

NCAA Rules Regulations: Exempt Tournaments and Conference Challenge Events

17.3.3 First Contest. A member institution shall not play its first contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition in basketball before the second Friday of November, except as provided under Bylaw 17.3.3.1.

17.3.3.1 Exceptions. The following basketball contests (games or scrimmages) may be played at any time during the basketball playing and practice season:

- (a) Alumni game [see Bylaw 17.3.6.3-(d)]; *(Adopted: 1/14/12 effective 8/1/12)*
- (b) Fundraising activity [see Bylaw 17.3.6.3-(e)]; *(Adopted: 1/14/12 effective 8/1/12)*
- (c) Celebrity sports activity [see Bylaw 17.3.6.3-(f)]; and *(Adopted: 1/14/12 effective 8/1/12)*
- (d) Discretionary exemptions (see Bylaw 17.3.6.4).

17.3.3.2 Exceptions – Preseason Events. The following basketball games may be played on or after November 1: *(Adopted: 1/14/12 effective 8/1/12)*

- (a) The Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic;
- (b) One game against a foreign team in Canada; and
- (c) Games in the Division II Tip-Off Classic.
 - (1) Games in the Division II Tip-Off Classic may be played beginning on the Friday immediately preceding November 1 in calendar years when November 1 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday.

17.3.6.3 Annual Exemptions. The following basketball contests each year may be exempted from an institution's maximum number of contests:

- (a) **Conference Championship.** Competition in one conference championship tournament or playoff;
- (b) **Independents Championship.** Competition in one championship meet or tournament among independent member institutions that are not members of an intercollegiate athletics conference in all sports, or for a specific sport that is not part of a conference, conducted at the end of the championship segment and prior to the NCAA championship;
- (c) **Season-Ending Tournament.** Competition in one season-ending tournament (e.g., NCAA championship, NAIA championship). A season-ending tournament involves competition after the end of the regular season between teams that are not identified until the close of the regular season;
- (d) **Alumni Game.** One contest with an alumni team of the institution;
- (e) **Fundraising Activity.** Any activities in which student-athletes from more than one of the institution's athletics teams participate (or in individual sports per Bylaw 17.02.15.2, in which team members of that sport participate) with and against alumni and friends of the institution, the purpose of which is to raise funds to benefit the institution's athletics or other programs, provided the student-athletes do not miss class as a result of their participation (see Bylaw 12.5.1.1);
- (f) **Celebrity Sports Activity.** Competition involving a maximum of two student-athletes from a member institution's team who participate in local celebrity activities in

basketball conducted for the purpose of raising funds for charitable organizations, provided:

- (1) The student-athletes do not miss class as a result of the participation; and
- (2) The involvement of the student-athletes has the approval of the institution's athletics director;
- (g) **Tip-Off Classic.** Games in the Division II Tip-Off Classic; and
- (h) **U.S. National Team.** One date of competition against a U.S. national team as selected by the appropriate national governing body in that sport.

17.3.6.4 Discretionary Exemptions. The following may be exempted from an institution's maximum number of contests in basketball each year. An institution may exempt not more than three from this list annually:

- (a) **Foreign Team in United States.** A contest against a foreign team in the United States played in the facility in which the member institution regularly plays its home contests;
- (b) **USA Club Team.** A contest against a "club" member of USA Basketball played in the facility in which the member institution regularly plays its home contests;
- (c) **Non-Division II Four-Year Collegiate Institution.** An exhibition contest against a non-Division II four-year collegiate institution; or *(Revised: 1/14/12 effective 8/1/12)*
- (d) **Scrimmages.** A scrimmage with outside competition provided the scrimmage is conducted without official scoring.

17.3.6.5 Once-in-Three-Years Exemption – Conference Challenge Event. Once every three years, an institution may exempt a maximum of two contests played as part of a conference challenge event.

17.3.6.5.1 Conference Challenge Event. A conference challenge event is one in which:

- (a) Two or more conferences from the same region organize contests between their members;
- (b) Contests occur on the weekend immediately after the first permissible contest date; and
- (c) Competition may occur at one or more site.

17.3.6.6 Once-in-Four-Years Exemption – Foreign Tours. An institution may exempt the contests played on a foreign tour, provided the tour occurs only once in a four-year period and is conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in Bylaw 17.28.

17.3.6.7 Once-in-Four-Years Exemption – Contests in Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico or Canada. Once every four years, an institution may exempt from its maximum contest limits a maximum of four contests during a single trip to Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico or Canada, either against or under the sponsorship of an active member institution located in Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico or Canada, by a member institution located outside the area in question.