

**Question:** Is it permissible for a DIII SA's parents to be in conversation with coaches from other DIII institutions about their daughter transferring without any release from the SA's current institution or a SA's self release?

**Answer:** We have come to the conclusion that it would NOT be permissible. We got to this answer by putting two bylaws together. The student-athlete and anyone associated with the student-athlete would be grouped together. The bylaws we took this from are 13.02.6 (recruiting) and 13.1.1.2 (Four-year college prospective student-athletes).

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**Question:** May a SA practice while serving a year in residence?

**Answer:** Yes, they may practice but not compete under 14.5.1 Residence Requirement - General Principle. The SA would be charged a season of eligibility if he/she practices after the first date of competition.

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**Question:** Is it permissible for a Collegiate Swim Coach to be on the pool deck during a high school swim meet handing out recruiting information to high school coaches and talking with them during the meet? I know that it would not be permissible for the coach to interact with the prospective student-athletes until after the meet; however, where do the high school coaches fit in and what about the student-athletes parents?

**Answer:** 13.1.4 only restricts collegiate coaches from direct interaction with prospective student-athletes during practice or competition. There is no legislation or interpretation restricting contact with high school coaches or parents of prospects. The one item to keep in mind, while the college coach is communicating with these people (HS coach or parent), that no prospects can be involved.

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**Question:** We have an international student who is NON-degree seeking, so she is not eligible to run Track and Field. The student simply wants to be a part of the team. Is this possible as a student-manager? Could she train with them? Could she enter any meets as an unattached athlete?

**Answer:** This student would not be eligible for competition or practice because she is not enrolled in degree program. In order to practice per Bylaw 14.1.8.1, you need to be enrolled full-time in a program leading to baccalaureate or equivalent degree. Same for competition except it also requires no less than 12 credits in order to compete. The student could compete on her own (as an individual in track meets) provided she does not receive any expenses, coaching, nor wears uniform of her school per Bylaws 14.02.6 and 14.7.2.5. The "student-manager" question is bit trickier. In light of all of the discussion surrounding male practice players, even a female seeking to practice with a female team under the guise of "student-manager" would not be permissible. The student does need to be full-time in a degree program or have a waiver of this requirement in place. We've said any "student" who is a team manager or coach must be performing those duties of a manager or coach...and not just using that job title to circumvent the full-time enrollment in degree program requirements in order to practice.

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**Question:** Question regarding a student-athlete who is in their fourth season of eligibility for softball. The student needs 12 credits to graduate this spring, but one course (4 credits) she could not get enrolled in. Thus leaving her at 8 credits currently. The institution will allow her to walk through graduation this spring since she will only be four credits short (not sure this part even plays a factor in anything). What are the options for the student? Can she apply for a waiver from the management council (as stated in 14.1.8.2.1.3 Final Semester/Quarter). Or would the only way for this student-athlete to be eligible is to register for 12 credits this spring?

**Answer:** The school could file a waiver with the DIII Academic Issues Subcommittee. The school would seek a waiver of 14.1.8.2.1.3 and have to outline what mitigating circumstances prevented the SA from registering for that one class that she needs for graduation. Otherwise, she could simply register and enroll in 12 credits this spring and simply take the other 4 credits at a later time (summer) and no waiver would be needed.

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**Question:** Question regarding Bylaw 30.7.2, which covers foreign tours - specifically 30.7.2.1 which covers "incoming-student participation." I'm wondering if transfer students, who do NOT have to serve a year in residence, because they were athletically and academically eligible at their former institutions, are able to go on a summer foreign tour that obviously begins before the first day of school or the first permissible day of practice?

**Answer:** The incoming student participation bylaw (DIII Bylaw 30.7.2.1) does in fact apply to both incoming freshman and transfers. As you'll note in the archived interp, this interp was incorporated into the Manual and

represents the current bylaw. You'll see that in the original interp, it stated that "incoming students" meant both freshman and transfers. Therefore an incoming eligible transfer student-athlete could not participate on a foreign tour that occurs prior to their first day of classes or the first permissible practice date in that sport.

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**Question:** We have a rule in the MIAC that states a student-athlete must have accumulated 24 credits in their last two full time semesters to be eligible to compete. I am wondering what is the determining factor for full time semester to the NCAA. If a student drops out prior to the institutions drop/add date, would the NCAA consider the student to have attempted a full time semester?

**Answer:** "Attempted semester" occurs for purposes of 10 semester/15 quarter rule once the student-athlete is full-time and attends class. Are you asking in context of sitting out an academic year in residence? If so, then a semester is used when they are FT and complete full-time program of studies per Bylaw 14.5.1.1. IF you're asking what the last two FT semesters for a student who needs to meet the MIAC's 24 credit rule, I would say the SA's last two FT semesters are ones in which the SA enrolled FT and attended class per Bylaw 14.2.2.1.

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**Question:** Our wrestling coach is in charge of a 6 week Grecko-Roman summer wrestling event (associated with USA wrestling). Can his athletes work at it? I know they can if the camp is institutional, but I wanted to double check.

**Answer:** As long as they are employed per 13.12.2.1.1 then the student-athletes could work the camp. If the SA's are only demonstrating, then they can only demonstrate at camps during their declared playing season (and not outside declared season including summers). See interp: Student-Athletes Serving as Demonstrators in Sports Camp or Clinic.

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**Question:** We have a survey that goes to just student-athletes on campus. As an incentive to participate, we would like to offer as a registration prize, a new flat screen TV to one of the participants. The SA would be selected from a random drawing of all SA's participating in the survey. Are we OK to do this, per Bylaw 16.11.1.4? Would our student-athlete population qualify under the "student body" provision of this legislation?

**Answer:** This would be seen as an extra benefit for being a student-athlete and only open to student-athletes per 16.11.1.4. If the survey was open to all students and they held ancillary raffle, then it would be ok since it would be open to general student population.

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**Question:** Is it permissible for a swimmer to participate in a last chance meet to establish a qualifying time for the NCAA Championships the week prior to the national championship?

**Answer:** This issue is addressed by Bylaw 17.1.7(d) which states that an individual sports (swimming, tennis, etc), only appropriate squad members considered necessary for effective practice with the individual(s) preparing for the NCAA championships may continue to practice without counting such practice against the institution's declared (19 week) playing season. I could see it being reasonable for an extra swimmer or two to swim with an individual who qualified to provide "competition like atmosphere" for swimming heats.

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**Question:** How do last chance meets play into the picture for team and student-athlete totals?

**Answer:** Last chance meets must be included in the declared playing season if the SA is competing for the institution/receiving expenses/wearing uniform of school/etc. SA must not have maxed out their individual DOC limits in order to compete for school. Now, the SA could compete in last chance meet and pay their own way/no expenses from school, not wear uniform of school, and do this on their own accord and it would not count against individual DOC limit because the SA is not representing his or her school in competition per Bylaw 17.02.4.

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**Question:** One of our coaches lives nearby a recruit and asked if he could bring her to campus for a visit. The rule (13.5.2.2.2) says that coaching staff members shall not accompany a prospective student-athlete in a the coach's sport to or from an official visit unless the prospective SA travels only by automobile.

**Answer:** Unless there is a "preestablished relationship" between coach and prospect whereby coach has provided rides/benefits for this individual in the past based on connection to family (and not based on athletics or recruiting) then it would be permissible. Otherwise, this is definitely a "no." The coach should not be providing this recruiting inducement/impermissible benefit to PSA.