

March 7, 2025 – Eligibility Committee Meeting @ 1pm EST

1. Call to Order:

Rob Chaney, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04 EST on March 7, 2025.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Rob Chaney, Board Chair, Christina Hundley, Vice Chair, Mike Saddler, Immediate Past Vice-Chair (ex-officio); Dr. Tom Huebner, Division I Reps: Deron Clark (2023); Jeff Willis (2024); Division II Reps: Brian Anweiler (2024), Troy Larson (2024); Division III Reps: Kurt Kohler (2022), Kristen Schuth, Women's Administrator: Mary Young (Senior Women's Administrator 2021), Rob Nielsen (Senior Men's Administrator)

Guests: Selina Reid, Director of Athletics Coahoma Community College

NJCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance: Wanda Bodey, Jeff White

Absent:

Other NJCAA Staff Members in Attendance: Tyler Broderick

3. National Office Updates

4. Tiered Sanctions Subcommittee Update

a. December 4, March 4, May 6, May 13

Sub-committee met earlier in the week to discuss items referenced last month. They discussed a change in the point structure. Carly Pitts shares that a point total change is in the works.

12 Points: Mandatory Virtual Session (no longer)

20 Points: Mandatory Audits

30 Points: Action Plan

40 Points: Member Not in Good Standing; Mandatory Attendance at Convention

5. New Business

a. Article VI, Section 2.D. (Multiple Letters of Intent) – Amendment to Previously Approved Language

Item approved last month. Viewed as a housekeeping issue as it is not changing anything of substance, but changing how it is presented. The intent is to provide more clarification.

A second LOI at the same institution is easily resolved.

Brian Anweiler makes a motion to move the proposal forward for recommendation to the Board. Deron Clark seconds the motion.

Asks if there is any way for the portal to identify when the action occurred.

Wanda Bodey shares that the National Office has concluded all fail-safes possible are in place. The information is only as good as what is being entered. Deron Clark asks if it is only found when the school self-report. The majority of the time it a self-report, but it can also be found in an audit.

The motion passes unanimously.

b. Article V, Section 2.C.6 (Postseason Enrollment Verification)

CURRENT LANGUAGE: Student-athlete should be verified 24 hours prior to National Championship / Bowl competition. If a student has maintained and is currently enrolled in full-time status which meets the requirements of Article V, Section 2.C.2, or meets the enrollment requirements for Article V, section 2.C.2.c or C.2.c.i; 24 hours prior to National Championship/Bowl competition he/she will remain eligible throughout the National Championship/Bowl competition

- c. Written verification is required and must be signed and dated by the Athletic Director and Registrar.

RECOMMENDED: Student-athlete enrollment ~~should be~~ (must be) verified 24 hours prior to the start of each level of postseason competition (Region, District and National Championships), including Football Bowls. If a student-athlete has maintained the proper enrollment requirements of Article V, Section 2.C, they will remain eligible throughout that level of postseason competition, including Football Bowls.

~~C.6.a. Written verification is required and must be signed and dated by the Athletic Director and Registrar.~~

Rob Chaney feels like this addition is guidance related. The question is whether something can be done so that the process has more purpose.

Brian Anweiler agrees that what has been added makes the language more succinct.

Brian Anweiler moves ... Kristen Schuth seconds.

Wanda Bodey shares that during the regular season, it is the 48-hour rule, keeping this in place will protect the student and the school throughout the tournament. If an ineligible student-athlete is played during the postseason, it is an automatic probation. This includes a Region Tournament.

Rob Nielsen is unsure if it needs to be done at the Region level, but the other three are good. He suggests changing “should be” to “must be”.

Brian Anweiler accepts that as a friendly amendment.

Kurt Kohler asks if it is checked afterward, what is in place to keep the school from saying they checked.

- Wanda Bodey responds that most schools get weekly, or even daily, reports that has a date on it which shows enrollment. It could be documented based on the college system's information.
- Brian Anweiler asks about time stamp verification.
- Jeff Willis asks if other schools receive an email that lists every student-athlete. LSU-Eunice receives an email for any student that dropped a class and fell below full-time. His report does not provide for every athlete.
 - Kristen Schuth has a report that runs every single athlete which flags them as eligible / ineligible. Her systems sends a notification when a student-athlete drops below 12 hours.
- Kurt Kohler questions the purpose of the verification if they have to stay enrolled full-time the whole semester.
 - Wanda Bodey sees it as a protection.
- Mike Saddler agrees with the rule, but the written verification may be an unnecessary step.
- Rob Chaney offers that it might fit better somewhere else in the bylaws as it as a best practice that has been offered as a bylaw.

The motion passes unanimously.

6. Review of Eligibility Proposals for April 2025 BOR Agenda

This meeting of the Eligibility Committee was largely a review and synopsis of proposals that have been approved in the 2024-2025 academic year.

a. Article V, Section 5.B.2 – Non-Medical Hardships

SUBMITTED BY: NJCAA Eligibility Committee

RATIONALE

Provide more clearly-defined guidance for submitting a non-medical hardship request and establishes a path for requests that are related to mental health without creating a third hardship category.

Current language in B.2.b. is stricken.

CURRENT

B.2. Non-Medical Hardships (#2): A second hardship exception is available for student-athletes who were unavailable to satisfy eligibility or participation requirements due to non-medical circumstances beyond the student-athlete's control.

B.2.a. Approval: All non-medical hardship requests are subject to the discretionary approval of the NJCAA National Office.

B.2.b. An applicant for a non-medical hardship should use the Hardship Request Form available in the compliance section of the NJCAA webpage.

RECOMMENDATION

B.2 A non-medical hardship is available to a student-athlete who is unable to satisfy eligibility or participation requirements due to non-medical circumstances beyond the student-athlete's control. **Where applicable, the circumstances supporting the request must be documented by a licensed professional who is familiar with the student-athlete's hardship.**

All non-medical hardship requests are subject to the discretionary approval of the NJCAA National Office.

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, December 6, 2024

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

b. Article V, Section 5.B.1 – Medical Hardships

SUBMITTED BY: NJCAA Eligibility Committee

RATIONALE

Provide more clearly-defined guidance for submitting a medical hardship request, specifically who must provide documentation.

Current language in B.1.b. is stricken.

CURRENT

B.1. Medical Hardships (#1): A medical hardship is available for a student-athlete who suffers an injury or illness which results in the student-athlete's inability to complete a season and/or did not satisfy one of the eligibility rules.

B.1.a. The injury or illness must be season ending in nature with accompanying letter from the medical doctor on the doctor's letterhead which supports this conclusion including the following information provided in a statement provided and signed by the student-athlete's doctor:

B.1.a.i. Name of the patient, AND

B.1.a.i. Date(s) the patient was seen by the doctor, AND

B.1.a.ii. Detailed diagnosis of the injury, AND

B.1.a.iv. Plan of treatment for the injury, AND

B.1.a.v. Projected recovery time.

B.1.b. An applicant for a medical hardship should use the Hardship Request Form available in the compliance section of the NJCAA webpage.

RECOMMENDATION

B.1. A medical hardship is available to a student-athlete who suffers an injury or illness which prevents the student-athlete from completing a season or satisfying an eligibility rule.

The injury or illness must be season-ending and documented by a **signed letter from a Medical Doctor (M.D.) or Doctor of Orthopedics (D.O.)*** which supports the season-ending nature of the injury or illness, and includes the following information:

- Name of the patient;

- Date(s) the patient was seen by the M.D./D.O.
- Detailed diagnosis of the injury or illness;
- Plan of treatment; and
- Projected recovery time.

*Documentation completed by any other health care provider must be signed by their supervising M.D./D.O.

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, December 6, 2024

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

c. Article VI, Section 1.D.1 - Permissible Cancellation of Aid

SUBMITTED BY: NJCAA Eligibility Committee

RATIONALE

The new D.1.c provides the member college with the ability to act when a student-athletes chooses not to participate (i.e., quits) at any point during the year, and without the NJCAA National Office having to become involved in what is an institutional matter.

D.1.e is being relocated from Article VI, Section 2.D.2.

CURRENT

D.1. Permissible Cancellation of Aid: Aid may be cancelled under the following circumstances:

- D.1.a. The student-athlete becomes academically ineligible based upon academic progress requirements of Article V Section 2.d; OR
- D.1.b. The student-athlete is determined by member institution’s general disciplinary authority, following standard college procedures, to have committed serious misconduct unrelated to athletic ability which warrants permanent suspension or dismissal from athletic program; OR
- D.1.c. The student-athlete voluntarily withdraws from a sport prior to the institution’s first competition in that sport; OR
- D.1.d. The student-athlete graduates.

RECOMMENDATION

D.1. Permissible Cancellation of Aid: Aid may be cancelled under the following circumstances:

- D.1.a. The student-athlete becomes academically ineligible based upon academic progress requirements of Article V Section 2.d; OR
- D.1.b. The student-athlete is determined by member institution’s general disciplinary authority, following standard college procedures, to have committed serious misconduct unrelated

to athletic ability which warrants permanent suspension or dismissal from athletic program; OR

D.1.c. The student-athlete chooses not to participate in their respective sport at any point during the academic year OR

D.1.d. The student-athlete graduates.

D.1.e. The student-athlete signs a Letter of Intent with a non-member college or university.

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, December 6, 2024

AMENDED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, February 14, 2025

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

Jeff Willis asks if a second-year student-athlete's aid could be cancelled after signing an LOI with a 4-year institution for the following academic year.

- This typically occurs when a student-athlete has signed the LOI before attending or enrolling with an NJCAA member school.
- The purpose of the proposal is to align the bylaw with what is actually happening.
- There are student-athletes who move on after the fall semester to get involved with the 4-year school.

d. Article VI, Section 2.C.1.b

SUBMITTED BY: NJCAA Eligibility Committee

RATIONALE

Because of the continuity between allowable reasons for cancelling aid and the release agreement, the same two items being introduced in Proposal 3 are mirrored in Proposal 4.

CURRENT

C.1.b. The student-athlete's signature is NOT required under the following conditions:

- i. The student-athlete fails to enroll at the member college, OR
- ii. The student-athlete loses academic eligibility, OR
- iii. The student-athlete graduates from the member college, OR
- iv. The student-athlete withdraws from the member college, OR
- vi. The student-athlete is disciplined by the campus authority responsible for campus discipline, and not related to athletic performance or team violations.

RECOMMENDATION

C.1.b. The student-athlete's signature is NOT required under the following conditions:

- i. The student-athlete fails to enroll at the member college, OR
- ii. The student-athlete loses academic eligibility, OR
- iii. The student-athlete graduates from the member college, OR
- iv. The student-athlete withdraws from the member college, OR
- v. The student-athlete chooses not to participate in their respective sport at any point during the academic year, OR
- vii. The student-athlete signs a Letter of Intent with a non-member college or university.
- vi. The student-athlete is disciplined by the campus authority responsible for campus discipline, and not related to athletic performance or team violations.

SUBMITTED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, December 6, 2024

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, February 14, 2025

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

e. Article V, Section 4.A.3 – Amateur Status of NJCAA Student-Athletes

SUBMITTED BY: Region 8

RATIONALE

In response to the continuously changing landscape in intercollegiate athletics, adjusting the current age 19 requirement to age 20 should result in an increase in opportunities for NJCAA participation while protecting amateur status.

CURRENT

“An athlete must maintain amateur status at all times once they reach their 19th birthday or initially enroll as a full-time student in college, whichever comes first. They must maintain their amateur status until their NJCAA eligibility in a sport is exhausted.”

RECOMMENDATION

“An athlete must maintain amateur status at all times once they reach their 20th birthday or initially enroll as a full-time student in college, whichever comes first. They must maintain their amateur status until their NJCAA eligibility in a sport is exhausted.”

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility and Sport Governance Committees, October 9, 2024

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

f. Article V, Section 4.C.1 – Amateur Status of NJCAA Student-Athletes

SUBMITTED BY: Region 8

RATIONALE

In response to the continuously changing landscape in intercollegiate athletics, adjusting the current age 19 requirement to age 20 should result in an increase in opportunities for NJCAA participation while protecting amateur status.

CURRENT

“An athlete will lose amateur status and shall be deemed permanently ineligible for participation in a NJCAA certified sport if any of the following criteria applies once the athlete reaches their 19th birthday or once they enroll in college as a full-time student, whichever comes first).”

RECOMMENDATION

“An athlete will lose amateur status and shall be deemed permanently ineligible for participation in a NJCAA certified sport if any of the following criteria applies once the athlete reaches their 20th birthday or once they enroll in college as a full-time student, whichever comes first).”

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility and Sport Governance Committees, October 9, 2024

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

g. New Policy – Force Majeure Clause

SUBMITTED BY: NJCAA National Office

RATIONALE

To provide a clearly-defined path for a member college whose season cannot be completed due to what is considered a “Force Majeure” event.

CURRENT

Language does not currently exist.

RECOMMENDATION

Force Majeure: In the event that an NJCAA member institution is unable to complete their season in any sport because of any Act of God, pandemic (e.g. COVID-19), strike, fire, flood, governmental acts, orders or restrictions, or any other reason where failure to participate is beyond the reasonable control and not

caused by the negligence of the NJCAA member institution (a “Force Majeure Event”), the NJCAA member institution may file an appeal, subject to the requirements set forth in Article VIII of the NJCAA Bylaws, seeking to not count the season as a season of participation for student-athletes. In the event of denial, the appeal fee will be collected from the member institution.

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, October 10, 2024

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

h. Article V, Section 2.D – Academic Progress Eligibility

SUBMITTED BY: NJCAA Eligibility Committee

RATIONALE

The Eligibility Committee has continued to evaluate the new minimum academic requirements approved by the BOR in April 2023. One item we have determined could be labeled an “unintended consequence” is the requirement for a student-athlete to hit the final accumulation number on the grid AND pass 12 @ 2.0 in the previous FT term (by definition, the previous FT term could have been one in which the SA was enrolled in less than 12 hours).

In light of this and in response to several cases that have been brought forward during the 2024-25 academic year, the Eligibility Committee believes it is appropriate to “extend” the academic grid at the same “pace” and remove the caveat for SAs who were using either FT enrollment exceptions.

Below are the recommended grid extensions for semester, quarter and trimester.

NOTE: Trimester grid currently exists but is not published in the by-laws. The recommendation includes adding that grid to the by-laws alongside the semester grid and quarter grid.

SEMESTER ACADEMIC GRID

CURRENT

Number of Previous FT Semesters	Accumulated Credits Required	Overall GPA Required	Notes
0	0	X	Must meet all eligibility requirements
1	6	2.00	GPA based on the accumulated credits utilized to meet requirement
2	24	2.00	
3	33	2.00	
4	48	2.00	
5	57	2.00	
6+	57	2.00	Must also earn 12 credits with a 2.00 GPA during previous full-time term.**

** Student-athletes that utilized Article V, Section 2.C.2.c or C.2.c.i in their previous term are not required to meet the 12 credits in their previous term.

RECOMMENDATION

Number of Previous FT Semesters	Accumulated Credits Required at min. 2.0 GPA	Notes
0	0	Must meet all eligibility requirements
1	6	GPA based on the accumulated credits utilized to meet requirement
2	24	
3	33	
4	48	
5	57	
6	72	
7	81	
8	96	
9	105	
10+	120	

**** Student athletes that utilized Article V, Section 2.C.2.c or C.2.c.i in their previous term are not required to meet the 12 credits in their previous term.**

QUARTER ACADEMIC GRID

CURRENT

Number of Previous FT Quarters	Accumulated Credits Required	Overall GPA Required	Notes
0	0	X	Must meet all eligibility requirements
1	9	2.00	GPA based on the accumulated credits utilized to meet requirement
2	21	2.00	
3	36	2.00	
4	46	2.00	
5	56	2.00	
6	72	2.00	
7	82	2.00	
8+	82	2.00	Must also earn 12 credits with a 2.00 GPA during previous full-time term.**

** Student-athletes that utilized Article V, Section 2.C.2.c or C.2.c.i in their previous term are not required to meet the 12 credits in their previous term.

RECOMMENDATION

Number of Previous FT Quarters	Accumulated Credits Required at min. 2.0 GPA	Notes
0	0	Must meet all eligibility requirements

1	9	GPA based on the accumulated credits utilized to meet requirement
2	21	
3	36	
4	46	
5	56	
6	72	
7	82	
8	92	
9	108	
10	118	
11	128	
12+	144	

**** Student athletes that utilized Article V, Section 2.C.2.c or C.2.c.i in their previous term are not required to meet the 12 credits in their previous term.**

TRIMESTER ACADEMIC GRID

CURRENT

Number of Previous FT Trimesters	Accumulated Credits Required	Overall GPA Required	Notes
0	0	X	Must meet all eligibility requirements
1	6	2.00	GPA based on the accumulated credits utilized to meet requirement
2	16	2.00	
3	24	2.00	
4	32	2.00	
5	40	2.00	
6	48	2.00	
7	48	2.00	Must also earn 8 credits with a 2.00 GPA during previous full-time term. **

RECOMMENDATION

Number of Previous FT Tri-Mesters	Accumulated Credits Required at min. 2.0 GPA	Notes
0	0	Must meet all eligibility requirements
1	6	GPA based on the accumulated credits utilized to meet requirement
2	16	
3	24	
4	32	
5	40	
6	48	

7	56	
8	64	
9	72	
10	80	
11	88	
12+	96	

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, October 9, 2024

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

i. Article VI, Section 2.F – Simulated Letter of Signing

SUBMITTED BY: NJCAA Eligibility Committee

RATIONALE

At the request of the Sport Governance Committee, the Eligibility Committee drafted language allowing the member college to provide school apparel for the purpose of a student-athlete’s official signing of a NJCAA Letter-of-Intent.

In doing so, that led to creating a “Publicity” section for Prior/After the signing of the NLI and specifically what is permissible/impermissible prior to signing. This also incorporates the “simulated LOI” language that had no real home in by-laws.

For clarity, due to the majority of NLI’s being signed electronically via the NJCAA Admin Portal, the application of the by-law is literally based on whether the student has signed the LOI, whether electronic or hard copy.

CURRENT

No member of the college coaching staff or representative of the member college's athletic interest may take part in or originate any event or make any statement implying that a student-athlete has signed an NJCAA Letter of Intent, including but not limited to, pictures and/or articles appearing in news and/or social media.

RECOMMENDATION

E. Publicity

a. Prior to Signing an NJCAA Letter-of-Intent

i. Permissible Activities

1. A member college may publicly confirm its recruitment of the prospective student-athlete.
2. A member college may provide one headgear item and/or one apparel item (excluding footwear) for a prospective student-athlete’s official signing of a NJCAA Letter-of-Intent.

ii. Impermissible Activities

1. A coach or representative of the member college’s athletic interest cannot be present when a prospective student-athlete signs an NJCAA Letter-of-Intent off-campus.

2. A coach or representative of the member college's athletic interest cannot deliver the National Letter-of-Intent to the prospective student-athlete off-campus.
 3. A coach or representative of the member college's athletic interest cannot make any statement implying that a prospective student-athlete has signed an NJCAA Letter-of-Intent or gives the appearance that a prospective student-athlete is signing an NJCAA Letter-of-Intent, including but not limited to pictures and/or articles appearing in print and/or digital and/or social media.
- b. After Signing an NJCAA Letter-of-Intent
- i. There are no restrictions on publicity after the prospective student-athlete has signed an NJCAA Letter-of-Intent.

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, January 10, 2025

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

For clarity, due to the majority of LOIs being signed electronically in the Admin Portal, the application is whether the student-athlete has signed it electronically or via hard copy.

The language breaks it up between "prior to signing an NJCAA Letter of Intent" and after.

- Mike Saddler believes the language is consistent with NCAA regulations.

j. Article V, Section 3.B.4.a-b - Eligibility Roster Violations

SUBMITTED BY: NJCAA Eligibility Committee

RATIONALE

The current language was approved by the BOR in April 2024, however, after numerous violations and several appeals, we felt it was appropriate to make the penalty more punitive on the member college as opposed to the student-athlete. Thus, the forfeiture of games was removed in lieu of an escalating fine. Because the mandatory audit remains in place, that process will determine if a student-athlete is ineligible which, by definition, results in a forfeit. All processes related to eligibility must be prioritized and the consequence for non-compliance must be stiff.

CURRENT

B.4. Penalties for Participating Prior to Being Submitted on an Eligibility Roster

B.4.a. First Offense by the Member College (within the current academic year)

B.4.a.i. Letter of reprimand to the college's Athletic Director and President (Chief Executive Officer).

B.4.a.ii. Forfeiture of games played prior to participant(s) being submitted on an Eligibility Roster.

B.4.a.iii. Mandatory eligibility audit of the sport in violation.

- B.4.b. Second Offense by the Member College (within the current academic year)
 - B.4.b.i. Letter of reprimand to the college's Athletic Director and President (Chief Executive Officer).
 - B.4.b.ii. Forfeiture of games played prior to participant(s) being submitted on an Eligibility Roster.
 - B.4.b.iii. Mandatory eligibility audit of all sports continuing through the following academic year.
- B.4.c. For any additional offense within the current academic year, the Member College will be charged a \$1000 fine (for a mandatory appeal) and must go before the NJCAA Appeals Committee, with sanctions up to a postseason ban.

RECOMMENDATION

B.4. Penalties for Participating Prior to Being Submitted on an Eligibility Roster

- B.4.a. First Offense by the Member College (within the current academic year)
 - B.4.a.i. Letter of reprimand to the college's Athletic Director and President (Chief Executive Officer).
 - B.4.a.ii. The member college will be charged a \$1000 fine.
 - B.4.a.iii. Mandatory eligibility audit of the sport in violation.
- B.4.b. Second Offense by the Member College (within the current academic year)
 - B.4.b.i. Letter of reprimand to the college's Athletic Director and President (Chief Executive Officer).
 - B.4.b.ii. The member college will be charged a \$1500 fine.
 - B.4.b.iii. Mandatory eligibility audit of the sport in violation.
 - B.4.b.iv. Mandatory eligibility audit of all sports continuing through the following academic year.
- B.4.c. For any additional offense within the current academic year, the Member College will be charged a \$2000 fine and must go before the NJCAA Appeals Committee, with sanctions up to a postseason ban.

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, February 14, 2025

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

Replaces immediate forfeiture of games with a fine structure. This will hopefully decrease the lack of appeals for failure to submit eligibility rosters.

With most appeals, the appealing party admits to not following the process, but the majority of them want their forfeited games back.

k. Article V, Section 3.B.6.h-i – Eligibility Audit Penalties

SUBMITTED BY: NJCAA Eligibility Committee

RATIONALE

The current language was approved by the BOR in April 2024, however, to be consistent with Proposal 10, the Eligibility Committee is recommending forfeiture of games for first late offense be replaced by a

fine. Again, the mandatory audit will determine if anyone is ineligible which, subsequently, results in forfeits.

For a second late offense, a fine replaces an automatic forfeit, but all student-athletes are declared ineligible temporarily; the mandatory audit will re-instate any who are cleared. If any are not cleared, then forfeits become part of the penalty.

CURRENT

H. Audit Penalties

- a. Failed to Clear
 - i. Student-athlete(s) in violation will be declared immediately ineligible.
 - ii. Forfeiture of game(s) in which ineligible student-athlete(s) participated.
 - a. Member college may file an appeal requesting further review.
- b. Late
 - i. First offense by a member college (within the current academic year)
 - a. Letter of reprimand to college's Athletic Director and President (Chief Executive officer)
 - b. Mandatory audit of all sports for the remainder of the current academic year
 - c. Forfeiture of all games played.
 - d. Student-athletes on the member college's team under review will be declared immediately ineligible.
 - 1. Member college may file an appeal, requesting review.
 - ii. Second offense by a member college (within the current academic year)
 - a. Letter of reprimand to college's Athletic Director and President (Chief Executive Officer)
 - b. Mandatory audit of all sports continuing through the following academic year
 - c. Forfeiture of all games played.
 - d. Student-athletes on the member college's team under review will be declared immediately ineligible and will not be eligible for postseason awards.
 - e. Further sanctions as deemed appropriate by the NJCAA Board of Regents, up to being declared a member not in good standing.

RECOMMENDATION

H. Audit Penalties

- a. Failed to Clear
 - i. Student-athlete(s) in violation will be declared immediately ineligible.
 - ii. Forfeiture of game(s) in which ineligible student-athlete(s) participated.
 - 1. Member college may file an appeal requesting further review.
- b. Late
 - i. First offense by a member college (within the current academic year)
 - 1. Letter of reprimand to college's Athletic Director and President (Chief Executive officer)
 - 2. Mandatory eligibility audit of the sport in violation.
 - 3. Mandatory eligibility audit of all sports for the remainder of the current academic year.
 - 4. The member college will be charged a \$1500 fine.
 - 5. ~~Student-athletes on the member college's team under review will be declared immediately ineligible.~~
 - a. ~~Member college may file an appeal, requesting review.~~
 - ii. Second offense by a member college (within the current academic year)
 - 1. Letter of reprimand to college's Athletic Director and President (Chief Executive Officer)

2. Student-athletes on the member college's team under review will be declared immediately ineligible and will not be eligible for postseason awards.
3. Mandatory eligibility audit of the sport in violation.
 - a. Any student-athlete who clears the audit may have their eligibility re-instated.
4. Mandatory eligibility audit of all sports continuing through the following academic year
5. The member college will be charged a \$2000 fine.
6. Further sanctions as deemed appropriate by the NJCAA Board of Regents, up to being declared a member not in good standing.

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, February 14, 2025

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

I. Article VI, Section 2.D – Multiple Letters of Intent & Enrollment at Alternate Member College

SUBMITTED BY: NJCAA Eligibility Committee

RATIONALE

- This proposal is more housekeeping than anything.
- Current D.1 is relocated to Article VI, Section 2.A
- Current D.2 is proposed to be relocated (Proposals 3 & 4).
- Current D.3 and the NOTE are stricken, as they are repetitive.

CURRENT

D. Multiple Letters of Intent & Enrollment at Alternate Member College:

D.1. Multiple Signed NJCAA Letters of Intent: If more than one NJCAA Letter of Intent is signed prior to the execution of a Release Agreement the student-athlete will immediately become ineligible to compete for one academic year.

D.2. Non-Member Letters of Intent: The NJCAA Letter of Intent may be voided if the student-athlete signs a Letter of Intent with a non-member college.

D.3. The NJCAA Release Agreement must be electronically submitted to the NJCAA Letter of Intent System for a student-athlete to become immediately recruitable. The student-athlete may continue to receive their aid once released if an agreement is made between the student-athlete and the NJCAA member college.

NOTE: The student-athlete may continue to receive their aid once released if an agreement is made between the student-athlete and the NJCAA member college.

RECOMMENDATION

~~D. Multiple Letters of Intent & Enrollment at Alternate Member College:~~

D.1. Multiple Signed NJCAA Letters of Intent: If more than one NJCAA Letter of Intent is signed **with separate NJCAA institutions**, prior to the execution of a Release Agreement, the student-athlete will

immediately become ineligible to compete for one academic year. (recommend moving to Article VI, Section 2.A. – General Information & Definitions)

~~D.2. Non-Member Letters of Intent: The NJCAA Letter of Intent may be voided if the student-athlete signs a Letter of Intent with a non-member college. (recommend adding to Article VI, Section 1.D.1 and Article VI, Section 2.C~~

~~D.3. The NJCAA Release Agreement must be electronically submitted to the NJCAA Letter of Intent System for a student-athlete to become immediately recruitable. (DELETE - repeated in Article VI, Section 2.C.2)~~

~~NOTE: The student-athlete may continue to receive their aid once released if an agreement is made between the student-athlete and the NJCAA member college. (DELETE - repeated in Article VI, Section 2.C.2.b)~~

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, February 14, 2025

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, March 7, 2025

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

m. Article V, Section 3.B.6.a.iv – Random Audits

RATIONALE

Due to the increase in the number of mandatory audits, this provides the NJCAA National Office with some flexibility in the number of random audits conducted during the academic year

CURRENT

Random audits are conducted throughout the academic year by the NJCAA National Office. Five percent (5%) of the programs in each certified sport are selected annually; 20% of the participants on the member college's team are randomly selected for review. If a student-athlete in the 20% is found to be ineligible, then 100% of the participants on the member college's team are reviewed.

RECOMMENDATION

Random audits are conducted throughout the academic year by the NJCAA National Office. **Up to** five percent (5%) of the programs in each certified sport are **randomly** selected annually; 20% of the participants on the member college's team are randomly selected for review. If a student-athlete in the 20% is found to be ineligible, then 100% of the participants on the member college's team are reviewed.

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, February 14, 2025

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

This will provide the National Office with flexibility for random audits. The language is revised to read, "...up to 5%".

n. Article V, Section 2.C.2.b – Mid Term-Enrollment

SUBMITTED BY: NJCAA Eligibility Committee

RATIONALE

To better explain the intent of this by-law, the Eligibility Committee is recommending renaming the section from “Mid-Term Enrollment” to “Enrollment Requirement for Two-Term Sports.”

CURRENT

C.2.b. Mid-Term Enrollment:

- C.2.b.i. Student-athletes who are not enrolled full-time at the college of participation when the regular season schedule of the sport of participation begins shall remain ineligible throughout the season schedule, unless the student-athlete enrolls on the first possible enrollment date after one of the following:
 - C.2.b.i.a. Their release from Active Armed Services of the United States with a discharge other than dishonorable.
 - C.2.b.i.b. Their return from an official church sanctioned religious mission.
 - C.2.b.i.c. Their graduation from a high school or receipt of a state department of education approved equivalency diploma.
 - C.2.b.i.d. Their transfer from a college or university which has permanently ceased competition in that sport after the school year begins.
- C.2.b.ii. Mid-Term Enrollment Exceptions: Student-athletes who meet one of the four exceptions of (Article V, Section 2.C.2.b.i) shall become eligible at the first possible enrollment date following the approved exception.

RECOMMENDATION

C.2.b. **Enrollment Requirement for Two-Term Sports**

- C.2.b.i. Student-athletes who are not enrolled full-time at the college of participation when the regular season schedule of the sport of participation begins shall remain ineligible throughout the season schedule, unless the student-athlete enrolls on the first possible enrollment date after one of the following:
 - C.2.b.i.a. Their release from Active Armed Services of the United States with a discharge other than dishonorable.
 - C.2.b.i.b. Their return from an official church sanctioned religious mission.
 - C.2.b.i.c. Their graduation from a high school or receipt of a state department of education approved equivalency diploma.
 - C.2.b.i.d. Their transfer from a college or university which has permanently ceased competition in that sport after the school year begins.
- C.2.b.ii. **Enrollment Exceptions for Two-Term Sports:** Student-athletes who meet one of the four exceptions of (Article V, Section 2.C.2.b.i) shall become eligible at the first possible enrollment date following the approved exception.

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, February 14, 2025

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

Title of the bylaw is being changed to “Enrollment Requirement for Two-Term Sports”

- Rob Nielsen is not clear on what the first possible enrollment date is.
 - Based on enrollment eligibility rules, if they are not enrolled at least part-time by the 18th calendar day, they would have to be enrolled the next term.

C.2.b.ii will be changed to “Enrollment Exceptions for Two-Term Sports”

o. Article V, Section 2.C.6 – Post-Season Enrollment Verification

SUBMITTED BY: NJCAA Eligibility Committee

RATIONALE

- To expand this practice to Region Tournaments, which is part of “postseason.”
- Remove the reference to “full-time status” and emphasize meeting the proper enrollment requirements of Article V, Section 2.C, which can include PT enrollment.
- Remove the requirement for written verification and any signature requirements, knowing this step is more common completed through electronic or web-based reports, and member colleges were not doing with the written/signed verification. If a question arises, the member college will be asked to demonstrate this step was completed.

CURRENT

C.6. Postseason Enrollment Verification: Student-athlete enrollment should be verified 24 hours prior to National Championship/Bowl competition. If a student has maintained and is currently enrolled in full-time status which meets the requirements of Article V, Section 2.C.2, or meets the enrollment requirements for Article V, Section 2.C.2.c or C.2.c.I; 24 hours prior to National Championship/Bowl competition he/she will remain eligible throughout the National Championship/Bowl competition.

C.6.a. Written verification is required and must be signed and dated by the Athletic Director and Registrar.

RECOMMENDATION

C.6. Postseason Enrollment Verification: Student-athlete enrollment **must** be verified 24 hours prior to **the start of each level of postseason competition (Region, District and National Championships), including Football Bowls.** If a student-athlete has maintained the proper enrollment requirements of Article V, Section 2.C, they will remain eligible throughout that level of postseason competition, including **Football Bowls.**

~~C.6.a. Written Verification is required and must be signed and dated by the Athletic Director and Registrar.~~

APPROVED

NJCAA Eligibility Committee, March 7, 2025

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 2025

Other items approved by the Eligibility Committee in 2024-25:

- The EC supports the recommendation from the Sport Governance Committee to establish separate handbooks for Scholarship (DI & DII) and Non-Scholarship (DIII).
- The EC has asked the Tiered Sanctions Subcommittee with reviewing Articles V, VI and VII for additional by-laws that may need points assigned and identified in the printed copy; and a review of the current point structure. Recommendation also includes adding this to the Policy Manual as an annual requirement.
- The EC has asked the NJCAA National Office to develop a required “certification” course for athletic administrators. This is, in part, in response to the number of careless mistakes that are resulting in violations, forfeitures, appeals, etc.

Proposals Not Supported by the Eligibility Committee

- Article V, Section 2.C. (Mid-Term Enrollment) – Submitted by Region 4
 - This proposal died on the floor due to the lack of a motion. This was more so because the Eligibility Committee has spent considerable time on this topic throughout the 2024-25 academic year without reaching a consensus on how to move forward. Discussion will continue into the 2025-26 academic year.

7. Good of the Order

Kurt Kohler proposes an 18-Month Exception topic for discussion. Wanda Bodey responds that hardship could not be approved because there is no bylaw to support it. However, that would allow it to be appealed. Kurt Kohler feels that there should be some exception for a student who returns after a break of 10 years or more and wants to compete.

8. Next meeting: April 16, 10 AM, Denton, TX

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Rob Chaney at 1:31 EST.