

NCAA Division I 2008-09 Proposals for N4A Review

Proposal Number	Title	Intent	Rationale	Source	Effective Date
2008-21	RECRUITING — ADMISSIONS AND GRADUATION DATA, BANNED DRUG LIST AND INITIAL- ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS — REPORTS AND NOTIFICATION — ELIGIBILITY CENTER	To specify that the NCAA Eligibility Center shall provide the information contained within the disclosure reports related to admissions, graduation-rate data, academic progress rate data, graduation success rate, as well as notification of initial-eligibility standards, the NCAA banned drug list and information about nutritional supplements to a prospective student-athlete and his or her parents or legal guardians after he or she has registered with the Eligibility Center or after the Eligibility Center has received an institution's request to add the prospective student-athlete to the institution's institutional request list, whichever occurs first.	Current legislation places an unnecessary administrative burden on institutions to distribute information that could be efficiently provided to prospective student-athletes by the Eligibility Center. This is particularly true in the case of initial-eligibility standards. The necessary information related to admissions and graduation-rate data, academic progress rate data and graduation success rate is already collected and published by the NCAA. The creation of the Eligibility Center has provided increased efficiency and customer service to prospective student-athletes and their parents. This proposed role in the central coordination and distribution of required reports would greatly enhance the Eligibility Center's service to the membership. The close relationship between the NCAA national office and the Eligibility Center will facilitate the sharing of the necessary data. The required information could be provided to prospective student-athletes by the most efficient method (e.g., through e-mail or other technology), as determined by the Eligibility Center. This shift in report distribution is merely administrative in nature. Institutions would remain responsible for responding to any questions raised by prospective student-athletes and their parents or legal guardians regarding initial-eligibility, academic rates, the NCAA banned drug list and nutritional supplements.	Big 12 Conference.	August 01, 2010
2008-34	ELIGIBILITY — FRESHMAN ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS — CORE CURRICULUM TIME LIMITATION — STUDENTS WITH EDUCATION IMPACTING DISABILITIES	To specify that if a prospective student-athlete with a diagnosed education-impacting disability graduates from high school within the core-curriculum time limitation, he or she may use up to three core courses completed after high school graduation to satisfy the core-curriculum or minimum grade-point average requirements, or both.	Current legislation permits a prospective student-athlete with a diagnosed education-impacting disability to use all core courses up to the individual's initial full-time enrollment to satisfy the core-curriculum or minimum grade-point average requirements or both. This proposal provides a more consistent application of the core-curriculum time limitation legislation for all prospective student-athletes, while still providing reasonable accommodation for individuals with diagnosed education-impacting disabilities. This proposal also would protect the well-being of prospective student-athletes with education-impacting disabilities, particularly those individuals who require accommodations to complete their course work, by limiting the number of core courses they are completing in a short amount of time. Pursuant to current initial-eligibility waiver policies and procedures, consideration may be given to all courses taken by a prospective student-athlete with an education-impacting disability up to initial full-time enrollment. Consideration of all courses taken would continue as a part of the waiver process under this proposed change to the legislation.	NCAA Division I Academics/ Eligibility/ Compliance Cabinet (Subcommittee on Initial-Eligibility Issues).	August 1, 2009, for student- athletes initially enrolling full time in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2009.

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2008-35	ELIGIBILITY — PROGRESS-TOWARD- D E G R E E REQUIREMENTS — REGULATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRESS TOWARD D E G R E E — NONTRADITIONAL COURSES	To specify that nontraditional courses (e. g., distance-learning, correspondence, extension, Internet courses, independent study or any other course or credit that is not earned in a typical face-to-face classroom environment with regular contact hours between the instructor and the student) completed at a four-year institution other than the certifying institution, may be used to meet credit hour and percentage-of-degree requirements, provided the specified conditions are met.	After extensive review of traditional and nontraditional courses, the Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet Subcommittee on Continuing Eligibility defined traditional courses as those involving regular in-person, classroom-based instruction. Nontraditional courses were defined as those involving little or no classroom-based instruction (e.g., distance-learning, correspondence, extension, Internet courses, independent study and any other course or credit that is not earned in a typical face-to-face classroom environment with regular in-person interaction between the instructor and the student). Technological trends within postsecondary instruction require a modernization of the language used to refer to various methods of course delivery. Generally, a student-athlete should be permitted to use nontraditional courses from any four-year institution to satisfy progress-toward-degree requirements, provided they are accepted by the certifying institution and satisfy graduation requirements for all students at the certifying institution. It is important to respect institutional discretion and authority in setting course content and curriculum and to trust institutional integrity with regard to use of nontraditional courses. However, this proposal establishes minimum standards that must be met in order for nontraditional courses to be used for progress-toward-degree requirements.	NCAA Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet (Subcommittee on Continuing Eligibility).	August 01, 2009
2008-36	ELIGIBILITY — PROGRESS-TOWARD- D E G R E E REQUIREMENTS — ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPETITION — INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION WAIVER — USE OF CREDITS EARNED	To specify that credits earned by a student during the term or terms to which an international competition waiver applies may be used to satisfy the 24/36 hour, percentage-of-degree and grade-point average progress-toward degree requirements.	Currently, credits earned by a student during the term or terms to which a medical absence waiver applies may be used to satisfy the 24/36 hour, percentage-of-degree and grade-point average progress-toward-degree requirements. This proposal affords student-athletes who participate in the specified international competition the same benefit. Currently, hours earned during the term or terms associated with an international competition waiver may not be used to satisfy progress-toward-degree requirements. Permitting the use of such hours to satisfy these elements of the progress-toward-degree requirements is consistent with the NCAA's intent to ensure that students are progressing toward completion of a degree. Moreover, such hours still would not be applicable toward the six hour or 18/27 credit hour requirement.	Big 12 Conference.	August 01, 2009

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Proposal Number	Title	Intent	Rationale	Source	Effective Date
2008-37	ELIGIBILITY — T R A N S F E R REGULATIONS — EXCEPTIONS FOR TRANSFERS FROM FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES — CHURCH MISSION	To eliminate the church mission exception to the transfer residence requirement for transfers from four-year colleges.	Current legislation provides an exception to the residence requirement for a transfer student from a four-year institution if the student-athlete actively serves at least 12 months on an official church mission. The exception essentially makes a student-athlete who is serving an official church mission a "free agent," because he or she is not required to fulfill a year in residence on returning and transferring to another institution. Since the current legislation provides an exception to the transfer residence requirement, many institutions are discouraged from investing the time, energy and finances into recruiting prospective student-athletes who plan to serve missions. As a result, an individual who would otherwise serve a mission may choose not to do so in order to receive a scholarship offer, which may be contingent on not serving a mission. Legislation affecting official church mission service should be distinguished from active military service due to a recent increase in the recruitment of student-athletes who serve official church missions.	Western Athletic Conference.	August 01, 2009
2008-46	PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS — B A S E B A L L — PRESEASON PRACTICE AND FIRST CONTEST — CHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT	In baseball, to specify that in the championship segment, an institution shall not commence practice sessions prior to the Friday that is three weeks prior to the first permissible contest date for the championship segment and shall not play its first contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition prior to the Friday in February that is 14 weeks before the Friday immediately preceding Memorial Day.	The 2008 baseball season was the first season in which institutions experienced a compacted 13-week playing season due to the uniform start dates for practice and competition during the championship segment. An unintended consequence of the legislation is that institutions are playing the same number of contests in a shorter period of time. As a result, institutions are participating in more weekday games, thereby increasing the number of missed class days and reducing student-athletes' time for academics in the spring term. Some conferences have experienced a 15 percent increase in the number of missed class days. Given the focus on the academic performance of baseball student-athletes, it is necessary to reconsider the first contest date for the championship segment. This proposal would allow for flexibility with scheduling, would reduce missed class time and would allow more time for student-athletes to fulfill academic requirements.	Conference USA.	Immediate

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2008-47	PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS — BASEBALL — MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTESTS — 52 DURING THE CHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT AND FOUR DURING THE NONCHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT	In baseball, to specify that an institution shall limit its total playing schedule with outside competition during the institution's playing season to 52 contests (games and scrimmages) during the championship segment and four contests (games and scrimmages) during the nonchampionship segment.	The 2008 baseball season was the first season in which institutions experienced the compacted 13-week playing season caused by the mandatory competition start date in February. Institutions are challenged to fit 56 games into a shortened season. The compacted season is inconsistent with the academic enhancement measures that were recently implemented in baseball. The same number of games in a shorter time period only increases the stress and academic pressure on student-athletes. A reduction of four games during the championship segment would reduce the academic hardships placed on student-athletes in the spring. Moving those games to the fall would allow institutions to maintain an overall 56-game schedule.	Pacific-10 Conference.	August 01, 2009
2008-48	PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS — BASEBALL — MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTESTS — 52 DURING THE CHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT	In baseball, to reduce the maximum number of contests from 56 to 52.	Based on the experience of the compacted baseball schedule during the 2008 season, which resulted from the new competition start date, it has become apparent that institutions are challenged to fit 56 games into a shortened season. Although institutions are not required to participate in the maximum permissible number of games, institutions are not required to participate in the maximum permissible number of games, institutions are reluctant to schedule fewer than maximum because of the potential effect on consideration for postseason participation. A four game reduction would reduce the hardships placed on baseball programs generally and student-athletes and coaches specifically.	Pacific-10 Conference, Big South Conference and West Coast Conference.	August 01, 2009
2008-49	PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS — MEN'S BASKETBALL — FIRST CONTEST — EXCEPTIONS — INFORMAL PRACTICE SCRIMMAGES — NO MISSED CLASS TIME	In men's basketball, to specify that no class time shall be missed in conjunction with an informal practice scrimmage, including activities associated with such scrimmages (e.g., travel, pregame and postgame activities).	Current legislation permits an institution to participate in an informal basketball scrimmage after the start date for on-court practice. Such a scrimmage may be conducted against another Division I institution. The current rules have established conditions to ensure that the scrimmage is conducted in privacy and does not, in essence, become an additional contest. However, there is no requirement that student-athletes do not miss class time to participate in such a scrimmage. In recent years, there have been some instances involving institutions that have traveled significant distances to participate in scrimmages against other Division I institutions. These scrimmages originally were designed to permit institutions in close proximity to each other to engage in an informal type of practice session. As such, student-athletes should not be missing class time to participate. This proposal will help further the original intent of the legislation.	NCAA Division I Championships/Competition Cabinet (Men's Basketball Issues Committee) (Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee).	August 01, 2009

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2008-51	PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS — PRESEASON PRACTICE — CROSS COUNTRY, FIELD HOCKEY, WOMEN'S RUGBY, SOCCER, WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL AND MEN'S WATER POLO	In cross country, field hockey, women's rugby, soccer and men's water polo, to specify that an institution shall not commence practice sessions before 16 days prior to the date on which the first permissible contest or date of competition may occur; further, in women's volleyball, to specify that an institution shall not commence practice sessions before 20 days prior to the date on which the first permissible contest may occur.	The current practice unit calculation for fall sports results in institutions beginning preseason practice on different days. This proposal identifies a consistent time period of practice days prior to the date on which the first permissible contest or date of competition may occur for each fall sport except football. One result of this proposal would be greater predictability and consistency since the preseason practice period would always be the same length. The proposal would allow programs to maintain a consistent preseason training program and period of time for preseason practice from season to season. It would also result in fiscal equity among institutions. Student-athletes would report to campus at approximately the same time they do under current legislation. Finally, the proposal would eliminate the complicated and time-consuming formula that is necessary to calculate each institution's first permissible practice date annually.	West Coast Conference.	August 01, 2009