

January 9, 2025 – Eligibility Committee Meeting @ 1pm EST

1. Call to Order:

Rob Chaney, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM EST on January 9, 2026.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Chair: Rob Chaney, Vice-Chair: Troy Larson (2024), Division I Reps: Deron Clark (2023); Division II Reps: Brian Anweiler (2024), Christina Hundley (2024); Division III Reps: Kristen Schuth (2024), Mike Belfiore (2025); Aspiring Leaders: Dane Vos, Bryan Nobile; Senior Men's Director: Dean Myrick; Senior Women's Director: Mary Young

NJCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance: Wanda Bodey

Absent: Division I Rep: Jeff Willis (2024), PAC Rep: Dr. Huebner

Other NJCAA Staff Members in Attendance: Carly Pitts, Bobby Alexander, Tyler Broderick, Jeff White

3. Approval of Agenda: Rob Chaney approves starting the agenda breakdown at 1:02 PM EST

4. NJCAA National Office Updates

Wanda drops the new data that came out for January in the chat and adds there are no further updates.

5. Tiered Sanctions Committee Update

6. Discussion Items

a. Items related to employment (Jeff/Tyler)

Rob passes it to Tyler for employment bylaw changes. Tyler breaks down looking into NCAA and NAIA rulebooks on NIL to see what their rules are. Goes into Article V, Section 4.D.1.a.iii and how it can be redundant and recommend that it is removed.

Mary adds that schools have their own policy as well and if there is a way to reference the institutional policy.

Jeff White adds that state statutes generally do not allow solacious material and why the NJCAA has a state law approach to address that

Dean moves to Strike Article V, Section 4.D.1.a.iii, Second by Christina

D. Compensation and Employment:

1. Criteria Governing Compensation to Student-Athletes a. Compensation for any work performed may be paid to a student-athlete:
 - i. Only for work actually performed;
 - ii. At a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services; and
 - iii. ~~In instances where the student athlete does not have a contract or agreement (oral or written) for name, image and likeness activities, an employer shall not use the athletics reputation of a student athlete employee to promote the sale of the employer's product or services.~~

Motion Passes unanimously

Tyler moves into the employment bylaws and how most rules are surrounded by Article V, Section 4.D.1.a.i and 4.D.1.a.ii. The big distinction was in NCAA rules they are going into specifics regarding camps and clinics. Adds in the recommendation of removing Article VI, Section 1.C.3 as it is covered in other areas.

Jeff White reminds the group that work study already falls into that bylaw and the group believes that not allowing that was not in the best interest of the membership.

Motion to Strike Article VI, Section 1.C.3 by Dean, Second by Christina

~~3. Employment:~~

- ~~a. Illegitimate Employment: Student athlete may not be engaged in employment for which they receive greater compensation than market value, or in which they are not required to work as hard as others in similar employment, or which is otherwise not legitimate employment.~~
- ~~b. Employment Arrangements: No member college nor any representative of its athletic interests may arrange employment for any student athlete or recruit.~~

Motion Passes unanimously

- b. Article V, Section 2.C.2.c - Last Academic Term FT Enrollment Exception (from R19)

Rob introduces the recommended language to be added. The main goal is to add in certificate programs to the exception and not limit it to degree programs.

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.

Proposed:

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 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.

Motion to approve by Dean, second by Brian

Brian Anweiler adds that it would help community colleges with promoting workforce applicable programs.

Wanda says there should be no issues with the certificate programs. Rob adds that if those classes are already being used for eligibility, then they should be utilized in the exception.

Mike asks if there are any certificates that are so small that schools could use it in a way that the rule would not be followed by the intention.

Mary believes that if that is the case it would need to be approved by an outside entity to exist at a school.

Rob adds that hypothetically he would like to see the first and second season option for players on the roster to collect that data and see how often the exceptions are being used.

Mary would agree that it would be good to automatically see that in the audit and not have to look into the notes. Mary would potentially like to see physicals be a part of the audit system to protect ourselves.

Kristen looked into certificate programs at other schools after Mike brought up that thought and there are schools that do certificate programs with minimal hours that aren't always accredited. Kristen believes it may need a minimum in the wording or look into it further.

Mary brings in that she just thought the programs would need to be approved and accredited.

Jeff White asks if we were to question the veracity of certificate programs, would someone look into the academic rigor.

Dean thinks that this is being overcomplicated as the courses are already being used for eligibility. Adds that no president in Alabama is going to start a fraudulent program and jeopardize their institution. Some student athletes are looking for certificates to join the workforce and not to transfer out.

Kristen says that they should not defeat this proposal because it already exists for eligibility purposes but recommends further research potentially.

Rob adds that there are two more meetings before convention to vote on these items. Suggest that the group looks into it further before the next meeting.

Dean asks what the explanation to region 19 would be if they defeated this when the certificates are already being used for eligibility.

Rob adds that there are still requirements for certificate programs to be used.

Motion passes unanimously

- c. Article V, Section 2.C. 2 - FT Enrollment Requirement (from R19)

Rob introduces the clinical hours bylaw as this exception is currently available but not in writing. Wanda confirms that this is not written anywhere.

Motion by Kristen, Second by Dean

Deron asks how many of those requests we receive each year.

Rob goes further into the required documentation to be included in the audit file.

Kristen questions the sentence of enrollment must count 1 credit for every 15 hours of the clinical requirement. It should be based on the set full-time standard in the school's program. Kristen recommends that the wording be adjusted.

Rob suggests wording that includes a letter from the department head stating that the student-athlete is considered to be enrolled full-time, as determined by the institution

Kristen and Dean accept the amendment

Full-Time Requirement: Student-athletes must be enrolled in full-time status at the college prior to competition and certifying NJCAA eligibility using any combination of sessions (regular term, mini term, fast track term) within a term. Full-time enrollment is defined as 12 or more credit hours. A minimum of six (6) credit hours must begin before the end of the published regular season schedule of the student-athletes' chosen sport.

aa. A student-athlete using clinical hours to meet the full-time enrollment requirement must have the following in their audit file:

A letter from the department head stating that the student-athlete is enrolled full-time, as determined by the member institution.

A copy of the student-athlete's current curriculum with the course work completed, and the required clinical hours.

Motion passes unanimously

d. Article V, Section 3.B.2.b - Recertification: defining "last day of term" (Dean)
Rob passes it over to dean regarding the recertification last date of term. Dean brings up a situation with the 20 days with recertification and the end of term. Discusses that every school said a different reason for when the last day of term. You can't recertify students until grades are posted. Dean would like propose that the last day of term is clarified as when grades are due.

Deron asks if that date is posted on most academic calendar. Wanda and Jeff add that is on most academic calendars and it is the most universal term on the academic calendar.

Kristen asks for clarification on the clarification and the date submitted on the roster is what is looked at.

Wanda adds that is part of the problem as schools do not put the accurate date on the roster.

Brian adds that the clarification would be good. Christina asks if it could be a simple term for the last day of finals.

Jeff adds from a practical situation it would make sense to have the grades due date as you cannot recertify a roster. Dean agrees as you can be rushed into recertifying with minimal days to recertify.

Mike asks if it would be different for trimester institutions. Wanda and Rob add that trimesters will operate under the same recertification process.

Rob asks if this is something that can be thought about as there is no consensus currently.

Dean does not see the need to put it off as the same discussion will occur in the next few months. Believes they are overcomplicating it as final grades is a universal term. Jeff White adds from the National Office perspective it would be a helpful metric.

Christina wonders if a set date would be better. Jeff White adds that what the date is doesn't necessarily matter from the national office perspective but just to be as specific as possible and a universal date.

Brian adds that he likes the logic of the date grades are due. Kristen asks what the wording would be.

Dean motions to define the last day of term as the day grades are due, second by Kristen

Motion passed unanimously

e. Article V, Section 2.B – Entrance Eligibility (Rob)

Rob goes into discussion on how he is looking further into entrance eligibility for domestic, international, and homeschool students and try to align everything and be more consistent. Asks the group to look through the proposal for the February meeting and look into the NCAA homeschool toolkit to see if there is anything that should be utilized or mirrored.

7. Good of the Order

8. Next Meeting: Friday, February 6, 1 PM EST

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Rob Chaney at 2:57 pm EST.