

# Compliance Corner

VOLUME 2; ISSUE 1

BACK TO SCHOOL 2012

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## CHANGES TO ELIGIBILITY RULES

by Michelle Hosick (NCAA.org)

Changes to the academic requirements for incoming Division I student-athletes will require freshmen to meet a tougher academic standard to compete in the first year of enrollment at a Division I institution. The changes, approved last month by the Division I Board of Directors, represent a philosophical shift in the way the NCAA examines academic credentials. The new philosophy will require student-athletes enrolling in August 2015 and later to meet a higher academic standard to compete in the first year. Student-athletes who meet the current initial eligibility standard will be eligible for aid and practice only. “The changes adopted by our presidents acknowledge that some incoming student-athletes need more time and assistance to be academically successful in college,” Lennon said. “We believe the new standards will give more student-athletes the opportunity to thrive in the classroom.” The changes (see accompanying story) do not deny access to college to any student-athlete who meets the current standard. The enhanced standard is designed to identify students at risk of academic difficulties in college and intervene by imposing an academic redshirt year.

“The implementation date allows prospective student-athletes just beginning their high school careers ample time to plan their academic curriculum to meet these standards,” said Kevin Lennon, NCAA vice president for academic and membership affairs. NCAA research using the academic profiles of student-athletes entering Division I institutions in 2009-10 indicates that up to 15.6 percent of student-athletes might be required to serve the academic redshirt year, with the most visible impacts in men’s basketball (up to 43.1 percent) and football (up to 35.2 percent). Both sports also regularly post the lowest Academic Progress Rates and Graduation Success Rates, illustrating that student-athletes who participate in these sports need the most help academically. The impacts are expected to decrease over time as prospective student-athletes adjust to the changes and work to improve their preparation over the four years before the new standard takes effect. Some have compared the philosophical shift to [Prop 48](#) (1983) and [Prop 16](#) (1992) that resulted in partial-qualifier status for some student-athletes, but considerable differences exist between the two standards.

- Test scores play a less significant role in the new standard; no student-athlete is prohibited from practice, athletically related financial aid or competition based on a test score alone.
- Student-athletes are allowed four full years of participation after the academic redshirt year, consistent with the NCAA’s desire to assist academically at-risk student-athletes to succeed in college. The previous partial-qualifier standard took away a year of eligibility on the back end of a student’s career unless they graduated within four years.

The initial-eligibility changes are part of an overall move to toughen academic standards for student-athletes. The presidents also adopted more rigorous standards for transfers from two-year colleges, a higher academic requirement for teams to participate in the postseason and a new penalty structure for the Academic Performance Program.

**NEW INITIAL ELIGIBILITY INDEX****(effective for students enrolling in Fall 2016)**

<b>Core GPA</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>Sum ACT</b>	<b>Core GPA</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>Sum ACT</b>
4.000	400	37	3.150	740	61
3.975	410	38	3.125	750	61
3.950	420	39	3.100	760	62
3.925	430	40	3.075	770	63
3.900	440	41	3.050	780	64
3.875	450	41	3.025	790	65
3.850	460	42	3.000	800	66
3.825	470	42	2.975	810	67
3.800	480	43	2.950	820	68
3.775	490	44	2.925	830	69
3.750	500	44	2.900	840	70
3.725	510	45	2.875	850	70
3.700	520	46	2.850	860	71
3.675	530	46	2.825	870	72
3.650	540	47	2.800	880	73
3.625	550	47	2.775	890	74
3.600	560	48	2.750	900	75
3.575	570	49	2.725	910	76
3.550	580	49	2.700	920	77
3.525	590	50	2.675	930	78
3.500	600	50	2.650	940	79
3.475	610	51	2.625	950	80
3.450	620	52	2.600	960	81
3.425	630	52	2.575	970	82
3.400	640	53	2.550	980	83
3.375	650	53	2.525	990	84
3.350	660	54	2.500	1000	85
3.325	670	55	2.475	1010	86
3.300	680	56	2.450	1020	86
3.275	690	56	2.425	1030	87
3.250	700	57	2.400	1040	88
3.225	710	58	2.375	1050	89
3.200	720	59	2.350	1060	90
3.175	730	60	2.325	1070	91
			2.300	1080	93

# BIG CHANGES IN ENFORCEMENT

We're all excited about the future changes to the NCAA rulebook. Behind the scenes, the NCAA staff is also working to reform the Enforcement and Legislative processes to ensure we don't end up with rules that don't make sense (again). What do you need to know?

## 1. New, Increased Responsibilities for Head Coaches

When secondary infractions are reported, head coaches may be penalized by sitting out competitions. Bylaw 11.1.2.1 has long required head coaches to promote an atmosphere for compliance, but where "letters of admonishment" were previously issued to head coaches with violations in their program, coaches will now be forced to sit out regular season contests. A final decision on this will likely come in October.

## 2. Gone are "major" and "secondary" infractions.

Ever thought the whole "major" and "secondary" distinction was confusing? So do compliance officers, NCAA staff, and the public. As a result, the NCAA Enforcement process is shifting to a Tier I, II, III, and IV system.

## 3. Focus is shifting to avoid legislation on "natural benefits" and more on what's enforceable and directly supportive of NCAA principles.

In sum, the membership is shifting away from legislating on the benefits some institutions naturally have over others. Some schools have more money, others are located in a place recruits are crazy about. If we like our small rulebook, we can't legislate away everything. Instead, all rules will support key principles of NCAA membership.

## Changes to Core Course Requirements (Effective for students enrolling Fall 2016)

The changes adopted by the Division I Board of Directors continue to use a student-athlete's grades in high school core courses in combination with the student-athlete's ACT or SAT score and core-course accumulation. Prospective student-athletes who achieve the current minimum initial-eligibility standard on the test score-GPA sliding scale with at least a minimum 2.0 core-course GPA would continue to be eligible for athletically related financial aid during the first year of enrollment and practice during the first regular academic term of enrollment. Student-athletes serving this academic redshirt year would have to successfully complete nine semester or eight quarter hours during their first academic term to be eligible for practice during their second term. For immediate access to competition, prospective student-athletes will be required to present at least a 2.3 GPA and an increased sliding-scale credential. Specifically, prospects need to earn about a half-point higher GPA for a given test score compared to the standard for aid and practice. For example, an SAT score of 1,000 would require a 2.5 high school core-course GPA for competition and a 2.0 high school core-course GPA for aid and practice. Incoming student-athletes will be required to successfully complete 10 of the 16 total required core courses before the start of their senior year in high school. Seven of those 10 courses must be in English, math and science.



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**ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!!!!**

## Junior College Transfer Changes

Ever thought getting a transfer eligible at IUPUI was impossible? It's already hard, and it's recently gotten even harder. Students enrolling THIS semester in junior college will now face increased standards to transfer to Division I institutions. All nonqualifiers who were eligible under the "old rule" will be eligible for financial and practice under the "new rule," but will not be able to compete unless they meet the increased standards. Qualifiers see a GPA increase, but can serve a regular year in residence (with aid and practice) if they do not meet the standard.

### Nonqualifier

Old Rule: Graduate from the 2 year college  
Transfer in 48 hours, including:  
- 6 hours English  
- 3 hours math  
Attend at least three regular FT semesters  
Transfer in a 2.0 GPA

New Rule: For practice and aid, same as above, except the student must transfer in 3 science hours.

**For competition, student must meet the old rule, have a 2.5 GPA AND transfer in 3 hours of science credit**

### Qualifier

Attend at least one regular, FT semester  
Transfer a 2.0 GPA  
Transfer in 12 hours/semester

SAME except the student must transfer in a 2.5 GPA or serve a year in residence