

Form Name: NJCAA Committee Proposal Submission Form  
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## NJCAA Committee Proposal Submission Form

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**Your Name** Rob Chaney

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**Submitting Committee** Eligibility

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**Proposal Title/Topic** Enrollment Eligibility/Last Academic Term Full-Time Enrollment

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**Type of Proposal** Bylaw Change

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**Proposed Effective Date of Proposal** August 1, 2026

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**Rationale for Proposal** As institutions offer more credit certificate programs, this broadens the path for a student-athlete to participate without taking unnecessary credits. Furthermore, because these credits can be used to meet the general academic requirements for participation (Article V, Section 2.A.2.a), they should not be exempt from use in either the Last Academic Full-Time Enrollment Exception or Graduate Exception.

Recommendation adds language to the current bylaw.

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**Please specify the NJCAA Handbook section(s) affected** Article V, Section 2.C.2.c

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**Current NJCAA Handbook Language**

c. Last Academic Term Full-Time Enrollment Exception: Student-athletes in their last academic term MAY participate while enrolled in the number of credit hours required to graduate. The institution must document that the student who has not graduated is carrying the courses necessary to complete the degree requirements, as determined by the institution. Once this one-time allowance is exhausted, the student-athlete must meet the full-time requirement of 12 or more credits.

i. Graduate Exception: A student-athlete who graduates with a degree from a NJCAA institution may participate in the term immediately following graduation and must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) hours, provided enrollment is at the same institution from which they graduated. All six (6) hours must begin before the end of the published regular season schedule of the student-athletes sport. This is a one-time exception.

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**Proposed NJCAA Handbook Language**

c. Last Academic Term Full-Time Enrollment Exception: Student-athletes in their last academic term MAY participate while enrolled in the number of credit hours required to graduate/complete a degree program or credit certificate program. The institution must document that the student who has not graduated/completed is carrying the courses necessary to complete the degree or certificate requirements, as determined by the institution. Once this one-time allowance is exhausted, the student-athlete must meet the full-time requirement of 12 or more credits.

i. Graduate Exception: A student-athlete who graduates/completes a degree program or credit certificate program from a NJCAA institution may participate in the term immediately following graduation or certificate completion and must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) hours, provided enrollment is at the same institution from which they graduated or completed. All six (6) hours must begin before the end of the published regular season schedule of the student-athletes sport. This is a one-time exception.

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**Please attach any supporting documentation here. (Optional)**

<https://njcaa.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19293900280>

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### **ELIGIBILITY PROPOSAL 3**

Article V, Section 2.C.2.c | Page 13 | Enrollment Eligibility/Last Academic Term Full-Time Enrollment Exception & Graduate Exception

**SUBMITTED BY:** Region 19

#### **RATIONALE**

As institutions offer more credit certificate programs, this broadens the path for a student-athlete to participate without taking unnecessary credits. Furthermore, because these credits can be used to meet the general academic requirements for participation (Article V, Section 2.A.2.a), they should not be exempt from use in either the Last Academic Full-Time Enrollment Exception or Graduate Exception.

Recommendation adds language to the current bylaw.

#### **CURRENT**

- c. Last Academic Term Full-Time Enrollment Exception: Student-athletes in their last academic term MAY participate while enrolled in the number of credit hours required to graduate. The institution must document that the student who has not graduated is carrying the courses necessary to complete the degree requirements, as determined by the institution. Once this one-time allowance is exhausted, the student-athlete must meet the full-time requirement of 12 or more credits.
- i. Graduate Exception: A student-athlete who graduates with a degree from a NJCAA institution may participate in the term immediately following graduation and must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) hours, provided enrollment is at the same institution from which they graduated. All six (6) hours must begin before the end of the published regular season schedule of the student-athletes sport. This is a one-time exception.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- c. Last Academic Term Full-Time Enrollment Exception: Student-athletes in their last academic term MAY participate while enrolled in the number of credit hours required to **graduate/complete a degree program or credit certificate program**. The institution must document that the student who has not **graduated/completed** is carrying the courses necessary to complete the degree **or certificate** requirements, as determined by the institution. Once this one-time allowance is exhausted, the student-athlete must meet the full-time requirement of 12 or more credits.
- i. Graduate Exception: A student-athlete who **graduates/completes a degree program or credit certificate program** from a NJCAA institution may participate in the term immediately following graduation **or certificate completion** and must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) hours, provided enrollment is at the same institution from which they graduated **or completed**. All six (6) hours must begin before the end of the published regular season schedule of the student-athletes sport. This is a one-time exception.

#### **APPROVED**

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, January 9, 2026

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

August 1, 2026