participation (practice and competition) in all intercollegiate athletics. *(Adopted: 1/10/92 effective 8/1/92, Revised: 1/16/93, 1/10/95 effective 8/1/95, 1/14/97, 4/24/03, 8/5/04, 11/1/07 effective 8/1/08, 7/30/10, 8/7/14, 10/4/17, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25, 8/5/25 effective 9/1/25)*

12.5.3.2 Administration. The following procedures shall be used in administering the form (see Bylaw 20.2.4.8): *(Adopted: 1/10/92 effective 8/1/92, Revised: 4/27/00, 7/30/10, 7/31/14, 1/23/19, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*

(a) The consent form shall be administered individually to each student-athlete by the athletics director or the athletics director's designee each academic year; and

(b) The athletics director or the athletics director's designee shall disseminate the list of banned drug classes to all student-athletes and educate them about products that might contain banned drugs. All student-athletes are to be notified that the list may change during the academic year, that updates may be found on the NCAA website (www.ncaa.org) and informed of the appropriate athletics department procedures for disseminating updates to the list; and

(c) The consent form shall be available for examination upon request by an authorized representative of the NCAA.

12.5.3.3 Exception -- 14-Day Grace Period. A student-athlete who is "trying out" for a team is not required to complete the form until 14 days from the first date the student-athlete engages in countable athletically related activities or before the student-athlete participates in a competition, whichever occurs earlier. *(Adopted: 4/27/06 effective 8/1/06, Revised: 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*

12.5.3.4 Effect of Violation. A violation of Bylaw 12.5.3 or its subsections shall be considered institutional violations per Bylaw 8.01.3; however, a violation shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility, provided the student-athlete signs the consent form. *(Revised: 4/28/05 effective 8/1/05, 7/30/10, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*

12.5.4 Student-Athlete Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Authorization/ Buckley Amendment Consent Form -- Disclosure of Protected Health Information. *(Revised: 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*

12.5.4.1 Content and Purpose. Each academic year, a student-athlete may voluntarily sign a statement in a form maintained by the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports in which the student-athlete authorizes/consents to the institution's physicians, athletics directors and health care personnel to disclose the student-athlete's injury/illness and participation information associated with the student-athlete's training and participation in intercollegiate athletics to the NCAA and to its Injury Surveillance Program (ISP), agents and employees for the purpose of conducting research into the reduction of athletics injuries. The authorization/consent by the student-athlete is voluntary and is not required for the student-athlete to be eligible to participate. **[D]** *(Adopted: 4/24/03, Revised: 8/7/03 effective 8/1/04, 11/1/07 effective 8/1/08, 8/7/14, 10/4/17, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25, 8/5/25 effective 9/1/25)*

12.5.4.2 Administration. The following procedures shall be used in administering the form: **[D]** *(Adopted: 4/24/03, Revised: 8/7/03 effective 8/1/04, 7/30/10, 1/23/19, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*

(a) The authorization/consent form shall be administered individually to each student-athlete by the athletics director or the athletics director's designee before the student-athlete's participation in intercollegiate athletics each academic year.

(b) Signing the authorization/consent shall be voluntary and is not required by the student-athlete's institution for medical treatment, payment for treatment, enrollment in a health plan or for any benefits (if applicable) and is not required for the student-athlete to be eligible to participate.

12.5.5 Eligibility Requirements for Male Students to Practice With Women's Teams. A male student may engage in practice sessions with women's teams subject to the following conditions: *(Revised: 5/12/05, 5/29/08, 7/31/14, 4/26/17, 7/31/23, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*

(a) A male student who practices with an institution's women's team must be verified as eligible for practice in accordance with Bylaw 14.2.1 and must have eligibility remaining under the five-year rule (see Bylaw 12.6.1);

(b) It is not permissible for a recruited male student-athlete who is serving an academic year of residence as a nonqualifier to participate in practice sessions with a women's team. A nonrecruited male student who is serving an academic year of residence as a nonqualifier may participate in practice sessions with a women's team; and

(c) A male student who practices with an institution's women's basketball team may participate in required summer athletic activities, provided the student was enrolled full time at the conclusion of the regular academic term (e.g., spring semester or quarter) immediately preceding the institution's summer term.

12.6 Five-Year Period of Eligibility. An individual's period of eligibility for practice and competition shall be limited to five years. An individual's five-year period of eligibility begins with the earlier of the following: *(Revised: 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25, 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

(a) The regular academic term (semester or quarter) of an academic year in which the individual enrolls in a collegiate institution (domestic or foreign; see Bylaw 14.02.4) in a minimum full-time program of studies and attends a class in that term while enrolled full time; or

(b) The beginning of the regular academic year immediately after the individual's 19th birthday.

12.6.1 Timing of 19th Birthday. For an individual who turns 19 years old on or after September 1, the period of eligibility begins at the start of the subsequent academic year, unless the individual enrolls full time in a collegiate institution earlier. *(Adopted: 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

12.6.2 Athletics Competition. Even though an individual is enrolled in less than a minimum full-time program of studies at a collegiate institution, the individual's five-year period of eligibility begins if the individual represents the institution in intercollegiate athletics competition. *(Revised: 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25, 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

12.6.3 Nonrecognized College. Enrollment in a postsecondary, noncollegiate institution (e.g., technical school, seminary or business college) in the United States that is not accredited at the college level by an agency or association recognized by the secretary of the Department of Education and legally authorized to offer at least a one-year program of study creditable toward a degree, constitutes enrollment in the application of the five-year period only if: *(Revised: 1/10/90, 8/8/02, 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25, 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

(a) The student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies at such an institution that conducts an intercollegiate athletics program; or

(b) The student, whether enrolled for a minimum full-time program of studies or not, represents the institution in intercollegiate athletics.

12.6.4 Joint College/High School Program. An individual's five-year period of eligibility does not begin while the individual is enrolled in a collegiate institution in a joint high school/college academic program for high school students in which the courses count as both high school graduation credit and college credit, provided the individual has not officially graduated from high school and does not participate in intercollegiate athletics while enrolled in the joint program. *(Revised: 11/1/01 effective 8/1/02, 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25, 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

12.6.5 Vocational Program. A student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility does not begin while the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies as a part of a special vocational program that combines enrollment in regular college courses and participation in vocational training courses, provided the student is not considered to be regularly matriculated by the institution, does not go through the customary registration and testing procedures required of all regular entering students and is not eligible for the institution's extracurricular activities, including athletics. *(Revised: 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25, 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

12.6.6 Service Exceptions. Time spent in the armed services, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government is excepted from the application of the five-year period of eligibility. Among such services that qualify for an exception are: *(Revised: 4/2/10, 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25, 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

(a) Military Sea Transport Service;

(b) Peace Corps; or

(c) Service as a conscientious objector ordered by the Selective Service Commission (or the equivalent authority in a foreign nation) in lieu of active military duty.

12.6.6.1 Elapsed Time/Service to Enrollment. If a student-athlete enrolls in a regular term of a collegiate institution at the first opportunity following completion of one of the service exceptions, the elapsed time (the exact number of calendar days) between completion of the service and the first opportunity for enrollment may be added to the exact number of days served on active duty in the armed services, with foreign aid services or on official religious missions and will not count toward the student-athlete's five years of eligibility. It is not permissible to extend the five-year period by any additional time beyond the first opportunity to enroll (the opening day of classes of the first regular term at the institution in which the student-athlete enrolls as a regular student immediately following the termination of the active-duty commitment). *(Revised: 4/2/10, 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25, 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

12.6.6.2 Collegiate Enrollment Concurrent With Service Assignment. Any time in which a student-athlete is enrolled for a minimum full-time load as a regular student in a collegiate institution while simultaneously on active duty in the U.S. military, on an official religious mission or with a recognized foreign aid service of the U.S. government shall count against the student-athlete's period of eligibility. *(Revised: 4/2/10, 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25, 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

12.6.6.3 Organized Competition During Service Assignment. If an individual participates in organized competition (see Bylaw 12.02.6) at any time during a service assignment, none of the time spent in the service assignment shall be excepted from the individual's five-year period of eligibility. *(Adopted: 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

12.6.6.3.1 Low-level and Minimally Organized Competition. A student-athlete may be granted relief from the application of Bylaw 12.6.6.3 in the athletics eligibility certification process for participation that meets the definition of organized competition but is determined to be low-level or minimally organized competition. *(Adopted: 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

12.6.7 Pregnancy Exception. A female student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility may be extended for reasons of pregnancy based on the period in which the student-athlete is unable to participate (practice or compete) in intercollegiate athletics, as supported by contemporaneous medical documentation. *(Revised: 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25, 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

12.6.7.1 Application. The pregnancy exception applies to any condition related to pregnancy (e.g., miscarriage, postpartum depression). *(Adopted: 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

12.6.7.2 Medical Documentation. Contemporaneous or other appropriate medical documentation, from a physician (medical doctor) who administered care at the time of the pregnancy or related condition shall be submitted to establish the application of the pregnancy exception. For a case involving a psychological or mental illness, the required contemporaneous or other appropriate medical documentation may be provided by an individual (e.g., psychiatrist, psychologist) who is qualified and licensed to diagnose and treat the particular illness. *(Adopted: 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

12.6.8 Waivers. There shall be no waivers of the application of the five-year period of eligibility legislation. *(Adopted: 6/24/26 effective 8/1/26)*

12.7 U.S. Service Academy Exceptions, Special Eligibility Provisions. *(Revised: 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*

12.7.1 Transfer Status. A student who has attended as a freshman (plebe) only in the official summer-enrollment program of one of the four national service academies is not considered a transfer in the application of the transfer regulations of Bylaw 14.5. *(Revised: 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*

12.8 Certification of Eligibility. *(Revised: 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*

12.8.1 Institutional Responsibility for Eligibility Certification. The president or chancellor is responsible for approving the procedures for certifying the eligibility of an institution's student-athletes under NCAA legislation. The president or chancellor may designate an individual on the institution's staff to administer proper certification of eligibility. Certification of eligibility must occur before allowing a student-athlete to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition (see Bylaw 14.01.1). A violation of this bylaw in which the institution fails to certify a student-athlete's eligibility before allowing the student-athlete to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition shall be considered an institutional violation per Bylaw 8.01.3; however, such a violation shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility, provided all the necessary information to certify the student-athlete's eligibility was available to the institution and the student-athlete otherwise would have been eligible for competition. *(Revised: 3/8/06, 1/14/08, 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*

12.8.2 Squad-List Form. The institution's athletics director shall compile a list of the squad members in each sport on the first day of competition and shall indicate thereon the status of each member in the designated categories. A student-athlete's name must be on the official institutional form in order for the student-athlete to be eligible to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition. Violations of this bylaw do not affect a student-athlete's eligibility if the violation occurred due to an institutional administrative error or oversight and the student-athlete is subsequently added to the form; however, the violation shall be considered an institutional violation per Bylaw 8.01.3. (See Bylaw 17.2.6 for details about the administration of the squad list.) *(Revised: 1/14/97, 11/1/07 effective 8/1/08, 7/31/14, 8/7/14, 10/4/17, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25, 8/5/25 effective 9/1/25)*

12.9 Ineligibility. *(Revised: 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*

12.9.1 Obligation of Member Institution to Withhold Student-Athlete From Competition. If a student-athlete is ineligible under the provisions of the constitution, bylaws or other regulations, the institution shall be obligated to apply immediately the applicable rule and to withhold the student-athlete from all intercollegiate competition. The institution may appeal for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility as provided in Bylaw 12.10 if it concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration. *(Revised: 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*

12.9.2 Ineligibility Resulting From Recruiting Violation. An institution shall not enter a student-athlete (as an individual or as a member of a team) in intercollegiate competition if it is acknowledged by the institution or established through the infractions process that the institution or a representative of its athletics interests violated the legislation in the recruiting of the student-athlete. The institution may appeal for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility as provided in Bylaw 12.10 if it concludes that circumstances warrant restoration. *(Revised: 7/31/14, 6/6/25 effective 7/1/25)*