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Eligibility Basics

An NAIA student:

1) May only compete during four seasons;
2) May only compete during his/her first 10 semesters/15 quarters;
3) Must meet freshman and/or continuing eligibility requirements;
4) Must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours;
5) Must be making normal progress towards a baccalaureate degree;
6) Must Have a 2.0 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale (for juniors and seniors athletically or academically); and
7) Must meet transfer eligibility requirements (if applicable)
A student may compete:

**During 4 seasons of competition**

A student is charged a season of competition for participation in at least **one** intercollegiate contests.

The student is charged a season regardless of the level of play (i.e., varsity, junior varsity, freshman).

**During first 10 Semesters/15 Quarters**

Any term (excluding summer sessions) in which the student becomes identified at a single institution.
Freshman Eligibility

To be eligible for NAIA competition, a freshman student must:

- Be a graduate of an accredited high school or be accepted as a regular student in good standing at the enrolling institution.

- Meet two of three entry-level academic requirements:
  
  **1) Test Score** - Minimum score of:
  - ACT – 18
  - SAT - 860 [Critical Reading and Math sections only]; or
  
  **2) HS GPA** - Minimum overall high school GPA of 2.000 on 4.000 scale; or
  
  **3) Class Rank** – Top 50% of high school graduating class.
Continuing Eligibility

9-hour rule

Must have passed at least nine hours prior to the student’s second term.

24/36-hour rule

All students: 24 hours during the student’s previous two terms.

Quarter System: 36 hours during the student’s previous three quarters.
Progress Towards Degree

In order to participate during:

**Second Season**: The student must have accumulated 24 semester/36 quarter hours;

**Third Season**: The student must have accumulated 48 semester/72 quarter hours;

**Fourth Season**: The student must have accumulated 72 semester/108 quarter hours;

AND

At least 48 hour semester/72 quarter hours general education and/or in the student’s field of study.
12-hour rule
To compete, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours.

Academic Degree
The student must be making normal progress towards a baccalaureate degree.

Grade-point average
Junior status academically or athletically –
Student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
Transfers

**Transfer Student**
Any student who identified previously at any other collegiate institution.

**Residency Period**
• A transfer student who has previously attended a four-year institution must serve a 16-week residency period before being eligible to compete.

• A transfer student who attended only two-year institutions previously does **NOT** have to serve the residency period.

**Exceptions**
- Student never competed at the immediately previous four-year institution.
- “Release” from previous four-year institution.
Competitive Experience

Student must be charged with additional seasons of competition

Key date: September 1 of year of HS graduation

Charge a season if:

1) Student trains or competes

   AND

2) Receives permissible compensation, including remuneration of expenses

Student CANNOT be charged more than one season during 12-month period
Certification of Eligibility

Students may not compete until the completion and filing of:

1) NAIA Official Eligibility Certificate; and
2) NAIA Certificate of Clearance

And when applicable:
3) Transfer Eligibility Statement;
4) Eligibility Certificate for Entering Freshmen; and
5) Non-Resident Student or Enrollment Gap Form

These documents must be completed and sent to your Conference/Region Eligibility Chair prior to allowing any student to represent the institution in any manner.
Hardship Waivers

- Will restore a season of competition to a student.
- Will **NOT** restore any terms towards the 10 semester/15 quarter rule.
- Form available on NAIA website.
- Requirements:
  1) Student suffers a season-ending injury
  2) Must be verified by the medical doctor treating the student.
  3) Must not have competed in more than permissible number of contests (Article V, Section M, Item 2b)
  4) Injury cannot occur in last regular season contest or postseason.
Recruiting

CANNOT contact
- Enrolled students (including summer)
- Students that have drawn equipment and participated in preseason practice

Junior College Students
- Institution can initiate contact with two-year college prospect once the student is charged a second season by the junior college.

Contact by Student
- If contacted by an athlete enrolled at another institution:

  Notify, in writing, the institution (AD or FAR) where the athlete is presently enrolled within 10 days following the first contact.