postseason competition and/or receive conference awards. Upon written request by the affected institution within 30 days of notification of suspension, the National Administrative Council may revoke the suspension and apply alternative penalties as deemed appropriate.

AND**5. Delinquent Filing of the Declaration of Intent to Participate Certificate**

Institutions which fail to file the official Declaration of Intent to Participate certificate in ~~baseball, basketball, competitive cheer and dance, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, volleyball and wrestling~~ ~~the men's program for cross country, tennis, golf, football, soccer, basketball and baseball and in the women's program for cross country, tennis, golf, basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball~~ with the National Office by April 1 shall:

- a. Be declared ineligible to participate in NAIA postseason competition in those sports in which they are delinquent;
- b. Cause statistical service of NAIA to be denied in the sport(s) found delinquent; and
- c. Cause their students and coaches within the delinquent sport(s) to be ineligible for NAIA awards in the delinquent sport(s) for that season.

Note: For the 2016-2017 Declaration of Intent, in the sport of competitive cheer and dance only an institution will not be subject to penalties for delinquency so long as the institution registers its intent by September 1, 2016.

Intent: To clarify sports for which failure to honor or file a Declaration of Intent will result in penalties, and include competitive cheer and dance, lacrosse and men's volleyball in this listing.

Effective date: April 19, 2016

Submitted by: National Administrative Council



16-B-17

SUBJECT: INFRACTIONS: CHARACTER-DRIVEN COACHING ONLINE TRAINING

Add Article VI, Section B, Item 8 as follows

8. Character-Driven Coaching Online Training

It is the responsibility of each institution to ensure every coach completes the Character-Driven Coaching online training within the first 60 days from the effective date of employment, in accordance with Bylaws Article I, Section E. An institution has an obligation to self-report the failure of any coach who does not complete the training accordingly. The National Conduct and Ethics Committee shall review any such report, and the institution and coach shall be subject automatically to the following penalties:

- a. The coach is prohibited from participating in any scrimmage, exhibition or contest until the course has been successfully completed and verification is provided to the National Office.
- b. Following successful completion of the course and verification provided to the National Office, the institution must withhold the coach from the next regularly scheduled contest.
- c. The institution must conduct a review of its internal processes for ensuring timely completion of the training for all coaches, and report its finding to the National Office.
- d. The coach must successfully complete the course within 30 days of the official closing letter from the National Conduct and Ethics Committee.

Failure to comply with these requirements or repeated violations shall lead to further sanctions, which may include but are not limited to an official reprimand, probation and/or suspension of individual coaches and/or the institution's athletics department.

Renumber as necessary.

Intent: To specify penalties for violations of the Character-Driven Coaching online training requirements described in Bylaws Article I, Section E.

Effective date: April 19, 2016

Submitted by: National Conduct and Ethics Committee

**16-B-18****SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS**

Amend Article IX, Section C, Item 5 as follows:

5. Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) NAIA members that are in good standing and not members of a conference shall hold membership in the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.). This association makes recommendations to the National Administrative Council regarding policies for operation of the national independent institution program for men's and women's programs. It isolates problems common to all independent institutions and organizes to study and achieve solutions to these problems. This association shall meet once a year in conjunction with the NAIA National Convention. Each independent institution shall be eligible to have one vote on association business. The association shall elect its own President, Vice-President and Secretary. A faculty athletics representative and a registrar from an independent institution also will serve on the National Administrative Council.

The Association of Independent Institutions shall:

- a. Facilitate effective and active participation in the NAIA legislative process and governance structure;
- b. Work with the appropriate NAIA committees regarding championship opportunities for A.I.I. members;
- c. Oversee the certification of eligibility for students at independent institutions and provide a mechanism for review of exception requests, violations and appeals;
- d. Provide weekly statistics services in the sports of men's and women's soccer, men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's lacrosse, baseball and softball;
- e. Select All-Independent teams in the sports of men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's lacrosse, baseball and softball;
- f. Provide recognition programs for students from all A.I.I. member institutions;
- g. Provide timely communication between the National Office and A.I.I. members; and
- h. Develop budget and financial operations to ensure fiscal accountability and responsibility.

Intent: To include lacrosse and men's volleyball as sports included in A.I.I. statistics and All-Independent teams.

Effective date: August 1, 2016

Submitted by: National Administrative Council