
Playing and Practice Seasons

No. 2026-37 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- BOWL SUBDIVISION FOOTBALL -- FIRST CONTEST DATE AND END OF PLAYING SEASON

Intent: In bowl subdivision football, to specify that an institution shall not to play its first contest with outside competition before the Thursday preceding the Saturday that is 14 weeks before the first Saturday in December, and to eliminate all first contest date exceptions.

Bylaws: Amend 17.13, as follows:

[Federated provision, FBS only]

17.13 Football. Regulations for computing the football playing season are set forth in Bylaw 17.1. (See Figure 17-1 and Figure 17-2.)

[17.13.1 through 17.13.3 unchanged.]

17.13.4 First Contest.

17.13.4.1 First Contest -- Bowl Subdivision. In bowl subdivision football, an institution shall not play its first contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition before the Thursday preceding ~~Labor Day~~ **the Saturday that is 14 weeks before the first Saturday in December** (see Figure 17-2).

~~17.13.4.1.1 Exception -- Institutions That Compete in Hawaii -- Bowl Subdivision. An institution that is scheduled to play a regular-season game in Hawaii may play its first permissible contest with outside competition on the Saturday prior to the Thursday preceding Labor Day. If the institution's first opponent of the season is not a member institution located in Hawaii, the institution's first opponent of the season may also play its first contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition on the Saturday prior to the Thursday preceding Labor Day.~~

~~17.13.4.1.2 Exception -- In-Season Foreign Competition -- Bowl Subdivision. An institution that is scheduled to play a regular-season game in a foreign country may play its first permissible contest with outside competition on the Saturday prior to the Thursday preceding Labor Day. An institution that uses this exception must provide its student-athletes with five additional days off from all countable athletically related activities during the institution's declared playing season.~~

[17.13.4.2 unchanged.]

17.13.5 End of Playing Season. ~~A member institution's last contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition in football shall not be played after the second Saturday or the following Sunday in December, except for the following:~~

- ~~(a) Spring Practice Scrimmage. One scrimmage or contest at the conclusion of spring practice, provided the game is with a team composed of bona fide alumni or students or both; and~~
- ~~(b) Postseason Games, NCAA and NAIA Championships, International Competition and Celebration Bowl. Permissible postseason games that meet the requirements of Bylaw 18.7 and the NCAA postseason football handbook or those games played in the Division I Football Championship; football contests played on a foreign tour certified by the member institution; or the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics football championships. In championship subdivision football only, a member institution's last contest also may include participation in the Celebration Bowl.~~

17.13.5.1 End of Playing Season -- Bowl Subdivision. In bowl subdivision football, an institution's last contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition shall not be played after the first Saturday in December, except for the following:

- (a) Spring Practice Scrimmage. One scrimmage or contest at the conclusion of spring practice, provided the game is with a team composed of bona fide alumni or students or both; and**
- (b) Conference championship game;**
- (c) Army vs. Navy game;**
- (d) Postseason Games. Permissible postseason games that meet the requirements of Bylaw 18.7 and the NCAA postseason football handbook; or**

(e) Foreign Tour Competition. Contests played on a foreign tour.

17.13.5.1.1 Final Date for Postseason Game -- Bowl Subdivision. In bowl subdivision football, the postseason football games in Bylaw 17.13.5.1-(d) must be played not later than the third Monday in January.

17.13.5.2 End of Playing Season -- Championship Subdivision. In championship subdivision football, an institution's last contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition in football shall not be played after the second Saturday or the following Sunday in December, except for the following:

(a) Spring Practice Scrimmage. One scrimmage or contest at the conclusion of spring practice, provided the game is with a team composed of bona fide alumni or students or both; and

(b) NCAA Championships, International Competition and Celebration Bowl. Games played in the Division I Football Championship; football contests played on a foreign tour; or the Celebration Bowl.

17.13.5.12.1 Celebration Bowl Restrictions. All members of the Mid-Eastern and Southwestern Athletic Conferences shall participate in the Division I Football Championship, if eligible and selected for participation, and members of those conferences that participate in the Division I Football Championship also shall not participate in the Celebration Bowl during the same year. The Celebration Bowl may be conducted on the same weekend as the Division I Football Championship, provided there is no conflict in the time of the contests.

17.13.5.2.2 Final Date for Postseason Game -- **Championship Subdivision.** *In bowl subdivision football, the postseason football games in Bylaw 17.13.5(b) must be played not later than the third Monday in January.* In championship subdivision football, the postseason games in Bylaw 17.13.5(b) must be played not later than the Sunday before the second Monday in January.

[17.13.6 through 17.13.9 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee

Effective Date: August 1, 2027

Category: Amendment

Topical Area: Playing and Practice Seasons

Rationale: This proposal provides a consistent 14-week regular season schedule, which simplifies scheduling. Additionally, the proposal would eliminate all first contest date exceptions, ensuring one first contest date for all FBS institutions and removing issues related to potential competitive advantages.

Division I Commitment addressed by proposal: The Commitment to Value-Based Legislation.

Is the proposal consequential or nationally significant?: Yes. The first contest date in bowl subdivision football is nationally significant.

Is the proposal enforceable and how do the merits outweigh monitoring burdens?: Yes. This proposal will not increase monitoring burdens.

How does the proposal support student-athlete success/well-being?: This proposal supports student-athlete well-being by establishing a consistent 14-week regular season schedule.

Estimated Budget Impact: Dependent on institutional and conference scheduling decisions.

Impact on Student-Athlete's Time (Academic and/or Athletics): None.

Position Statement(s):

None

History:

Apr 16, 2026:	In Progress	The Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee introduced the proposal. The committee recommends that the Cabinet adopt the proposal as expedited legislation during its June 23-24, 2026, meeting.
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Recruiting

No. 2026-38 RECRUITING -- NOTIFICATION OF TRANSFER -- FIELD HOCKEY -- UNDERGRADUATE WINDOW

Intent: In field hockey, to specify that an undergraduate student-athlete may initiate the notification of transfer process during a 30 consecutive-day period beginning the Tuesday after the Division I Field Hockey Championship game, or May 1-15.

Bylaws: Amend 13.1.1.4, as follows:

13.1.1.4 Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes. An athletics staff member or other representative of the institution's athletics interests shall not communicate or make contact with the student-athlete of another NCAA Division I institution, or any individual associated with the student-athlete (e.g., family member, scholastic or nonscholastic coach, advisor), directly or indirectly, without first obtaining authorization through the notification of transfer process. Before making contact, directly or indirectly, with a student-athlete of an NCAA Division II or Division III institution, or an NAIA four-year collegiate institution, an athletics staff member or other representative of the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the rule of the applicable division or the NAIA rule for making contact with a student-athlete. [See Bylaw 19.1.3-(f).]

13.1.1.4.1 Notification of Transfer – Undergraduate Student-Athletes – Sports Other Than Football. In sports other than football, a student-athlete may initiate the notification of transfer process by providing the student-athlete's institution with a written notification of transfer and completing an educational module related to transferring. Notification of transfer must be initiated during a period specified for the applicable sport (see also Figure 13-1). If notification of transfer is provided during a specified period, the student-athlete's institution shall enter the student-athlete's information into the national transfer database within two business days of receipt of a written notification of transfer from the student-athlete or receipt of confirmation of the student-athlete's completion of the educational module, whichever occurs later. [D]

(a) Fall Sports Other Than **Field Hockey and** Football. In fall sports other than **field hockey and** football, a student-athlete must provide written notification of transfer during:

[13.1.1.4.1-(a)-(1) through 13.1.1.4.1-(a)-(2) unchanged.]

(b) Field Hockey. In field hockey, a student-athlete must provide written notification of transfer during:

(1) A 30 consecutive-day period beginning the Tuesday immediately following the Division I Field Hockey Championship game; or

(2) May 1-15.

[13.1.1.4.1-(b) through 13.1.1.4.1-(j) relettered as 13.1.1.4.1-(c) through 13.1.1.4.1-(k), unchanged.]

[13.1.1.4.1.1 unchanged.]

[13.1.1.4.2 through 13.1.1.4.9 unchanged.]

Source: Division I Field Hockey Oversight Committee

Effective Date: Immediate

Category: Amendment

Topical Area: Recruiting

Rationale: This proposal focuses on student-athlete well-being and maintains focus on postseason competition. Additionally, it avoids external pressures on student-athletes and coaches during the NCAA championship and aligns with the NCAA best practice of protecting championship environments. Lastly, it aligns with other Division I sports that recently adopted similar changes, opening notification of transfer windows after NCAA championships.

Estimated Budget Impact: Varies by institution.

Impact on Student-Athlete's Time (Academic and/or Athletics): None.

Position Statement(s):

None

History:

Apr 23, 2026:	In Progress	The Field Hockey Oversight Committee introduced the proposal. The committee recommends that the Cabinet adopt the proposal as expedited legislation during its June 23-24, 2026, meeting.
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Infractions Program

No. 2026-39 INFRACTIONS PROGRAM -- STANDARDS OF REVIEW AND RESOLUTION METHODS (LEVEL I/II CASES) -- ALTERNATIVE STANDARD IN IMPERMISSIBLE CONTACT CASES

Intent: To specify that in cases of impermissible contact, the enforcement staff shall make formal allegations if a reasonable person would infer that one or more parties engaged in impermissible conduct.

Bylaws: Amend 19.7, as follows:

19.7 Standards of Review and Resolution Methods (Level I/II Cases)

[19.7.1 through 19.7.2 unchanged.]

19.7.3 ~~Violations Presumed in Select~~ **Alternative Standard in Impermissible Contact** Cases. ~~In cases involving name, image and likeness offers, agreements and/or activities in which related communications and conduct are subject to NCAA regulation, the infractions process (including interpretive requests) shall presume a violation occurred if circumstantial information suggests that one or more parties engaged in impermissible conduct. The enforcement staff may make a formal allegation based on the presumption. The hearing panel shall conclude a violation occurred unless the institution or involved individual clearly demonstrates with credible and sufficient information that all communications and conduct surrounding the name, image and likeness activity complied with NCAA legislation.~~ **In cases involving impermissible contact, the enforcement staff shall make formal allegations if a reasonable person would infer that one or more parties engaged in impermissible conduct. The hearing panel shall conclude a violation occurred unless the institution or involved individual clearly demonstrates with credible and sufficient information that all communications complied with NCAA legislation.**

[19.7.4 through 19.7.6 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division I Board of Directors (Infractions Process Task Force)

Effective Date: Immediate

Category: Amendment

Topical Area: Infractions Program

Rationale: Impermissible contact is a significant membership concern. Creating an alternative standard of review for cases involving allegations of Level I or Level II impermissible contact violations is one way to address current concerns with the Division I recruiting environment. The language related to presumed violations in cases involving name, image and likeness activities is being removed based on the shift in enforcement of name, image and likeness legislation to the College Sports Commission as specified in the House settlement.

Estimated Budget Impact: None.

Impact on Student-Athlete's Time (Academic and/or Athletics): None.

Position Statement(s):

None

History:

Apr 27, 2026:	In Progress	Introduced by the Board of Directors. The Board recommends that the Cabinet adopt the proposal as expedited legislation during its June 23-24, 2026, meeting.
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Academic Eligibility

No. 2026-40 ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY -- TWO-YEAR COLLEGE AND 4-2-4 TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS

Intent: To revise the eligibility requirements for a two-year college and 4-2-4 transfer student-athlete, as specified.

Bylaws: Amend 14.5, as follows:

14.5 Transfer Regulations.

14.5.1 General Principle. A student who transfers (see Bylaw 14.5.2) to a member institution from any collegiate institution is required to satisfy the applicable transfer requirements or qualify for an exception as set forth in this bylaw before being eligible to compete.

[14.5.1.1 unchanged.]

14.5.1.2 Outside Competition – Not a Qualifier. A two-year college transfer student who is not a qualifier and does not meet the applicable transfer requirements may participate in the institution's intramural program (provided the intramural team is not coached by a member of the institution's athletics department staff), but such an individual is not permitted to practice or compete on an institution's club team or an outside sports team *during the first academic year of residence* **until eligibility is regained pursuant to Bylaw 14.5.4.3**. A four-year college transfer student who is not a qualifier and who does not meet the applicable four-year college transfer requirements may participate in the institution's intramural program (provided the intramural team is not coached by a member of the institution's athletics department staff), but such an individual is not permitted to practice or compete on an institution's club team or an outside sports team until eligibility is regained pursuant to Bylaw 14.5.5.1.

[14.5.1.3 unchanged.]

[14.5.2 through 14.5.3 unchanged.]

14.5.4 Two-Year College Transfers. A student who transfers to a member institution from a two-year college or from a branch school that conducts an intercollegiate athletics program *must complete an academic year of residence unless is eligible for competition if, at the time of transfer to the certifying institution (see Bylaw 14.5.2), the student meets the following eligibility requirements.*

14.5.4.1 Qualifier. A transfer student from a two-year college who was a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for competition *in the first academic year of residence* if, **at the time of transfer to the certifying institution (see Bylaw 14.5.2)**, the student ~~meets the requirements for a nonqualifier to be eligible for competition (per Bylaw 14.5.4.2.1) or:~~

- (a) Has spent at least one full-time semester or one full-time quarter of residence at the two-year college (excluding summer sessions); **and**
- (b) Has presented a minimum grade-point average of ~~2.500~~ **2.000** (see Bylaw 14.5.4.6.3.2); ~~and,~~
- (c) ~~Has satisfactorily completed an average of at least 12 semester or quarter hours of transferable degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution for each full-time academic term of attendance at the two-year college.~~

14.5.4.1.1 Baseball, Basketball and Softball – Midyear Enrollee. In baseball, basketball and softball, a qualifier who satisfies the provisions of Bylaw 14.5.4.1, but initially enrolls at the certifying institution as a full-time student after the conclusion of the institution's first term of the academic year, shall not be eligible for competition until the ensuing academic year.

14.5.4.2 ~~Nonqualifier~~ **Not a Qualifier. A transfer student from a two-year college who was not a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for institutional financial aid, practice and competition if at the time of transfer to the certifying institution (see Bylaw 14.5.2), the student meets the following requirements:**

- (a) Has graduated from the two-year college;**
- (b) Has completed satisfactorily a minimum of six-semester or eight-quarter hours of transferable English credit, three semester or four quarter hours of transferable math or quantitative reasoning (or equivalent math/quantitative reasoning) credit and three semester or four quarter hours of transferable natural/physical science credit; and**
- (c) Has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.6.3.2).**

14.5.4.2.1 Eligibility for Financial Aid, **and Practice and Competition**. A transfer student from a two-year college who was a ~~nonqualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.2.1)~~ **not a qualifer (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1)** is eligible for institutional financial aid, **and practice and competition during the first academic year of residence only**, if the student: **meets the requirements set forth in Bylaws 14.4.3.1.2 and 14.4.3.2 (if applicable).**

- ~~(a) Has graduated from the two-year college;~~
- ~~(b) Has completed satisfactorily a minimum of 48 semester or 72 quarter hours of transferable degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution, including six-semester or eight-quarter hours of transferable English credit, three semester or four quarter hours of transferable math or quantitative reasoning (or equivalent math/quantitative reasoning) credit and three semester or four quarter hours of transferable natural/physical science credit;~~

~~(c) Has attended a two-year college as a full-time student for at least three semesters or four quarters (excluding summer terms); and~~

~~(d) Has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 2.500 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.6.3.2).~~

~~14.5.4.2.2 Eligibility for Financial Aid and Practice. A transfer student from a two-year college who was a nonqualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.2.1) is eligible for institutional financial aid and practice during the first academic year of residence only if the student:~~

~~(a) Has graduated from the two-year college;~~

~~(b) Has completed satisfactorily a minimum of 48 semester or 72 quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution, including six semester or eight quarter hours of transferable English credit, three semester or four quarter hours of transferable math or quantitative reasoning (or equivalent math/quantitative reasoning) credit and three semester or four quarter hours of transferable natural/physical science credit;~~

~~(c) Has attended a two-year college as a full-time student for at least three semesters or four quarters (excluding summer terms); and~~

~~(d) Has achieved a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.6.3.2).~~

~~14.5.4.2.3 Use of Hours Earned During Summer Terms. Not more than a total of 18 semester or 27 quarter hours of the transferable-degree credit may be earned during summer terms, and not more than nine semester or 13.5 quarter hours of the transferable-degree credit may be earned during the summer term or terms immediately prior to the academic year in which the transfer occurs (including a midyear transfer).~~

~~14.5.4.2.4 Three-Semester/Four-Quarter Attendance Requirement. A student-athlete is not permitted to satisfy the three-semester/four-quarter attendance requirement during one academic year.~~

14.5.4.42.2 Status as Nonqualifier. A prospective student-athlete who does not graduate from high school before enrolling as a regular student in a two-year college may not transfer work back to the high school, graduate from the high school and establish initial eligibility at a member institution on the basis of the revised high school record. Such a student is considered to be a two-year college transfer who was a nonqualifier.

14.5.4.52.3 Status of Nonqualifier, Nonrecruited. A two-year college student-athlete who transferred to a Division I institution without meeting the requirements of Bylaw 14.5.4.2 shall not be eligible for regular-season competition and practice during the first academic year of residence. However, such a student who was not recruited per Bylaw 13.02.15.1 and for whom admission and financial aid were granted without regard to athletics ability shall be eligible for nonathletics institutional financial aid.

14.5.4.2.54 Baseball, Basketball and Softball – Midyear Enrollee. In baseball, basketball and softball, a student who was not a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) who satisfies the provisions of Bylaw 14.5.4.2, but initially enrolls at a certifying institution as a full-time student after the conclusion of the institution's first term of the academic year, shall not be eligible for competition until the ensuing academic year.

~~14.5.4.3 Academic Redshirt. A transfer student from a two-year college who was an academic redshirt (per Bylaw 14.3.1.2) is eligible for competition during the first academic year of residence only if the student:~~

~~(a) Has graduated from the two-year college;~~

~~(b) Has completed satisfactorily a minimum of 48 semester or 72 quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution, including six semester or eight quarter hours of transferable English credit, three semester or four quarter hours of transferable math or quantitative reasoning (or equivalent math/quantitative reasoning) credit and three semester or four quarter hours of transferable natural/physical science credit;~~

~~(c) Has attended a two-year college as a full-time student for at least three semesters or four quarters (excluding summer terms); and~~

~~(d) Has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 2.500 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.6.3.2).~~

~~14.5.4.3.1 Use of Hours Earned During Summer Term. Not more than a total of 18 semester or 27 quarter hours of the transferable-degree credit may be earned during summer terms, and not more than nine semester or 13.5 quarter hours of the transferable-degree credit may be earned during the summer term or terms immediately prior to the academic year in which the transfer occurs (including a midyear transfer).~~

~~14.5.4.3.2 Three-Semester/Four-Quarter Attendance Requirement. A student-athlete is not permitted to satisfy the three-semester/four-quarter attendance requirement during one academic year.~~

~~14.5.4.3.3 Baseball, Basketball and Softball -- Midyear Enrollee. In baseball, basketball and softball, a student who was an academic redshirt (per Bylaw 14.3.1.2) who satisfies the provisions of Bylaw 14.5.4.3 but initially enrolls at the certifying institution as a full-time student after the conclusion of the institution's first term of the academic year, shall not be eligible for competition until the ensuing academic year.~~

14.5.4.3 Regaining Eligibility. For purposes of Bylaws 14.5.4.1, 14.5.4.2 and 14.5.4.2.1, a two-year college transfer student-athlete who does not meet the applicable requirements at the time of transfer may become eligible to receive institutional financial aid, practice and compete at the certifying institution after the conclusion of the first regular term following transfer (consistent with Bylaw 14.4.3.4) by successfully meeting all applicable progress-toward-degree requirements at the certifying institution.

~~14.5.64.4 4-2-4 College Transfers. A student who transfers from a four-year college to a two-year college and then to the certifying institution shall complete one academic year of residence at the certifying institution prior to engaging in intercollegiate competition, unless:~~ **meet the applicable requirements for a two-year college transfer based on the student's academic initial-eligibility status (see Bylaws 14.5.4.1 and 14.5.4.2) and two-year college record earned following transfer from the four-year college most recently attended.**

~~(a) The student has completed an average of at least 12 semester or quarter hours of transferable degree credit, with a cumulative minimum grade-point average of 2.500 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.6.3.2), acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution for each term of full-time attendance at the two-year college following transfer from the four-year college most recently attended;~~

~~(b) One calendar year has elapsed since the student's departure from the previous four-year college (one year since the date that the student-athlete takes formal action with the appropriate institutional authorities required for all students to indicate that the student-athlete is leaving the previous four-year institution and no longer will be attending classes); and~~

~~(c) The student has graduated from the two-year college.~~

14.5.4.65 Two-Year College Transfer Regulations. The following regulations shall be applied in administering the eligibility requirements for two-year college transfers.

~~14.5.4.65.1 Multiple Two-Year Colleges. If a student-athlete has been in residence at two or more two-year colleges, the terms of residence at all two-year colleges may be combined in order to satisfy the residence requirement. All~~ **all** grades and all course credits that are transferable from the two-year colleges to the certifying institution shall be considered in determining the student-athlete's eligibility under Bylaw 14.5.4 (see also Bylaw 14.5.6). In addition, at least 25 percent of the credit hours used to fulfill the student's academic degree requirements must be earned at the two-year college that awards the degree.

~~14.5.4.65.2 Credit Earned at Four-Year Institution. If a student-athlete attends a two-year college and, prior to regular enrollment at a member institution, attains additional credits as a part-time student in a four-year collegiate institution, the hours accumulated at the four-year institution may be used by the member institution in determining the student-athlete's eligibility under the two-year college transfer provisions, provided:~~

[14.5.4.5.2-(a) through 14.5.4.5.2-(b) unchanged.]

~~14.5.4.65.3 Determination of Transferable Degree Credit. For the purpose of determining transferable degree credit, the institution may count those courses accepted as degree credit in any of its colleges, schools or departments.~~

~~14.5.4.65.3.1 Transferable Credit, Unacceptable Grade. Credit hours for courses with grades not considered acceptable for transferable degree credit for all students at an institution shall not be counted in determining whether the transfer requirement for total number of hours is satisfied.~~

~~14.5.4.65.3.2 Calculation of Grade-Point Average for Transferable Credit. Grades earned in all courses that are normally transferable to an institution shall be considered in determining the qualitative grade-point average for meeting transfer requirements, regardless of the grade earned or whether such grade makes the course unacceptable for transferable degree credit. Only the last grade earned in a course that has been repeated shall be included in the grade-point-average calculation.~~

~~14.5.4.65.4 Use of Physical Education Activity Courses. Not more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses may be used to fulfill the transferable degree credit and grade-point average requirements.~~

However, a student-athlete enrolling in a physical education degree program or a degree program in education that requires physical education activity courses may use up to the minimum number of credits of physical education activity courses that are required for the specific degree program to fulfill the ~~transferable-degree-credit~~ and grade-point average requirements. Additional credit hours of physical education activity courses may not be used to fulfill elective requirements.

~~14.5.4.65.5~~ Degree Requirement. In order to satisfy the two-year-college graduation requirement for eligibility immediately upon transfer from a two-year college to a member institution, a student-athlete must receive an associate or equivalent degree in an academic or technical, rather than a vocational, curriculum. The Academic Eligibility Subcommittee shall have the authority to determine whether a two-year college degree is academic or technical, rather than vocational, in nature.

~~14.5.4.65.76~~ Participation Prior to Certification. If a two-year college transfer student reports for athletics participation or initial enrollment at the certifying institution before the student's high school or two-year college academic record has been certified, the student may practice, but not compete, during a 45-day period, provided the student meets all other requirements to be eligible to practice. An institution may provide athletically related financial aid to the student during this period, provided the student meets all other requirements to receive athletically related financial aid. After the 45-day period, the student shall have established minimum requirements as a transfer student to continue practicing, to continue receiving athletically related financial aid or to compete.

~~14.5.4.65.87~~ Competition in Year of Transfer. A transfer student from a two-year institution, who has met the two-year transfer eligibility requirements per Bylaw 14.5.4, is not eligible to compete at the certifying institution during the segment that concludes with the NCAA championship if the student-athlete has competed at the two-year college during that segment of the same academic year in that sport.

~~14.5.4.96~~ Waivers. The Academic Eligibility Subcommittee shall have the authority to waive all two-year college transfer requirements based on objective evidence that demonstrates circumstances that warrant the waiver of the normal application of those regulations. The subcommittee shall establish the process for granting such waivers and shall report annually to the Cabinet and to the membership the actions taken in summary aggregate form.

~~14.5.4.6.6 Transfer to Four-Year College Prior to Completion of Requirements. The requirements set forth in Bylaw 14.5.4 must be met prior to a student-athlete's transfer to the certifying institution. Thus, if a two-year college student transfers (as defined in Bylaw 14.5.2) to a member institution prior to the completion of applicable transfer requirements, the student is subject to the one-year residence requirement at the certifying institution, even though the student transfers back to the two-year college and completes the necessary requirements.~~

~~14.5.4.7 Exceptions for Transfers From Two-Year Colleges. A transfer student from a two-year college or from a branch school that conducts an intercollegiate athletics program is not subject to the residence requirement at the certifying institution if any one of the following conditions is met. An individual who is not a qualifier shall not be permitted to use the exceptions under this bylaw.~~

~~14.5.4.7.1 Discontinued/Nonsponsored Sport Exception. The student changed institutions in order to continue participation in a sport because the student's original two-year college dropped the sport from its intercollegiate program (even though it may subsequently establish that sport on a club basis) or never sponsored the sport on the intercollegiate level while the student was in attendance at that institution, provided the student never transferred (see Bylaw 14.5.2) from any other collegiate institution that offered intercollegiate competition in that sport while the student was in attendance and the student earned at least a minimum 2.500 grade-point average (see Bylaw 14.5.4.6.3.2) at the two-year college.~~

~~14.5.4.7.1.1 Original Collegiate Institution. In applying this provision for an exception to the residence requirement, the original collegiate institution shall be the two-year college in which the student was enrolled immediately prior to the transfer to the certifying institution, provided that, if the student is transferring from a two-year college that never sponsored the sport on the intercollegiate level, the student never shall have transferred from any other collegiate institution that offered intercollegiate competition in that sport while the student was in attendance.~~

~~14.5.4.7.2 Two-Year Nonparticipation or Minimal Participation Exception. The student transfers to the certifying institution from a two-year college and, for a consecutive two-year period immediately before the date on which the student begins participation (practice and/or competition), the student has neither engaged in intercollegiate competition nor engaged in other countable athletically related activities in the involved sport in intercollegiate athletics beyond a 14 consecutive-day period, and has neither practiced with a noncollegiate~~

~~amateur team nor engaged in organized noncollegiate amateur competition while enrolled as a full-time student in a collegiate institution. The 14 consecutive-day period begins with the date on which the student-athlete first engages in any countable athletically-related activity (see Bylaw 17.02.1). The two-year period does not include any period of time before the student's initial collegiate enrollment.~~

~~14.5.4.8 Submission of Information Necessary to Determine Academic Initial-Eligibility Status. An institution shall ensure submission of all necessary information (e.g., high school transcripts, test scores) to the NCAA Eligibility Center to determine the academic initial-eligibility status of a two-year college transfer student-athlete prior to the end of the student-athlete's first regular academic term of full-time enrollment at the institution. If a two-year college transfer student-athlete is added to an institution's squad list after the end of the first regular academic term of full-time enrollment at the institution, the institution shall ensure submission of all necessary information (e.g., high school transcripts, test scores) to the NCAA Eligibility Center to determine academic initial-eligibility status prior to end of the academic year in which the student-athlete is added to the squad list. The necessary information may be submitted through official or unofficial transcripts or test score reports. [D]~~

~~14.5.4.8.1 Waiver. The Academic Eligibility Subcommittee may waive the requirements of this legislation based on objective evidence that demonstrates circumstances for which a waiver is warranted. The subcommittee shall establish the process for reviewing such waiver requests.~~

[14.5.5 unchanged.]

~~14.5.6.1 Exceptions. A "4-2-4" transfer student who does not meet the requirements of Bylaw 14.5.6 is not subject to the residence requirement for intercollegiate competition if any of the following conditions are met:~~

- ~~(a) The student returns to the four-year college from which the student transferred to the two-year college, provided the student satisfied the applicable four-year college transfer requirements at the time of the transfer from the four-year college (see Bylaw 14.5.5).;~~
- ~~(b) The student initially was enrolled in a four-year collegiate institution that never sponsored the student's sport on the intercollegiate level while the student was in attendance at the institution (provided the student never had attended any other four-year collegiate institution that offered intercollegiate competition in that particular sport) and provided the student was a qualifier and satisfactorily completed an average of at least 12 semester or quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution during each academic term of attendance with a cumulative minimum grade-point average of 2.500 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.6.3.2), and spent at least two semesters or three quarters of residence at the two-year college (excluding summer sessions); or~~
- ~~(c) The student qualifies for an exception to the two-year college transfer requirements (see Bylaw 14.5.4.7).~~

~~14.5.6.2 Additional Transferable Degree Credit Requirements for Academic Redshirts and Nonqualifiers. A student who was not a qualifier shall have satisfactorily completed a minimum of six semesters or eight quarter hours of transferable English credit, three semester or four quarter hours of transferable math credit and three semester or four quarter hours of transferable natural/physical science credit. Remedial English, math and natural/physical science courses may not be used to satisfy this requirement. The student may use transferable English, math and natural/physical science credits earned while enrolled at a previous four-year college to meet these requirements.~~

~~14.5.6.3 Multiple Two-Year Colleges. If a student-athlete has been in residence at two or more two-year colleges following transfer from the four-year collegiate institution most recently attended, all grades and all course credits that are transferable from the two-year colleges to the certifying institution shall be considered in determining the student-athlete's eligibility under Bylaw 14.5.6(a). In addition, at least 25 percent of the credit hours used to fulfill the student's academic degree requirements must be earned at the two-year college that awards the degree.~~

~~14.5.6.4 Use of Physical Education Activity Courses. Not more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses may be used to fulfill the transferable-degree credit and grade-point average requirements. However, a student-athlete enrolling in a physical education degree program or a degree program in education that requires physical education activity courses may use up to the minimum number of credits of physical education activity courses that are required for the specific degree program to fulfill the transferable-degree credit and grade-point average requirements. Additional credit hours of physical education activity courses may not be used to fulfill elective requirements.~~

~~14.5.6.5 Baseball, Basketball and Softball — Midyear Enrollee. In baseball, basketball and softball, a student who satisfies the provisions of Bylaw 14.5.6, but initially enrolls at a certifying institution as a full-time student after the conclusion of the institution's first term of the academic year, shall not be eligible for competition until the ensuing academic year.~~

~~14.5.6.5.1 Return to Original Institution – Baseball and Softball. In baseball and softball, a midyear 4-2-4 transfer student who qualifies for the return-to-original institution exception [see Bylaw 14.5.6.1(a)] to the transfer residence requirement is not eligible for competition until the ensuing academic year.~~

~~14.5.6.5.2 Return to Original Institution – Basketball. In basketball, a midyear 4-2-4 transfer student who qualifies for the return-to-original institution exception [see Bylaw 14.5.6.1(a)] to the transfer residence requirement is not subject to the restriction in Bylaw 14.5.6.5.~~

~~14.5.6.6 Calendar-Year Time Lapse. It is not required that the calendar year specified in Bylaw 14.5.6 elapse prior to the student's initial enrollment as a regular student in the second four-year institution, but the calendar year must elapse before the student represents the certifying institution in intercollegiate competition. However, the student-athlete shall be eligible on the first day of classes or on the date of the first scheduled intercollegiate contest that falls earlier than the first day of classes in the regular academic term in which the student would become eligible, provided the student has fulfilled the one-academic-year requirement.~~

~~14.5.6.7 Transfer Prior to Completion of Requirements. All transfer requirements set forth in Bylaw 14.5.6, except the calendar-year time-lapse requirement (see Bylaw 14.5.6.6), must be met prior to the student-athlete's transfer to the certifying institution. Thus, if a student-athlete transfers from a four-year institution to a two-year college and, prior to completing the applicable transfer requirements, transfers to a member institution, the student-athlete shall be subject to the one-year residence requirement, even though during the course of that one-year residence at the certifying institution, the student-athlete may complete the necessary requirements.~~

~~14.5.6.8 Eligibility for Institutional Athletically Related Financial Aid. A student-athlete who transfers from a four-year institution to a two-year institution and then to the certifying institution shall complete at least one regular academic term of enrollment at the two-year institution to be eligible for institutional athletically related financial aid at the certifying institution. (See Bylaw 14.5.5.3.)~~

~~14.5.6.9 Submission of Information Necessary to Determine Academic Initial-Eligibility Status. An institution shall ensure submission of all necessary information (e.g., high school transcripts, test scores) to the NCAA Eligibility Center to determine the academic initial-eligibility status of a 4-2-4 transfer student-athlete prior to the end of the student-athlete's first regular academic term of full-time enrollment at the institution. If a 4-2-4 transfer student-athlete is added to an institution's squad list after the end of the first regular academic term of full-time enrollment at the institution, the institution shall ensure submission of all necessary information (e.g., high school transcripts, test scores) to the NCAA Eligibility Center to determine academic initial-eligibility status prior to the end of the academic year in which the student-athlete is added to the squad list. The necessary information may be submitted through official or unofficial transcripts or test-score reports. [D]~~

~~14.5.6.9.1 Waiver. The Academic Eligibility Subcommittee may waive the requirements of this legislation based on objective evidence that demonstrates circumstances for which a waiver is warranted. The subcommittee shall establish the process for reviewing such waiver requests.~~

~~14.5.6.10 Waivers. The Academic Eligibility Subcommittee shall have the authority to waive all two-year college transfer requirements based on objective evidence that demonstrates circumstances that warrant the waiver of the normal application of those regulations. The subcommittee shall establish the process for granting such waivers and shall report annually to the Cabinet and to the membership the actions taken in summary aggregate form.~~

Source: Division I Academics and Eligibility Committee

Effective Date: Immediate; applicable to two-year and 4-2-4 transfer student-athletes seeking eligibility during the 2026-27 academic year and thereafter.

Category: Amendment

Topical Area: Academic Eligibility

Rationale: This proposal amends the two-year transfer legislation to better align eligibility standards with those applied to other student-athlete populations while maintaining key indicators of academic success. Specifically, the proposal reduces the transferable grade-point-average requirement from 2.500 to 2.000, eliminates certain credit-hour accumulation thresholds (including the average of 12 hours and the 48/72-hour requirement for nonqualifiers), and removes extended term-of-residence requirements in certain cases. This proposal retains critical academic safeguards, including limits on physical education activity credit and completion of core academic coursework, as well as existing progress-toward-degree requirements that apply to all student-athletes. These changes are supported by the Academic Eligibility Subcommittee and reflect a shift toward emphasizing equitable access to four-year participation opportunities while preserving academic integrity. This proposal maintains the foundational elements identified as predictors of academic success while removing requirements

that have not demonstrated a clear or consistent impact on improved outcomes. Finally, this proposal includes an immediate effective date, which will allow current student-athletes—particularly those serving a year of residence—to benefit from the revised standards without delay. This approach maximizes access to participation opportunities while maintaining appropriate academic benchmarks and minimizing unintended consequences. This proposal represents a measured and data-informed modernization of two-year transfer legislation. It promotes fairness and consistency across transfer pathways, enhances access to academic and athletics opportunities, and aligns NCAA policy with its stated commitment to student-athlete success.

Estimated Budget Impact: None.

Impact on Student-Athlete's Time (Academic and/or Athletics): None.

Position Statement(s):

None

History:

May 8, 2026:	In Progress	The Academics and Eligibility Committee recommends that the Cabinet adopt the proposal as expedited legislation during its June 23-24, 2026, meeting.
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Playing and Practice Seasons

No. 2026-41 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- MEN'S WRESTLING -- FIRST DATE OF COMPETITION -- 20 WEEKS PRIOR TO CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

Intent: In men's wrestling, to specify that an institution shall not engage in its first date of competition (game or scrimmage) with outside competition before the Friday of the 20th week prior to the Division I Men's Wrestling Championships finals.

Bylaws: Amend 17.31, as follows:

17.31 Men's Wrestling. Regulations for computing the men's wrestling playing season are set forth in Bylaw 17.1. (See Figure 17-1 and Figure 17-2.)

[17.31.1 through 17.31.2 unchanged.]

17.31.3 First Date of Competition. An institution shall not engage in its first date of competition (game or scrimmage) with outside competition in men's wrestling before ~~November 7~~ **the Friday of the 20th week prior to the NCAA Division I Men's Wrestling Championships finals.**

[17.31.4 through 17.31.9 unchanged.]

Source: Division I Men's Wrestling Oversight Committee

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Category: Amendment

Topical Area: Playing and Practice Seasons

Rationale: This proposal provides a consistent timeframe for competition from year to year, given the calendar day for the first date of competition fluctuates based on when the championships finals fall. This change provides institutions with the opportunity to begin competition during the weekend, allowing more travel flexibility and minimizing academic disruptions. This modest change to the first permissible date of competition would advance the start date by two or three calendar days over the next two years.

Division I Commitment addressed by proposal: The Commitment to Value-Based Legislation.

Is the proposal consequential or nationally significant?: Yes. Playing and practice season legislation is nationally significant.

Is the proposal enforceable and how do the merits outweigh monitoring burdens?: Yes. This proposal does not create an additional monitoring burden.

How does the proposal support student-athlete success/well-being?: This proposal is designed to positively impact student-athlete well-being by establishing a consistent first date of competition.

Estimated Budget Impact: None.

Impact on Student-Athlete's Time (Academic and/or Athletics): None.

Position Statement(s):

None

History:

May 13, 2026:	In Progress	The Men's Wrestling Oversight Committee introduced the proposal. The committee recommends that the Cabinet adopt the proposal as expedited legislation during its June 23-24, 2026, meeting.
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No. 2026-42 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL -- FIRST CONTEST DATE

Intent: In women's volleyball, to specify that an institution shall not to play its first contest with outside competition until the Thursday preceding the Saturday that is 15 weeks before the first Saturday in December, and to eliminate the first contest date exception for the AVCA Showcase.

Bylaws: Amend 17.29, as follows:

17.29 Volleyball. Regulations for computing the volleyball playing season are set forth in Bylaw 17.1. (See Figure 17-1 and Figure 17-2.)

[17.29.1 through 17.29.2 unchanged.]

17.29.3 First Contest -- Women. A member institution shall not engage in its first contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition in women's volleyball until the ~~Friday prior to September 1~~ **Thursday preceding the Saturday that is 15 weeks from the first Saturday in December.** ~~If September 1 falls on a Friday, the first permissible contest shall be the preceding Friday. If September 1 falls on a Saturday, the first permissible contest shall be two Fridays prior to September 1.~~ (See Figure 17-2.) An alumni match may be played during the week (Saturday-Friday) prior to the first permissible contest. An institution may not begin competition in its segment in which the NCAA championship is not conducted until January 1.

[17.29.3.1 unchanged.]

~~17.29.3.2 Exception -- American Volleyball Coaches Association Showcase. An institution may participate in the AVCA Showcase before the first permissible contest date per Bylaw 17.29.3. An institution may not participate in the AVCA Showcase more than two times in a four-year period.~~

[17.29.4 through 17.29.13 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Oversight Committee

Effective Date: August 1, 2027

Category: Amendment

Topical Area: Playing and Practice Seasons

Rationale: This proposal will promote the continued growth of women's volleyball by allowing institutions and conferences flexibility to schedule contests earlier in the fall. Scheduling contests earlier in the fall is expected to meaningfully increase the number of televised women's volleyball contests and decrease scheduling conflicts for institutions that sponsor football. The proposal also provides a consistent first contest date for all Division I women's volleyball programs. Standardizing the first contest date removes potential competitive advantages gained by the few institutions that participate in contests prior to the legislated first contest date. This proposal does not increase the 132-day playing season or eliminate the permissibility of participating in one scrimmage or exhibition contest or an alumni match that does not count toward the institution's won-lost record.

Division I Commitment addressed by proposal: The Commitment to Value-Based Legislation.

Is the proposal consequential or nationally significant?: Yes. The first contest date in women's volleyball is nationally significant.

Is the proposal enforceable and how do the merits outweigh monitoring burdens?: Yes. This proposal will not increase the monitoring burden.

How does the proposal support student-athlete success/well-being?: This proposal promotes the growth of women's volleyball, which directly promotes the athletic success of women's volleyball student-athletes.

Estimated Budget Impact: Dependent on institutional and conference scheduling decisions.

Impact on Student-Athlete's Time (Academic and/or Athletics): Dependent on institutional and conference scheduling decisions.

Position Statement(s):

None

History:

May 21, 2026:	In Progress	The Women's Volleyball Oversight Committee introduced the proposal. The committee recommends that the Cabinet adopt the proposal as expedited legislation during its June 23-24, 2026, meeting.
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