



## 23-C-01

### SUBJECT: ABHE ACCREDITATION MEMBERSHIP CRITERION

Amend NAIA Constitution Article III, Section A as follows:

The aim of the NAIA is to promote the development of athletics as an integral part of the educational offerings of member institutions by means of democratic participation at conference, independent and national levels. This aim shall be accomplished by means of the functioning of committees composed of representatives of those institutions which subscribe to and support athletics programs that shall culminate in truly democratic national championship competitions. The NAIA seeks membership only from nationally accredited institutions which support this aim. In addition, the NAIA is dedicated to aid in the solution of problems in intercollegiate athletics common to NAIA institutions. The primary criterion for selection and encouragement of membership shall be educational emphasis.

**AND**

Amend NAIA Constitution Article IV, Section A as follows:

Active member institutions must be accredited by one of the following accrediting bodies (Association for Biblical Higher Education in Canada and the United States (ABHE); Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MAS); New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE); New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE); North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The Higher Learning Commission (NCA-HLC); Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS); Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools (WASC-ACS)), or be a member of Universities Canada.

Associate membership status shall be accorded to four-year colleges and universities, and upper-level, two-year institutions that award bachelor's (baccalaureate) degree(s) but do not hold accreditation or membership in one of the bodies listed above but are classified as developing athletic programs, as defined by the Council of Presidents.

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Intent: To include the Association for Biblical Higher Education in Canada and the United States (ABHE) as an accrediting body that satisfies the accreditation criterion for NAIA membership.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Council of Presidents



## 23-C-02

### SUBJECT: TRACS ACCREDITATION MEMBERSHIP CRITERION

Amend NAIA Constitution Article III, Section A as follows:

The aim of the NAIA is to promote the development of athletics as an integral part of the educational offerings of member institutions by means of democratic participation at conference, independent and national levels. This aim shall be accomplished by means of the functioning of committees composed of representatives of those institutions which subscribe to and support athletics programs that shall culminate in truly democratic national championship competitions. The NAIA seeks membership only from nationally accredited institutions which support this aim. In addition, the NAIA is dedicated to aid in the solution of problems in intercollegiate athletics common to NAIA institutions. The primary criterion for selection and encouragement of membership shall be educational emphasis.

**AND**

Amend NAIA Constitution Article IV, Section A as follows:

Active member institutions must be accredited by one of the following accrediting bodies (Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MAS); New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE); New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE); North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The Higher Learning Commission (NCA-HLC); Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS); **Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS)**; Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools (WASC-ACS)), or be a member of Universities Canada.

Associate membership status shall be accorded to four-year colleges and universities, and upper-level, two-year institutions that award bachelor's (baccalaureate) degree(s) but do not hold accreditation or membership in one of the bodies listed above but are classified as developing athletic programs, as defined by the Council of Presidents.

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Intent: To include the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) as an accrediting body that satisfies the accreditation criterion for NAIA membership.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Council of Presidents



## 23-B-01

### SUBJECT: ABHE ACCREDITATION MEMBERSHIP CRITERION

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section A as follows:

1. Active Membership shall be accorded to colleges and universities which meet the following requirements:
  - a. Be a four-year college or university or an upper-level, two-year institution that awards a bachelor's (baccalaureate) degree, or its equivalent.
  - b. Be accredited by one of the following national accrediting bodies (**Association for Biblical Higher Education in Canada and the United States (ABHE)**); Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MAS); New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE); New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE); North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The Higher Learning Commission (NCA-HLC); Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS); Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools (WASC-ACS)), or be a member of Universities Canada.
  - c. Sponsor and declare an intent to participate in NAIA approved postseason in a minimum of six NAIA championship sports no later than the beginning of the fourth full academic year of active NAIA membership.
  - d. The institution must publish a statement recognizing the institution's commitment to character-driven athletics and the five NAIA core values for character-driven athletics.
  - e. Administer athletics programs in compliance with the constitution, bylaws, and other legislation and policies of the Association.
  - f. Conduct its intercollegiate athletics programs in a manner consistent with established NAIA standards.
  - g. Be reviewed for membership by the appropriate committee of an affiliated conference, with a recommendation submitted to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer for final action by the Council of Presidents.
  - h. Pay active institutional membership dues and conference dues when applicable.

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Intent: To include the Association for Biblical Higher Education in Canada and the United States (ABHE) as an accrediting body that satisfies the accreditation criterion for NAIA membership.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Council of Presidents



## 23-B-02

### SUBJECT: TRACS ACCREDITATION MEMBERSHIP CRITERION

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section A as follows:

1. Active Membership shall be accorded to colleges and universities which meet the following requirements:
  - a. Be a four-year college or university or an upper-level, two-year institution that awards a bachelor's (baccalaureate) degree, or its equivalent.
  - b. Be accredited by one of the following ~~national~~ accrediting bodies (Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MAS); New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE); New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE); North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The Higher Learning Commission (NCA-HLC); Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS); **Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS)**; Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools (WASC-ACS)), or be a member of Universities Canada.
  - c. Sponsor and declare an intent to participate in NAIA approved postseason in a minimum of six NAIA championship sports no later than the beginning of the fourth full academic year of active NAIA membership.
  - d. The institution must publish a statement recognizing the institution's commitment to character-driven athletics and the five NAIA core values for character-driven athletics.
  - e. Administer athletics programs in compliance with the constitution, bylaws, and other legislation and policies of the Association.
  - f. Conduct its intercollegiate athletics programs in a manner consistent with established NAIA standards.
  - g. Be reviewed for membership by the appropriate committee of an affiliated conference, with a recommendation submitted to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer for final action by the Council of Presidents.
  - h. Pay active institutional membership dues and conference dues when applicable.

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Intent: To include the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) as an accrediting body that satisfies the accreditation criterion for NAIA membership.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Council of Presidents



## 23-B-03

### SUBJECT: ANNUAL RULES EDUCATION (Violations & Penalties Task Force)

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section B as follows:

The control of athletics shall be the responsibility of the institution's chief executive officer. No member institution shall participate in any athletics contest which is not under the direct control and supervision of the institution's administration. The institution's chief executive officer is encouraged to appoint a faculty athletics committee to act in an advisory capacity.

Accordingly, all staff members involved in the administration of athletics shall complete an annual online rules education training program. This includes the faculty athletics representative, registrar and all identified athletic department administrators and coaches, including, but not limited to, all paid and voluntary head, associate, assistant and graduate assistant coaches. For each individual required to participate in the training program, comprehensive rules education is required upon initial appointment to their role. Thereafter, training reviewing rule changes and updates will be required annually.

New coaches must complete the required training within the first 60 days of hire or prior to the coach's first competition, whichever is earlier. New staff members must complete the required training within the first 60 days of hire or prior to the institution's next certification, whichever is earlier. Returning coaches and staff members must complete the required training prior to the earliest start date for competition for any sport sponsored by the institution (see Article I, Section H, Item 5). Each institution shall verify that its staff members complete the requisite training every year. Any staff member failing to complete the training as required shall be reported to the National Conduct and Ethics Committee.

#### **AND**

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article IX, Section C as follows:

#### 2. National Conduct and Ethics Committee

This committee shall be charged with reviewing and acting upon cases:

- a. Involving inappropriate conduct of a physical or verbal nature by players, coaches or fans;
- b. Involving violations of the NAIA Code of Ethics;
- c. Involving violations of the Institutional Financial Aid Policy (See Council of Presidents Policy);
- d. Involving violations of the annual rules education, campus visitation/tryout, financial assistance, recruitment, scheduling and/or frequency of play regulations;
- e. In which a student or institutional representative provides false or inaccurate information to the NAIA or to a member institution; and/or
- f. Involving violations of the Declaration of Intent to Participate in postseason-play regulations.

Intent: To mandate annual online rules education coursework for all staff members involved in the administration of athletics (including athletic department staff, registrar and faculty athletics representative), and permit the National Conduct and Ethics Committee to review violations of this requirement.

Effective Date: August 1, 2024

Submitted by: Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives



## 23-B-04

### SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR (Violations & Penalties Task Force)

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article VI, Section B, Items 1 and 9 as follows:

1. Institutional Violation(s): An Administrative Error Not Requiring Forfeits

An administrative error is defined as an eligibility case where one or more students who were otherwise academically eligible met all NAIA eligibility requirements were left off the official eligibility certificate, or where the filing of the official eligibility certificate was completed correctly but was filed after the date of first competition and within five days of the first contest. In such cases the following shall apply:

- a. Forfeitures shall not be required for contests in which improperly certified students who were otherwise-eligible met all NAIA eligibility requirements competed;
- b. Withhold the head coach one contest for each incident in which a student-athlete(s) participated who met all NAIA eligibility requirements but did not appear on the Official Eligibility Certificate. Once the institution receives an official closing letter from the NAIA national office, the coach will be withheld from the next scheduled contest(s) unless the suspension has already been satisfied. The institution's published schedule at the time of the infraction will be used to identify the next scheduled contest(s). For each additional administrative error that occurs within the same academic year, an additional contest suspension will apply.
- cb. Such institutions also shall receive an official warning for the first offense; and
- de. Repeated violations of certification procedures shall lead to an official reprimand and/or probation and/or suspension of the sport or of all sports sponsored in the affected program (men's and/or women's).

...

9. Use of an Ineligible Student in Intercollegiate Competition

Any member institution which permits the use of a student who is ineligible according to NAIA rules and standards in either program in which it holds membership shall thereby automatically:

- a. Forfeit all contests in which the ineligible a student participated who did not meet all NAIA eligibility requirements or the institutional violation occurred. Letters of notification and forfeiture of contests won shall be sent submitted to the National Office and notification will be provided to the athletics director of the offended institution with copies of the letter to and the appropriate eligibility chair and the National Office;
- b. Charge the ineligible student with a season of competition for participating pursuant to Article V, Section B, Item 19;
- c. Withhold the head coach one contest for each incident in which a team's official eligibility certificate was completed correctly but was filed more than five days after the date of first competition.

- de. Cause a review of the case by the appropriate committees of this Association. The ineligible student may be assessed additional penalties up to being declared ineligible for further intercollegiate competition for withholding information or supplying false or incomplete information;
- ed. Supply to the eligibility chair and, if applicable, the conference/CAC commissioner a complete statement concerning the ineligible participation, including a listing of the ineligible student's college work (transcript preferred), a statement of institutional action to correct the situation which led to the violation, and a statement from the student(s) if possible;
- fe. Be suspended from participation in all postseason events sponsored by the NAIA only in the sport in which the ineligible student participated, until all required information is submitted; and

NOTE: The sport in which the violation occurred shall remain suspended from participating in NAIA events until the case is finalized by the appropriate committee of the Association, which will notify the institution involved.

- gf. Have the case reviewed by the appropriate committees of this Association. The institution may be subject to additional penalties.

NOTE: Forfeits shall not be required nor will an institution be subject to any penalties if a student who has been properly certified as eligible represents an institution in competition but is subsequently determined to have been ineligible due to any of the following:

- a. A mistake by the NAIA Eligibility Center;
- b. False information was supplied by the student; or
- c. False information was supplied on the student's behalf.

Forfeits shall be required and the institution may be subject to additional penalties if the institution knew of the eligibility center's mistake or the dissemination of false information, or if the institution failed to perform due diligence on the student's eligibility certification.

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Intent: To adjust the penalties for an administrative error to include withholding a coach for one contest when a student-athlete(s) has met all NAIA eligibility requirements but has not been properly certified, and apply additional contest suspensions for each subsequent administrative error throughout the year.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives



## 23-B-05 SUBJECT: WITHHOLDING OF STUDENTS (Violations & Penalties Task Force)

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article VI, Section B, Item 9 as follows:

### 9. Use of an Ineligible Student in Intercollegiate Competition

Any member institution which permits the use of a student who is ineligible according to NAIA rules and standards in either program in which it holds membership shall thereby automatically:

- a. Forfeit all contests in which the ineligible student participated or the institutional violation occurred. Letters of notification and forfeiture of contests won shall be sent to the athletics director of the offended institution with copies of the letter to the appropriate eligibility chair;
- b. Withhold the ineligible student-athlete a maximum of one contest for each contest the student participated in while not meeting all NAIA eligibility requirements. The student will not be withheld if the student met all NAIA eligibility requirements other than certification.
- cb. Charge the ineligible student with a season of competition for participating pursuant to Article V, Section B, Item 19;
- de. Cause a review of the case by the appropriate committees of this Association. The ineligible student may be assessed additional penalties up to being declared ineligible for further intercollegiate competition for withholding information or supplying false or incomplete information;
- ed. Supply to the eligibility chair and, if applicable, the conference/CAC commissioner a complete statement concerning the ineligible participation, including a listing of the ineligible student's college work (transcript preferred), a statement of institutional action to correct the situation which led to the violation, and a statement from the student(s) if possible;
- fe. Be suspended from participation in all postseason events sponsored by the NAIA only in the sport in which the ineligible student participated, until all required information is submitted; and

NOTE: The sport in which the violation occurred shall remain suspended from participating in NAIA events until the case is finalized by the appropriate committee of the Association, which will notify the institution involved.

- gf. Have the case reviewed by the appropriate committees of this Association. The institution may be subject to additional penalties.

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Intent: To adjust the penalty applied to a student-athlete for ineligible competition to limit the number of contests a student can be withheld to a maximum of one contest for each contest competed in ineligibly.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives



## 23-B-06

### SUBJECT: PENALTY PROCEDURES (Violations & Penalties Task Force)

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section K as follows:

1. Eligibility cases are defined as cases where an actual or possible violation of an NAIA rule or regulation has taken place.
2. Should the eligibility chair after reviewing all information determine that a violation has not occurred, the case will be closed at that time.
3. Eligibility cases which are initiated by an institution must be submitted by the faculty athletics representative and the athletics director at that institution to the eligibility chair.

When apparent violations come to the attention of the eligibility chair, the eligibility chair shall notify in writing the faculty athletics representative, the athletics director and the chief executive officer of the institution before processing the case.

4. The eligibility chair shall inform the conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) commissioner (when appropriate) and the national eligibility staff liaison of each new eligibility case being investigated upon receipt of the case.
5. Upon receipt of an actual or apparent violation, the eligibility chair shall obtain the following information and send it to the eligibility committee members, the national eligibility staff liaison, and the chief executive officer of the institution being investigated:
  - a. All pertinent data on the case (e.g. type of violation, date, place, etc.);
  - b. An up to date transcript of the student(s) involved;
  - c. A written statement signed by the institution's athletics director and faculty athletics representative concerning the case and corrective steps to be taken by the institution; and
  - d. Statement from the student(s) involved, if possible.
6. A recommendation statement from the eligibility committee as to the disposition of the case including the conference's opinion, a show of concern or support, impact on the conference, or any additional pertinent information shall be submitted by the eligibility chair on behalf of the conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) to the chief executive officer of the institution being investigated and the national eligibility staff liaison for dispersal to the National Eligibility Committee.
7. The chief executive officer, after reviewing the case and the eligibility committee recommendation or conference action, may within seven days of receipt send a response to the national eligibility staff liaison which will be included in the material sent to the NAIA National Eligibility Committee (NEC).
8. When probation is being considered as a potential penalty, the institution must be offered an opportunity for a hearing with the NEC before such penalty may be applied. Careful consideration will be given in determining the appropriate person or entity as a recipient of probation.

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*Renumber remaining items accordingly.*

**AND**

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article VI, Section B, Item 10 as follows:

10. Violations Reviewed by the National Conduct and Ethics Committee

The chief executive officer of an institution reported to be in violation shall be notified of the allegation prior to a formal investigation. The National Conduct and Ethics Committee (CEC) shall collect and consider all information regarding the issue, and, in cases where violations are found to have occurred, take action as authorized in Article VI, Section C of the NAIA Bylaws.

When probation is being considered as a potential penalty, the institution must be offered an opportunity for a hearing with the CEC before such penalty may be applied. Careful consideration will be given in determining the appropriate person or entity as a recipient of probation

The Council of Presidents is empowered by the membership to suspend or expel member institutions whose athletics conduct or behavior has clearly violated the Code of Ethics or recruitment policy.

...

**AND**

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article VI, Section C, Item 3 as follows:

The NAIA National Eligibility Committee, and/or National Conduct and Ethics Committee, and/or National Drug Testing and Education Committee, after reviewing the violation(s), shall apply one or more of the following courses of action.

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3. Place any or all of the institution's athletics program or staff on probation for a specified time. Probation is an institutional notification that a violation has occurred which requires a written response of corrective measures to be taken by the institution. Any future violation while on probation is likely to **may** lead to suspension of any or all athletics programs. Probation shall be listed on the NAIA website.

After ten days has expired without a proper written response, a reminder shall be sent from the national office. This reminder shall constitute notice to the institution that if a second 10-day period expires without a response, the school shall be suspended from postseason until it is filed. Continued failure to file or repeated failure to respond on time may result in additional penalties.

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Intent: To adjust elements of the violation process, including: shift the requirement of a conference recommendation to instead be a conference statement, provide an opportunity for a hearing if probation is being considered as a potential penalty, and clarify that suspension is not necessarily a likely result for additional violations while on probation.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives



## 23-B-07

### SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF CONTACT (Transfer & Recruiting Task Force)

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article II, Section D, Item 1 as follows:

#### 1. Recruitment of an Enrolled Student-Athlete

- a. If, during the school year or summer vacation period, the athletics director, faculty athletics representative, senior woman leader, athletic compliance administrator or coach of a member institution is contacted or becomes aware of contact by an athlete who enrolled at another NAIA institution of higher learning (two-year or four-year), it shall be the responsibility of the contacted institution (athletics director, or faculty athletics representative, senior woman leader, or athletic compliance administrator) to notify, in writing, the NAIA institution (athletics director or faculty athletics representative) where the athlete is presently enrolled within 10 days following the first contact.

EXCEPTION: If an NAIA student-athlete has a signed release or other documentation from their current athletics director permitting the student-athlete to participate in recruiting conversations with other NAIA institutions, written notification is not required to be provided to the student's current NAIA institution.

A coach or another representative of a member institution may respond to a contact by a student-athlete only after the enrolled student-athlete's institution (athletics director or faculty athletics representative) has been notified as prescribed above.

- b. A coach or another representative of a member institution shall not initiate contact with an athlete who has enrolled at another four-year institution. It is permissible to contact a student who is currently enrolled at a two-year institution once the student completes the academic year in which the student utilizes his/her first season of competition.

~~A coach or another representative of a member institution may respond to a contact by an athlete only after the enrolled athlete's institution (athletics director or faculty athletics representative) has been notified as prescribed above.~~

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Intent: To limit when notification is required following contact by an enrolled student to only those students who are enrolled at another NAIA institution and only if the student does not have a written release of some kind from their current institution, and to expand the list of athletic department staff who may provide such notification when required to include senior woman leaders and athletic compliance administrators.

Effective Date: May 16, 2023

Submitted by: National Conduct and Ethics Committee



## 23-B-08

### SUBJECT: INITIATING CONTACT WITH ENROLLED STUDENTS (Transfer & Recruiting Task Force)

Amend Article II, Section D, Items 1-2 as follows:

#### 1. Recruitment of an Enrolled Student-Athlete

- a. If, during the school year or summer vacation period, the athletics director, faculty athletics representative, or coach of a member institution is contacted or becomes aware of contact by an athlete who enrolled at another institution of higher learning (two-year or four-year), it shall be the responsibility of the contacted institution (athletics director or faculty athletics representative) to notify, in writing, the institution (athletics director or faculty athletics representative) where the athlete is presently enrolled within 10 days following the first contact.
- b. A coach or another representative of a member institution may initiate contact with a student whose most recent identification was at a non-NAIA four-year institution, but shall not initiate contact with an student-athlete whose most recent identification was has-enrolled at an NAIA another four-year institution. Contact may be initiated with a student whose most recent identification was at an NAIA institution as long as the student has not identified nor has the student drawn equipment and/or engaged in organized practice with an NAIA institution within the previous 12 months.

It is permissible to contact a student who is currently enrolled at a two-year institution once the student completes the academic year in which the student utilizes his/her first season of competition.

A coach or another representative of a member institution may respond to a contact by an athlete only after the enrolled athlete's institution (athletics director or faculty athletics representative) has been notified as prescribed above.

#### 2. Recruitment of a Non-Enrolled Student

A coach or another representative of a member institution shall not contact an athlete who has drawn equipment and/or is engaged in organized pre-school practice at another an NAIA institution.

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Intent: To narrow the existing restriction that prevents NAIA coaches from initiating contact with students enrolled at any four-year institution to instead prevent the initiation of contact with students enrolled only at other NAIA institutions.

Effective Date: May 16, 2023

Submitted by: National Conduct and Ethics Committee



## 23-B-09 SUBJECT: TRANSFER RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT (Transfer & Recruiting Task Force)

Amend Article V, Section B, Item 17 as follows:

17. Residency: Identification with an institution for ~~16 calendar weeks (112 calendar days)~~ during the regular school year (summer session not included).

**AND**

Amend Article V, Section F as follows:

7. ~~A student who has identified at a previous institution(s) and then transfers to an NAIA member institution is not required to sit a residency period prior to competing in the NAIA. Intra-conference residency requirements may apply. Attendance during a summer session or in a non-term (enrolled in fewer than 12 credit hours) does not count toward satisfying the 16-week residence requirement.~~
8. ~~A student transferring to an institution using the trimester system may meet the residency requirements by enrolling in any regular trimester and establishing 16 calendar weeks (112 calendar days) of residence.~~

*Renumber remaining items accordingly.*

**AND**

Remove Article V, Section G as follows:

### **V SECTION G — TRANSFER: PREVIOUS IDENTIFICATION AT A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION**

1. ~~A student who has participated in an intercollegiate contest at the immediately previous four-year institution and then transfers to an NAIA member institution shall be required to be in residence for a period of 16 calendar weeks before being eligible for the sport(s) previously participated in at the four-year institution.~~

~~A student shall have the 16 calendar weeks residency requirement waived for participation in that same sport provided the student has a cumulative minimum overall GPA of 2.000 (on a 4.000 scale) from all previously attended institutions of higher learning and receives a written release from the athletics director, assistant or associate athletics director, or compliance officer at the immediately previous four-year institution.~~

**EXCEPTION 1:** ~~If a student's NAIA school requests a written release from the student's previous four-year institution and the previous institution does not respond to the request within 30 days, the written release will be deemed automatically approved, provided the NAIA institution can~~

~~produce the prescribed written documentation showing a transfer release was requested. To satisfy this requirement, the NAIA institution's request must be made via email and directed to the previous four-year institution's athletics director, associate athletics director and/or compliance officer, including as many of these individuals as possible.~~

~~**EXCEPTION 2:** A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation and who has transferred to an NAIA institution and enrolled in a graduate program, professional school or fifth-year, post-baccalaureate degree teacher education program will not be subject to the residency requirement. A graduate transfer student can compete immediately at the new institution, and there is not a release or minimum GPA required, pursuant to any applicable conference rules.~~

~~A student who has not participated in an intercollegiate contest at the immediately previous four-year institution is not subject to the residency period in that sport.~~

~~The term "16 weeks" refers to 16 consecutive calendar weeks (112 calendar days), including vacations and inter terms (except summer terms). The 16 weeks does not refer to school weeks.~~

- ~~2. This period shall be counted from the opening date of classes as stated in the official college catalog or from the date on which the student enrolls, whichever is later. No part of the 16 weeks shall fall between the end of the term immediately preceding the regular summer term and/or summer vacations and the beginning of the fall term.~~
- ~~3. The residency requirement shall be satisfied at the beginning of the day following the end of the 16 calendar weeks (at the beginning of the 113th calendar day) from the first day of class. Should the 16-week period be satisfied after the institution's regular season has been completed, the student has established eligibility for the following season in that sport but is not eligible for postseason athletic competition in that sport which is held during an extended period of the term just completed.~~

**AND**

Remove Article V, Section H as follows:

#### **V SECTION H — TRANSFER: PREVIOUS IDENTIFICATION AT A JUNIOR COLLEGE**

~~A student whose immediately previous identification and participation was with a two-year institution and who transfers to an NAIA member institution shall not be required to meet the 16-week residency requirement. The student shall fulfill all academic requirements of the NAIA and is entitled to only four seasons of competition in a given sport at the intercollegiate level.~~

*Renumber remaining sections accordingly.*

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Intent: To remove the 16-week residency requirement that currently exists when a student has transferred from a four-year institution where they competed to an NAIA institution.

Effective Date: May 1, 2023 as applied to eligibility decisions for NAIA competition in August 2023 or beyond

Submitted by: National Conduct and Ethics Committee



## 23-B-10 SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN NAIA POSTSEASON COMPETITION

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section A, Item 1 as follows:

1. Active Membership shall be accorded to colleges and universities which meet the following requirements:

...

- c. Sponsor and declare an intent to participate in NAIA approved postseason in a minimum of six NAIA championship sports no later than the beginning of the fourth full academic year of active NAIA membership.

NOTE 1: Single-gender institutions must sponsor and declare an intent to participate in NAIA approved postseason in a minimum of three NAIA championship sports no later than the beginning of the fourth full academic year of active NAIA membership.

NOTE 2: An institution falling below the minimum sport sponsorship requirement, due to a failure to sponsor the minimum number of sports or ~~the withdrawal of a declaration of intent to participate in one~~ a failure to fully satisfy its declaration of intent in six or more sports, shall be submitted to the NAIA Membership Committee for review. The committee may issue any penalty listed in NAIA Bylaws Article VI, Section C. The committee may recommend to the Council of Presidents the institution be expelled from membership in the NAIA.

NOTE 3: An institution may request from the Council of Presidents, through the NAIA Membership Committee, an exception from this requirement

...

**AND**

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section N as follows:

Every year, each active member institution shall be required to submit to the National Office its declaration of intent to participate in the national championship program in all NAIA sponsored sports. By declaring its intent to participate in NAIA postseason competition, the institution is also committing to compete in the minimum number of contests required for postseason eligibility, as determined by the National Administrative Council (see NAC Policy Article V, Section D). The declaration period shall take place from April 1 to June 1. Declarations are due no later than June 1 and apply to the following academic year.

Should an institution declare its intent not to participate in a national championship in any NAIA sponsored sport, it shall not be considered for participation in NAIA postseason competition leading to the national championship in those sports for that season.

NOTE 1: Postseason competition is defined as conference, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions), or unaffiliated grouping qualifying events. Further, those institutions shall waive their right to be included in the ratings in those specific sports.

Should an institution declare its intent to participate in a national championship program in championship sports, it must honor that commitment **by competing in the minimum number of contests required and participating in NAIA postseason** if the team ~~in that sport~~ meets the qualification standards established and is selected by the appropriate affiliated conference or Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions). This regulation requires an institution to follow the commitment in each championship sport listed above to its conclusion, which terminates with a national championship, unless the following procedure is followed.

Should the institution's chief executive officer determine that an earlier declared sport team does not meet institutional standards to participate in any postseason competition, written notification of this decision must be sent to the NAIA National Office at least four weeks prior to the beginning of postseason competition. **An institution that provides such notice has properly undeclared and is not held to the commitment of competing in the minimum number of contests or competing in postseason.** Failure to adhere to these procedures shall require the selected institutional team to fulfill its obligation of participating in postseason play to its conclusion.

NOTE 2: An institution that properly declares its intent to participate in postseason play, and later removes itself from that obligation, shall count toward an approved qualifying group's membership total for determining whether the qualifying group earns a single automatic qualification to the NAIA national competition. The institution shall also count toward any sport-specific minimum participant requirements for the applicable NAIA qualifying tournament. The institution shall not count toward the approved qualifying group's membership total that enables the qualifying group to earn multiple automatic qualifications to NAIA national competition.

If an institution submits notification to remove itself from the obligation of participation in the postseason for a particular sport for three consecutive seasons, the institution will be placed on NAIA suspension in that sport for the following academic year. Suspension does not allow the institution to participate in postseason events in that sport.

...

## **AND**

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article VI, Section B, Item 4 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, competitive dance, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, volleyball and/or wrestling **then fail to compete in the minimum number of required contests for postseason eligibility**, 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.

For more information on the declaration of intent as it pertains to invitational sports, see the National Administrative Council policy article XXVII, section B, item 2c.

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**Intent:** To require an institution that declares its intent to participate in NAIA postseason competition to also commit to competing in the minimum number of contest required for postseason eligibility, and treat an inability to do so as a failure to satisfy the institution's Declaration of Intent.

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2023

**Submitted by:** National Administrative Council





## 23-B-11 SUBJECT: BASKETBALL FREQUENCY OF PLAY LIMITS

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section H, Item 1 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	50 contests
Basketball (men's and women's)	28 games EXCEPTION: 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 may invoke this exception a maximum of 10 times during an academic year.
Bowling (men's and women's)	14 contests
Competitive cheer	10 cheerleading contests. A student may not participate in more than 10 total dates between competitive cheer and competitive dance.
Competitive dance	10 dance contests. A student may not participate in more than 10 total dates between competitive cheer and competitive dance.
Cross country (men's and women's)	7 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 (men's and women's)	12 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	50 contests
Swimming and diving (men's and women's)	12 meets
Tennis (men's and women's)	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)	26 dates
Volleyball (women's)	26 dates
Wrestling (men's and women's)	18 dates

For a contest of any kind (i.e. scrimmage, exhibition, game/meet, etc.), once the contest has commenced the designation of the type of contest will be officially recorded as such, and the designation cannot be changed retroactively.

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 sports of competitive cheer and competitive 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 30. For the sport of basketball, an exhibition competition will not count as a varsity game.

**EXCEPTION 1:** In the sport of tennis, the Fall ITA regional and national singles and doubles tournaments shall not count towards the student's playing limits.

**EXCEPTION 2:** In the sport of wrestling, participation in any of the following shall not count towards the student's playing limits: US Senior Nationals (or the international equivalent), any competition in which a student represents USA wrestling (or the international equivalent), or participation in national or Olympic team trials or competition as a member of a national or Olympic team. To qualify for this exception, the student must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Current conference champion title holder;
2. Place at the most recent NAIA national invitational/championship; or
3. Previously qualified for a national team.

A student who has qualified for any of these events may practice with his or her NAIA coach(es) and one teammate per session prior to and during the event without counting towards the NAIA program's 24-week season per Article I, Section H, Item 5.

**EXCEPTION 3:** In the sport of basketball, a team competing in a tournament/classic may participate in up to two games that will not count towards either the students' or team's frequency of play limits if the tournament is comprised of solely NAIA teams and is held on weekends or other non-scheduled class dates. This exception may be utilized for one tournament each academic year, and must be noted on the institutional schedule as the exempted games(s).

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Intent: To create an exception to the frequency of play limits that allows basketball teams to participate in one tournament per year occurring on weekends or other non-scheduled class dates that is against all NAIA opponents and exempt up to two games of the tournament from the maximum frequency of play limits.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Men's Basketball Coaches Association

Co-sponsored by: Appalachian Athletic Conference



## 23-B-12 SUBJECT: BASEBALL SCRIMMAGE DATES

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section H, Item 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	50 contests
Basketball (men's and women's)	28 games EXCEPTION: 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 may invoke this exception a maximum of 10 times during an academic year.
Bowling (men's and women's)	14 contests
Competitive cheer	10 cheerleading contests. A student may not participate in more than 10 total dates between competitive cheer and competitive dance.
Competitive dance	10 dance contests. A student may not participate in more than 10 total dates between competitive cheer and competitive dance.
Cross country (men's and women's)	7 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 (men's and women's)	12 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	50 contests
Swimming and diving (men's and women's)	12 meets
Tennis (men's and women's)	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)	26 dates
Volleyball (women's)	26 dates
Wrestling (men's and women's)	18 dates

For a contest of any kind (i.e. scrimmage, exhibition, game/meet, etc.), once the contest has commenced the designation of the type of contest will be officially recorded as such, and the designation cannot be changed retroactively.

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 sports of competitive cheer and competitive 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.

- 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 (plus 3 additional scrimmage dates to be conducted before the end of the fall term, and to be played only during weekends and other non-scheduled class dates.)
Basketball (men's and women's)	2
Bowling (men's and women's)	0
Competitive cheer	1
Competitive dance	1
Cross country (men's and women's)	0
Football	1
Golf (men's and women's)	0
Lacrosse (men's and women's)	2 (plus 3 additional scrimmage dates to be conducted before the end of the fall term, and to be played only during the weekends and other non-scheduled class dates.)
Soccer (men's and women's)	2
Softball	2 (plus 3 additional scrimmage dates to be conducted before the end of the fall term, and to be played only during weekends and other non-scheduled class dates.)
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)	2
Volleyball (women's)	2 (plus 3 additional scrimmage dates to be conducted after the end of the fall term, and to be played only during weekends and other non-scheduled class dates.)
Wrestling (men's and women's)	0

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Intent: To allow baseball teams three extra scrimmage dates to be played during the fall term.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Baseball Coaches Association

Co-sponsored by: North Star Athletic Association



## 23-B-13 SUBJECT: MEN’S VOLLEYBALL SCRIMMAGE DATES

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section H, Item 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	50 contests
Basketball (men’s and women’s)	28 games EXCEPTION: 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 may invoke this exception a maximum of 10 times during an academic year.
Bowling (men’s and women’s)	14 contests
Competitive cheer	10 cheerleading contests. A student may not participate in more than 10 total dates between competitive cheer and competitive dance.
Competitive dance	10 dance contests. A student may not participate in more than 10 total dates between competitive cheer and competitive dance.
Cross country (men’s and women’s)	7 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 (men’s and women’s)	12 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	50 contests
Swimming and diving (men’s and women’s)	12 meets
Tennis (men’s and women’s)	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)	26 dates
Volleyball (women’s)	26 dates
Wrestling (men’s and women’s)	18 dates

For a contest of any kind (i.e. scrimmage, exhibition, game/meet, etc.), once the contest has commenced the designation of the type of contest will be officially recorded as such, and the

designation cannot be changed retroactively.

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 sports of competitive cheer and competitive 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.

- 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
Bowling (men's and women's)	0
Competitive cheer	1
Competitive dance	1
Cross country (men's and women's)	0
Football	1
Golf (men's and women's)	0
Lacrosse (men's and women's)	2 (plus 3 additional scrimmage dates to be conducted before the end of the fall term, and to be played only during the weekends and other non-scheduled class dates.)
Soccer (men's and women's)	2
Softball	2 (plus 3 additional scrimmage dates to be conducted before the end of the fall term, and to be played only during weekends and other non-scheduled class dates.)
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)	2 (plus 3 additional scrimmage dates to be conducted before the end of the fall term, and to be played only during weekends and other non-scheduled class dates.)
Volleyball (women's)	2 (plus 3 additional scrimmage dates to be conducted after the end of the fall term, and to be played only during weekends and other non-scheduled class dates.)
Wrestling (men's and women's)	0

Intent: To allow men's volleyball teams three extra scrimmage dates to be played during the fall term on weekends or other days without scheduled classes, in addition to the existing 26 dates and 2 scrimmage dates that can be utilized at any point during the sport's 24-week season.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Men's Volleyball Coaches Association

Co-sponsored by: Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference



## 23-B-14

### SUBJECT: BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL START DATES FOR PRACTICE

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section H, Item 5 as follows:

- Each sport shall have a maximum 24-week practice and competition season established by each member institution. Frequency of play, practice and scheduling policies shall be applied only during the period of August 1 to May 15, pursuant to the following specifications. The start date specified is the earliest possible date on which any activity meeting the definition of a practice or competition may occur, though teams are free to choose a later date. Scrimmages and exhibitions are excluded and not subject to the start date for competitions.

Sport	Start Date for Practices, Scrimmages, & Exhibitions	Start Date for Competitions
Baseball	September 1 or the start of the institution's fall term, whichever is earlier	Thursday of last full weekend in January for games occurring after winter break; Fall games are permissible anytime beginning September 1
Basketball (men's and women's)	35 days prior to first allowable competition date	Last Thursday in October
Bowling (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Competitive cheer	September 1	September 1
Competitive dance	September 1	September 1
Cross country (men's and women's)	17 days prior to first allowable meet	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday in August
Football	24 days prior to first allowable game, not to precede August 1	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday in August
Golf (men's and women's)	7 days prior to first allowable competition	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday in August
Lacrosse (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Soccer (men's and women's)	17 days prior to first allowable game, not to precede August 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday in August
Softball	September 1 or the start of the institution's fall term, whichever is earlier	Thursday of last full weekend in January for games occurring after winter break; Fall games are permissible anytime beginning September 1
Swimming and diving (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Tennis (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Indoor track and field (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Outdoor track and field (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Volleyball (men's)	September 1	Thursday of last full weekend in January for dates occurring after winter break; Fall dates are permissible anytime beginning September 1

Volleyball (women's)	17 days prior to first allowable competition date, not to precede August 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday in August
Wrestling (men's and women's)	35 days prior to first allowable competition date	Last Thursday in October

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Intent: To change the start dates for practice in the sports of baseball and softball to September 1 or the start of the fall term as defined by the institution, whichever is earlier.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: North Star Athletic Association

Co-sponsored by: Great Plains Athletic Conference, Baseball Coaches Association





## 23-B-15 SUBJECT: BASKETBALL AND WRESTLING START DATES FOR PRACTICE

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section H, Item 5 as follows:

5. Each sport shall have a maximum 24-week practice and competition season established by each member institution. Frequency of play, practice and scheduling policies shall be applied only during the period of August 1 to May 15, pursuant to the following specifications. The start date specified is the earliest possible date on which any activity meeting the definition of a practice or competition may occur, though teams are free to choose a later date. Scrimmages and exhibitions are excluded and not subject to the start date for competitions.

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Start Date for Practices, Scrimmages, &amp; Exhibitions</b>	<b>Start Date for Competitions</b>
Baseball	September 1	Thursday of last full weekend in January for games occurring after winter break; Fall games are permissible anytime beginning September 1
Basketball (men's and women's)	385 days prior to first allowable competition date	Last Thursday in October
Bowling (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Competitive cheer	September 1	September 1
Competitive dance	September 1	September 1
Cross country (men's and women's)	17 days prior to first allowable meet	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday in August
Football	24 days prior to first allowable game, not to precede August 1	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday in August
Golf (men's and women's)	7 days prior to first allowable competition	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday in August
Lacrosse (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Soccer (men's and women's)	17 days prior to first allowable game, not to precede August 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday in August
Softball	September 1	Thursday of last full weekend in January for games occurring after winter break; Fall games are permissible anytime beginning September 1
Swimming and diving (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Tennis (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Indoor track and field (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Outdoor track and field (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Volleyball (men's)	September 1	Thursday of last full weekend in January for dates occurring after winter break; Fall dates are permissible anytime beginning September 1

Volleyball (women's)	17 days prior to first allowable competition date, not to precede August 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday in August
Wrestling (men's and women's)	38 <sup>5</sup> days prior to first allowable competition date	Last Thursday in October

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Intent: To adjust the practice start date for wrestling and basketball from 35 days to 38 days prior to the first allowable competition date, ensuring the start date for practices occurs on a Monday.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Cascade Collegiate Conference

Co-sponsored by: Crossroads League





## 23-B-16

### SUBJECT: BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL START DATES FOR SPRING COMPETITION

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section H, Item 5 as follows:

5. Each sport shall have a maximum 24-week practice and competition season established by each member institution. Frequency of play, practice and scheduling policies shall be applied only during the period of August 1 to May 15, pursuant to the following specifications. The start date specified is the earliest possible date on which any activity meeting the definition of a practice or competition may occur, though teams are free to choose a later date. Scrimmages and exhibitions are excluded and not subject to the start date for competitions.

...

Sport	Start Date for Practices, Scrimmages, & Exhibitions	Start Date for Competitions
Baseball	September 1	Thursday of last <b>first</b> full weekend in <b>February</b> <del>January</del> for games occurring after winter break; Fall games are permissible anytime beginning September 1
Basketball (men's and women's)	35 days prior to first allowable competition date	Last Thursday in October
Bowling (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Competitive cheer	September 1	September 1
Competitive dance	September 1	September 1
Cross country (men's and women's)	17 days prior to first allowable meet	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday in August
Football	24 days prior to first allowable game, not to precede August 1	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday in August
Golf (men's and women's)	7 days prior to first allowable competition	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday in August
Lacrosse (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Soccer (men's and women's)	17 days prior to first allowable game, not to precede August 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday in August
Softball	September 1	Thursday of last <b>first</b> full weekend in <b>February</b> <del>January</del> for games occurring after winter break; Fall games are permissible anytime beginning September 1
Swimming and diving (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Tennis (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Indoor track and field (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1
Outdoor track and field (men's and women's)	September 1	September 1

Volleyball (men's)	September 1	Thursday of last full weekend in January for dates occurring after winter break; Fall dates are permissible anytime beginning September 1
Volleyball (women's)	17 days prior to first allowable competition date, not to precede August 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday in August
Wrestling (men's and women's)	35 days prior to first allowable competition date	Last Thursday in October

Frequency of play, practice, and scheduling outside of this period is governed by each member institution and will not be regulated by the NAIA.

There shall be no more than three break periods during the 24 weeks. NAIA-approved postseason participation shall not be counted as part of the 24-week period. A week is defined as Monday (12:00 a.m.) through Sunday (11:59 p.m.). Any practice or competition during this period shall constitute one of the 24 weeks permitted.

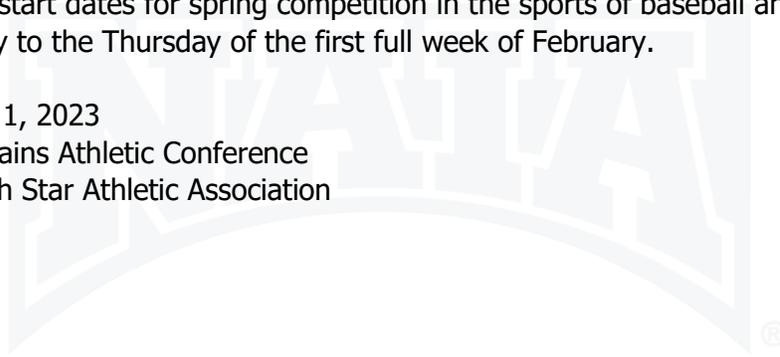
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Intent: To change the start dates for spring competition in the sports of baseball and softball from the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in January to the Thursday of the first full week of February.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Great Plains Athletic Conference

Co-sponsored by: North Star Athletic Association





**23-B-17**

**SUBJECT: JUNIOR VARSITY START DATES FOR  
PRACTICE**

**WITHDRAWN**





## 23-B-18 SUBJECT: INSTITUTIONAL DAY OFF POLICY

Add NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section H, Item 7 as follows:

5. Each sport shall have a maximum 24-week practice and competition season established by each member institution. Frequency of play, practice and scheduling policies shall be applied only during the period of August 1 to May 15, pursuant to the following specifications. The start date specified is the earliest possible date on which any activity meeting the definition of a practice or competition may occur, though teams are free to choose a later date. Scrimmages and exhibitions are excluded and not subject to the start date for competitions.

...

Frequency of play, practice, and scheduling outside of this period is governed by each member institution and will not be regulated by the NAIA.

There shall be no more than three break periods during the 24 weeks. NAIA-approved postseason participation shall not be counted as part of the 24-week period. A week is defined as Monday (12:00 a.m.) through Sunday (11:59 p.m.). Any practice or competition during this period shall constitute one of the 24 weeks permitted.

...

6. Practice will be defined as follows: An activity organized and/or directed by an identified member of the coaching staff of that sport in which appropriate equipment is used or instruction and/or evaluation of the athlete takes place.

...

7. Each institution must establish a written policy providing every student-athlete with one day off per week from athletic participation. Institutions have the autonomy to determine how such policies are defined, implemented and enforced. Each institution's policy must be published in its student-athlete handbook and on its athletics webpage, and shall also be provided to the conference. Each institution's policy must include an identified process or point of contact at the institution or conference for student-athletes or other individuals who believe their institutional policy is being violated.

*Renumber remaining items accordingly.*

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Intent: To create a requirement that each institution must have a published policy providing a day off from athletic participation for its student-athletes that includes details on how apparent violations should be reported; specific definitions for things like what activities are included, when exceptions to the policy are permitted and the like are to be defined by each institution.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Council for Student-Athletes

Co-sponsored by: Association for Student-Athletes, California Pacific Conference



## 23-B-19

### SUBJECT: SUMMER CREDITS AND THE 24/36-HOUR RULE

Remove NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section O as follows:

#### **~~I SECTION O SUMMER, NIGHT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND EXTENSION COURSES~~**

- ~~1. Summer sessions may be used to earn credit hours which may be applied to meet the 24/36-Hour Rule or the second term in college Nine-Hour Rule as applicable, but are subject to the limit as listed in Article V, Section C, Item 6, paragraph 4 of the NAIA Bylaws.~~

~~Summer credit must be earned subsequent to one of the two terms of attendance. However, summer terms cannot constitute a term of attendance. If the college has no summer session, or in instances where it is educationally desirable for the student concerned to attend a summer session at a different institution, credits may be earned at a second institution, and such enrollment shall neither constitute a term of attendance nor identify the student with the second institution.~~

- ~~2. Credits earned by attending night, correspondence and extension courses approved by the home institution, may be applied in satisfying the 24/36-Hour Rule and/or the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule but are subject to the definition of "term of attendance."~~

*Renumber remaining sections accordingly.*

**AND**

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 6 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.

A student transferring from a quarter system to a semester system must have accumulated 24 institutional credit hours in the previous two terms of attendance after the first term of attendance at the new institution.

A student in a quarter system must have accumulated 24 institutional credit hours in the previous two quarter terms of attendance if completion of three quarter terms of attendance has not occurred. Upon completion of three quarter terms of attendance the student must have accumulated 36 institutional credit hours.

No more than 12 institutional credit hours earned during summers and/or during non-terms may be applied to meet the 24/36-Hour Rule. Such credit must be earned after one or both of the two immediately previous terms of attendance. **The non-term credit must be accepted on the NAIA**

institution's official transcript in the normal manner in order for the credit to be used toward the 24/36-Hour Rule.

All credit hours used to meet this total of 24/36 institutional credit hours are to be taken at face value and are not to be converted, even if earned at different institutions using different credit-hour systems (e.g. quarter and semester).

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Intent: To remove references to night, correspondence and extension courses, reorganize references to how summer credits apply to the 24/36-Hour Rule, and specify non-term credit for continuing identification students must be applied to the NAIA institution's transcript in the institution's normal manner in order to be utilized.

Effective Date: May 1, 2023 as applied to eligibility decisions for NAIA competition in August 2023 or beyond

Submitted by: National Eligibility Committee





## 23-B-20 SUBJECT: AFFILIATED CONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section U, Item 9 as follows:

An Affiliated Conference must meet the following requirements:

...

9. An affiliated conference must have as full members a minimum of six institutions with NAIA active membership.
  - a. Should an affiliated conference lose a member institution(s) and drop to five full member institutions, a grace period shall be extended to the conference for two years following the date the conference officially drops to five full members, provided the conference maintains a minimum of five full member institutions at all times.
  - b. During this grace period, the conference shall remain eligible for automatic qualification in any sport in which the conference had been qualified for an automatic qualification berth immediately prior to dropping to five full member institutions, and provided five teams are declared in the sport. If the conference continues to sponsor the sport and retain its automatic qualification berth, a conference institution is not permitted to join another conference as a per-sport member. A conference that fails to regain six full member institutions by the expiration of the grace period shall no longer be eligible for automatic qualification until it again satisfies all standard requirements for automatic qualification as determined by the National Administrative Council.

...

16. **NOTE:** An affiliated conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) shall include in its governing documents if it allows for multiple tiers of membership. When conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) governing documents allow for multiple tiers of membership are allowed, an affiliated conference/CAC may permit an NAIA active member to join the conference/CAC on a per-sport(s) basis if the institution otherwise holds membership in an affiliated conference/CAC which has fewer than six institutions declaring intent to participate in NAIA postseason in the given sport(s).

Institutions shall submit eligibility certification, request exceptional rulings, submit self-reported violations and report statistics through the affiliated conference/CAC in which the institution competes in a given sport. An institution eligible for NAIA postseason and holding per-sport(s) membership in an affiliated conference/CAC shall:

- a. Count toward the automatic qualification calculations for the affiliated conference/CAC in the given sport for which the institution holds per-sport membership;
- b. Be eligible for automatic qualification to the national competition through the affiliated conference/CAC in the given sport for which the institution holds per-sport membership; and

- c. Be eligible for awards programs, conference/CAC ratings, national ratings, national statistical rankings and publications contests through the affiliated conference/CAC in the given sport for which the institution holds per-sport membership.

Should an affiliated conference receive an automatic qualification berth in a given sport and the following year lose a full or per-sport member institution(s) thereby falling to five member institutions with a declared intent to participate in NAIA postseason in the given sport, a grace period shall be extended and the conference shall remain eligible for one automatic qualification berth in that sport. The grace period will last for two years following the date the conference officially drops to five members sponsoring the given sport, provided the conference maintains a minimum of five member institutions sponsoring that sport with a declared intent to participate in NAIA postseason at all times.

If the affiliated conference invokes the grace period to continue to sponsor the sport and retain its automatic qualification berth, a full member institution is not permitted to join another conference as a per-sport member in that sport. An affiliated conference that fails to regain six full or per-sport member institutions by the expiration of the grace period shall no longer be eligible for automatic qualification until it again satisfies all standard requirements for automatic qualification as determined by the National Administrative Council.

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Intent: To provide a two-year grace permitting an affiliated conference to retain its automatic qualification berth should it drop below the required six members (full and per-sport) in a given sport, provided the conference maintains five full and per-sport members sponsoring the given sport at all times.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference

Co-sponsored by: California Pacific Conference, Frontier Conference, Mid-South Conference, North Star Athletic Association



## 23-B-21 SUBJECT: TRANSFER FROM TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION

Remove NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section Y as follows:

### **I SECTION Y — FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS WHICH OFFER ASSOCIATE (TWO-YEAR) DEGREES**

~~Should a student receive an associate (two-year) degree from an institution that also offers a baccalaureate (four-year) degree, the student is identified with the four-year institution.~~

*Renumber remaining sections accordingly.*

**AND**

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section B, Item 22 as follows:

22. Transfer: A student who becomes identified with an NAIA institution after having previously been identified with a two- or four-year institution of higher learning. Transfer students must complete the official NAIA Transfer Player Eligibility Statement prior to their first participation at the NAIA institution no matter how long ago the transfer occurred.

To determine if an institution that offers both associate and baccalaureate degrees should be categorized as a two-year or a four-year institution:

- a. If the institution participates in an intercollegiate athletics association that distinguishes between two-year and four-year institutions, the division the institution has chosen to participate in will be honored at face value and the institution treated accordingly.

Should a student receive an associate degree from an institution that is considered a four-year institution, the student is treated as having identified with a four-year institution and all applicable requirements shall apply.

- b. If the institution does not sponsor intercollegiate athletics or the institution participates in an intercollegiate athletic association that does not make this distinction (e.g. USCAA), the institution will be treated as a four-year institution if the student was pursuing a baccalaureate degree or treated as a two-year institution if the student was pursuing an associate degree as indicated on the student's official transcript.

Once the student has completed the transfer form and has been in attendance for one term, the student is no longer considered a transfer student at the institution.

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Intent: To clarify how to delineate between two-year and four-year institutions for purposes of applying the 24/36-Hour Rule and other recruiting and eligibility implications.

Effective Date: May 1, 2023 as applied to eligibility decisions for NAIA competition in August 2023 or beyond

Submitted by: National Eligibility Committee



## 23-B-22 SUBJECT: NON-TERM CREDITS

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section B, Item 12 as follows:

10. Inter-Term: A session or a group of courses that occurs and is reflected on the official academic transcript between two regular academic terms and is reported on the official academic transcript. These sessions cannot meet the definition of a term of attendance as defined in Article V, Section B, Item 21. Summer terms cannot constitute an inter-term.

The inter-term shall be treated as follows in determining eligibility:

- a. Inter-terms are considered non-terms. A student cannot identify during the inter-term, and hours earned during the inter-term are considered non-term hours and shall be applied toward eligibility accordingly.
- b. Completed inter-term credit can be used toward eligibility requirements once the grades are posted in the normal manner and as long as the credit is shown to be earned before the start of the NAIA institution's Winter/Spring term. Credit is considered earned at the end of the academic term that the course is attributed to on the issuing institution's transcript, pursuant to Article V, Section B, Item 3. If the issuing institution's transcript does not attribute the course to an academic term and instead includes specific start/end dates, the end date listed on the transcript will be used. If neither a term nor dates appear on the issuing institution's transcript, dates of the course as verified by the institution's registrar may be used.

...

12. Non-Term: Any term that does not meet the definition of a term as defined in Article V, Section B, Item 21.

Completed credit earned during a non-term can be used toward eligibility requirements once the grades are posted in the normal manner on the issuing institution's transcript and as long as the credit is shown to be earned before the start of the NAIA institution's next term. To determine when credit is considered earned:

- a. If the issuing institution's transcript places the course in an academic term, credit is considered earned at the end of that academic term pursuant to Article V, Section B, Item 3.
- b. If the issuing institution's transcript does not attribute the course to an academic term and instead includes specific start/end dates, the end date listed on the transcript will be used.
- c. If neither a term nor dates appear on the issuing institution's transcript, dates of the course as verified by the institution's registrar may be used.

NOTE: This definition of non-term only applies to terms that begin after August 1, 2004. Prior to August 1, 2004, a non-term was enrollment in fewer than nine institutional credit hours at a single institution during a given term or any summer session or inter-term.

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Intent: To apply the same approach currently used for inter-term credits to non-term credits as it relates to determining when a course is completed and credits may be counted for eligibility purposes; such process would rely on the institution's transcript and assign priority to first the assigned term, then the course dates noted, and finally the course dates per the institution's registrar.

Effective Date: May 1, 2023 as applied to eligibility decisions for NAIA competition in August 2023 or beyond  
Submitted by: National Eligibility Committee



## 23-B-23 SUBJECT: SEASONS OF COMPETITION

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section B, Item 19 as follows:

### 19. Season of Competition:

- a. Participation in more than 20% of the maximum allowable number of intercollegiate contests or dates (excluding scrimmages) at an NAIA institution, whether in a varsity, junior varsity or freshman program, during the 24-week season. Any participation in NAIA-approved postseason shall result in a season of competition. The NAIA shall count seasons of competition based on intercollegiate participation charged by another intercollegiate athletic association.

A student who participates in the following number of contests or dates during the 24-week season will be charged a season of competition.

Baseball	11 contests	Lacrosse	5 contests
Basketball	7 contests	Softball	11 contests
Bowling	4 contests	Swimming and diving	3 meets
Competitive cheer	3 dates	Tennis	6 dates/tournaments
Competitive dance	3 dates	Indoor track and field	3 meets
Cross country	2 meets	Outdoor track and field	3 meets
Football	3 contests	Volleyball	6 dates
Golf	3 contests	Wrestling	5 dates
Soccer	5 contests		

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

In the sports of indoor track and field, outdoor track and field and wrestling, a student-athlete's participation in a competitive event shall count towards the student's 20% threshold, regardless of whether the student-athlete officially represents the institution in competition, when the following conditions are met:

- i. The student-athlete is certified as eligible in the given sport at any point during the academic year; and
  - ii. The student-athlete participates in a competitive event that includes one or more collegiate teams at any point during the academic year.
- b. Participation in any professional-level competition on or after the first day of the thirteenth month following high school graduation. A student will be charged a season of competition for participating in at least one professional-level event within a 12-month period. A team, league or event will be defined as professional-level competition and result in charging a student a season of competition if any one of the following is met:
    - i. Competition on a team or within a league (all sports) shall result in a season of competition if the team or league self-declares as professional.

- ii. Competition on a team or within a league (all sports) shall result in a season of competition if both of the following are met:
  - 1) The team or league self-declares as semi-professional; and
  - 2) Team(s) within the league pay or reimburse participants beyond actual expenses of travel, meals and lodging.
- iii. For individual sports, a student's participation will be evaluated based on the student's specific division, series or group/heat within the event. If that division, series or group/heat within the event is self-declared as professional or semi-professional, the student's competition shall result in a season of competition charged.

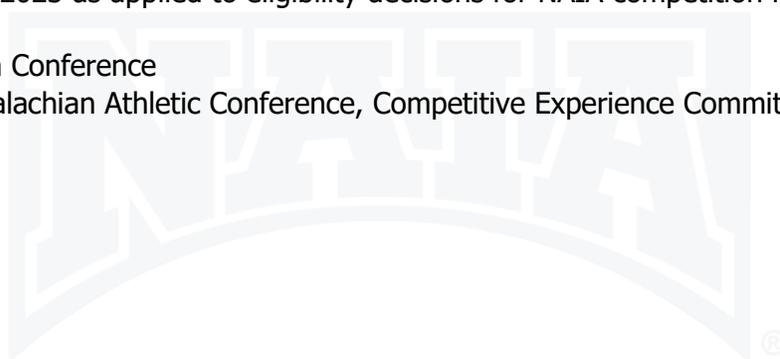
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Intent: To ensure track and field and wrestling student-athletes that participate independently in events with collegiate teams will have any such participation count towards the student's 20% threshold if the student has been certified as eligible in the given sport at any time during the academic year.

Effective Date: May 1, 2023 as applied to eligibility decisions for NAIA competition in August 2023 or beyond

Submitted by: The Sun Conference

Co-sponsored by: Appalachian Athletic Conference, Competitive Experience Committee





## 23-B-24 SUBJECT: POST-BACCALAUREATE ELIGIBILITY

Add NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section B, Item 14 as follows:

14. Post-baccalaureate Student: A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation with a baccalaureate degree, and is subsequently pursuing an additional baccalaureate or equivalent degree or second major area of study, or graduate work of any kind.

*Renumber remaining items accordingly.*

**AND**

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section C as follows:

### V SECTION C ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

...

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 for a baccalaureate degree 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. By signing the Official Eligibility Certificate, the registrar verifies that the student has completed all other academic requirements for graduation except for the currently enrolled credits.

~~A student invoking the above exception who completes all academic requirements for graduation and who subsequently enrolls in and seeks 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, who is enrolled in a fifth-year, post-baccalaureate degree teacher education program or post-baccalaureate certification program 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.

**AND**

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section C, Item 14 as follows:

14. A student who is eligible the last day of a term (as reported on the institution's official academic calendar) may retain eligibility until midnight of the 30th calendar day following the close of a term to allow an institution time to recertify eligibility through the official Eligibility Certification Process. This regulation does not apply to students who ~~complete all requirements for graduation or~~ complete 10 semesters of attendance **or otherwise exhaust their eligibility** ~~(or equivalent)~~. Further, students who are discovered to be ineligible by the institution through the official Eligibility Certification Process or by conference standards shall lose eligibility immediately upon such discovery.

**AND**

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

5. **A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation from a four-year institution may continue to compete provided the student is enrolled in and pursuing post-baccalaureate coursework as described in Article V, Section E. A student who is not enrolled in such additional coursework and** 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 and seeking a second baccalaureate or equivalent degree 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 or post-baccalaureate certification 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 verify that the above conditions have been met prior to participation of the student.~~

**AND**

Add Article V, Section E as follows:

## **V SECTION E ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR POST-BACCALAUREATE STUDENTS**

A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation with a baccalaureate degree, and is subsequently pursuing an additional baccalaureate or equivalent degree or second major area of study, or graduate work of any kind is considered a post-baccalaureate student. A post-baccalaureate student who has athletic eligibility remaining may continue to compete by satisfying the following criteria:

1. All Post-baccalaureate students must satisfy the following eligibility criteria:
  - a. The student must maintain institutional identification during any term of participation. For exceptions see Article V, Section D, Items 3 and 4 (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 4);
  - b. The student must be eligible according to the institution's standards for intercollegiate competition (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 10);
  - c. The student must be eligible according to affiliated conference standards when such standards are more stringent than NAIA rules and standards (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 11);
  - d. Treatment of repeat coursework as found in Article V, Section C, Item 12 shall apply;
  - e. For the fall term only, if athletic contests are scheduled before the opening date of classes, an enrolled student may compete prior to the first day of class, provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements. For all other terms during the regular academic year, a student enrolled in the second (or subsequent) term may compete between terms (beginning on the day following the close of the concluding term), provided the student meets all eligibility requirements for the upcoming term (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 13);
  - f. A student who is eligible the last day of a term (as reported on the institution's official academic calendar) may retain eligibility until midnight of the 30th calendar day following the close of a term to allow an institution time to recertify eligibility through the official Eligibility Certification. This regulation does not apply to students who complete all requirements for graduation or complete 10 semesters of attendance (or equivalent). Further, students who are discovered to be ineligible by the institution through the official Eligibility Certification Process or by conference standards shall lose eligibility immediately upon such discovery (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 14); and
  - g. A student enrolling in college after the date set by the institution for enrollment of regular full-time students will not be eligible to compete in intercollegiate athletics until two full calendar weeks of residency have been completed. (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 15)
2. Student Pursuing Second Baccalaureate Degree: Enroll in a second baccalaureate or equivalent degree, or a second major area of study, and:
  - a. The student must be enrolled in 12 institutional credits at the time of participation (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 3);
  - b. The student must satisfy the 24/36-Hour Rule. A student who utilized the senior exception (see Article V, Section C, Item 3 Exception) will not be required to meet the 24/36-Hour Rule in their first term of attendance pursuing the second baccalaureate or equivalent degree (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 6);
  - c. The student must be making normal progress toward a recognized baccalaureate degree and maintain the minimum grade point average as defined by the institution and the NAIA (when applicable) (Analogous to Article V, Article C, Item 7); and

- d. The student must maintain a total cumulative GPA of at least 2.000 on a 4.000 scale. The GPA for students with continuing identification at your institution shall be calculated according to the official institutional policy for all students. The GPA for entering transfer students shall be calculated by dividing all quality points achieved by the total number of hours attempted for all courses listed on all official transcripts from all institutions previously attended. (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 9)

The registrar must verify that the above conditions have been met prior to participation by the student.

3. Student Pursuing Graduate Work: Enroll in a graduate program, professional school or fifth-year, post-baccalaureate degree teacher education program or post-baccalaureate certification program, and:
  - a. The student 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 (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 3);
  - b. To maintain eligible status, the student must successfully complete a full-time class load as defined by the institution (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 6);
  - c. The student must maintain the minimum grade point average as defined by the institution (when applicable) (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 7); and
  - d. The student must maintain a total cumulative GPA of at least 2.000 on a 4.000 scale. The GPA for students with continuing identification at your institution shall be calculated according to the official institutional policy for all students. The GPA for entering transfer students shall be taken at face value from the official transcript at the time a baccalaureate degree was awarded. An entering transfer student who has already completed graduate work will have the GPA calculated by dividing all quality points achieved by the total number of hours attempted for all graduate courses listed on all official transcripts from all institutions previously attended. (Analogous to Article V, Section C, Item 9)

The registrar must verify that the above conditions have been met prior to participation by the student.

*Renumber remaining items accordingly.*

**AND**

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section E, Items 2-3 as follows:

- ~~2. A student who loses eligibility at the end of a term because of graduation becomes ineligible at the end of the week (11:59 p.m., Saturday) in which the term ends.  
**EXCEPTION:** Students who graduate at the close of the fall/winter term and who have qualified for NAIA national competition for the immediately following spring/summer through the conference event held in the fall/winter shall not be required to have been in attendance the immediately preceding term prior to postseason competition to be eligible. The student is subject, however, to any contrary ruling which may be made by the local institution or conference.~~
3. A student who loses eligibility at the end of a term other than because of graduation or completion of 10 semesters/15 quarter terms of attendance becomes ineligible no later than midnight of the

30th calendar day following the close of the term. If an institution checks eligibility prior to the 30-day deadline (Article V, Section J, Item 2) and determines that a student has become ineligible, the student becomes ineligible immediately.

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Intent: To create a new section specific to postbaccalaureate eligibility incorporating existing requirements for how students pursuing a second major or baccalaureate degree or graduate work can continue to be eligible; remove references to a graduate student's eligibility from the senior exception; remove the existing limitation that a student is only eligible to compete while pursuing a second baccalaureate degree if they remain at the same NAIA institution; remove the requirement that graduate students meet the 24/36-Hour Rule; and remove the requirement that postbaccalaureate students meet the accumulate hours requirements of the Progress Rule.

Effective Date: May 1, 2023 as applied to eligibility decisions for NAIA competition in August 2023 or beyond

Submitted by: National Eligibility Committee





## 23-B-25

### SUBJECT: SENIOR EXCEPTION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Amend NAIA Bylaws 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 and seeking a second baccalaureate or equivalent degree 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 or post-baccalaureate certification 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.
  - a. As an exception, a student who will complete the requirements for graduation for one of these programs within 10 semesters, 15 quarters, 12 trimesters or less may retain eligibility during the last term of attendance in their respective program by enrolling in fewer hours than the number required for full-time graduate study. By signing the Official Eligibility Certificate, the registrar verifies that the student has completed all other academic requirements for graduation except for the currently enrolled credits. The term in which the student invokes this exception shall be counted as a term of attendance. A student who invokes the above exception and does not graduate forfeits any remaining eligibility in all sports sponsored by the NAIA.
2. To maintain eligibility status, the student must successfully complete the full-time class load as defined by the institution.
3. The registrar must verify that the above conditions have been met prior to participation of the student.

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Intent: To create an opportunity for graduate students similar to the Senior Exception to the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule whereby graduate students may compete while being enrolled in less than a full-time load in their final term prior to graduation with a master's degree.

Effective Date: May 1, 2023 as applied to eligibility decisions for NAIA competition in August 2023 or beyond

Submitted by: Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference

Co-sponsored by: National Eligibility Committee



## 23-B-26

### SUBJECT: 24/36-HOUR RULE JUNIOR COLLEGE EXCEPTION

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 6 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.

...

No more than 12 institutional credit hours earned during summers and/or during non-terms may be applied to meet the 24/36-Hour Rule. Such credit must be earned after one or both of the two immediately previous terms of attendance.

All credit hours used to meet this total of 24/36 institutional credit hours are to be taken at face value and are not to be converted, even if earned at different institutions using different credit-hour systems (e.g. quarter and semester).

**EXCEPTION 1:** See Article V, Section B, Item 8, Note 3.

**EXCEPTION 2:** A transfer student who has met the graduation requirements for an associate degree from a junior college **in the previous two semester or three quarter terms of attendance** will be exempt from meeting the 24/36-Hour Rule for **only the first two terms of attendance** upon transferring to an NAIA institution. ~~provided:~~

- ~~a. The transferring student passed all hours required for graduation in the term in which graduation occurs; and~~
- ~~b. Less than 24/36 hours were required for graduation during the last two semesters/three quarters terms.~~

Students receiving this exception **as noted in their eligibility center determination** **To compete in the second term of attendance, the student** must pass at least 12 hours in their first term of attendance at the ~~four-year~~ **NAIA** school to retain eligibility for a second term. The last semester/trimester/quarter at the junior college shall count as a term of attendance.

Note: This rule applies to all student-athletes' certification beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, regardless of when the student's graduation or terms of attendance occurred.

---

Intent: To eliminate the existing criteria for the junior college exception to the 24/36-Hour Rule that requires students to have completed the hours needed for their associate degree in the term of graduation and that less than 24/36 hours were required for graduation in the student's final academic year, and clarify the exemption applies only to a student's first term of attendance at the NAIA institution.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: National Eligibility Committee



## 23-B-27 SUBJECT: CONDUCT IN COMPETITION

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article VI, Section B, Item 7 as follows:

### 7. Conduct in Competition

It is the responsibility of the offending institution to provide written notification to its commissioner of any incidents of misconduct during a contest, including ejections from a contest, within five days of the incident.

Any coach or student-athlete ejected on one or more occasions while representing an NAIA member institution in competition shall be subject automatically to the following penalties:

- a. The first time a coach or student-athlete is ejected within a sport season, a suspension will be applied for the next contest listed on the schedule at the time of the ejection, after the coach or student-athlete is ejected for the first time (in one sport) in a single season. A coach or student-athlete ejected for fighting, as reported by the game official, shall be automatically suspended for one additional contest.
- b. If a coach or student-athlete is ejected twice within a sport season, a suspension will be applied for the next two contests listed on the schedule at the time of the ejection, if a coach or student-athlete accumulates two ejections (in one sport) in a single season. This includes postseason play and may carry over to the following year depending on when the ejection occurs. A coach or student-athlete ejected for fighting, as reported by the game official, shall be automatically suspended for one additional contest.
- c. If a coach or student-athlete is ejected three times within a sport season, the coach or student-athlete will become ineligible for the remainder of all regular season and postseason participation if a coach or student-athlete accumulates three ejections (in one sport) in a single season. Should the third ejection occur in either of the last two contests of the year, the coach or returning student-athlete will be suspended for the first two contests of the following year.

NOTE 1: Any coach or student-athlete ejected from a junior varsity or varsity contest shall be suspended for the next contest at the same level or higher as the contest from which the student or coach was ejected. Contests that are defined as scrimmages and exhibitions shall not satisfy the suspension penalty.

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Intent: To clarify that suspensions resulting from an ejection are required to be served during the next contest that was scheduled and appeared on the institution's schedule at the time of the ejection.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: River States Athletic Conference

Co-sponsored by: National Conduct and Ethics Committee



## 23-B-28

### SUBJECT: NATIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article IX, Section C, Item 2 as follows:

#### 2. National Conduct and Ethics Committee

This committee shall be charged with reviewing and acting upon cases:

- a. Involving inappropriate conduct of a physical or verbal nature by players, coaches or fans;
- b. Involving violations of the NAIA Code of Ethics;
- c. Involving violations of the Institutional Financial Aid Policy (See Council of Presidents Policy);
- d. Involving violations of the campus visitation/tryout, financial assistance, recruitment, scheduling and/or frequency of play regulations;
- e. In which a student or institutional representative provides false or inaccurate information to the NAIA or to a member institution; and/or
- f. Involving violations of the Declaration of Intent to Participate in postseason-play regulations.

The committee comprises three members from the NAIA Athletics Directors Association, two members from the NAIA Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, one member from the Athletic Compliance Administrators Association and two one at-large positions will be designated for females and/or minorities. When a vacancy occurs, the relevant association shall provide a slate of no more than three candidates to the National Administrative Council for election to the committee. Preference shall be given to ensure a minimum of two members of the committee will be females and/or minorities. Each association shall select its own members with the committee chaired by a member of the NAIA Athletics Directors Association. Individuals considered for selection for service should have previous experience in their role at their institution or conference which makes them knowledgeable and skillful in this area. The chair will be elected by the committee members.

This committee shall report to the National Administrative Council. This committee is authorized to impose penalties on institutions' athletics programs, coaches and/or students as authorized in Article VI, Section C of the NAIA Bylaws.

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Intent: To include an athletics compliance administrator on the National Conduct and Ethics Committee by replacing one of the existing at-large positions reserved for females and/or minorities with a position for a compliance administrator, and introducing the expectation that at least two members should be females and/or minorities.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: National Conduct and Ethics Committee



## 23-B-29

### SUBJECT: REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Amend NAIA Bylaws Article X, Section C, Item 7 as follows:

7. Registrars Association (NAIA RA)

This association makes recommendations to the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives regarding the format of the official eligibility certificate, conversion tables/equivalency scores to be used for GED students and international students who will be first-time entering freshman students; interprets applications of unusual institutional calendars; and provides general guidance in its area of expertise.

This association includes all registrars at member institutions.

The association shall meet annually **either in person or virtually** ~~during the national convention of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).~~

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Intent: To remove the requirement that the annual business meeting of the Registrars Association occur in-person at the annual AACRAO meeting and replace it with the option to meet either in person or virtually.

Effective Date: August 1, 2023

Submitted by: Registrars Association

Co-sponsored by: Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives