



# NCAA Compliance: A Guide for Parents

IUPUI Athletics Compliance Office

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## A Parent's Guide to NCAA Compliance

As a parent or guardian of a student-athlete playing collegiate athletics at the Division I level, there are many NCAA rules that you should be aware of that may affect your student. These rules can be tedious, confusing and are ever-changing. NCAA rules are of utmost significance to your student-athlete because failure to follow some of them can result in missing practice, competition, travel, and more. Being aware of what these rules are and how they affect your student-athlete will aid you in 1) ensuring your child is aware of the rules and 2) helping them to follow the rules.

The IUPUI Athletics Compliance office is here to help explain some of the more pertinent and relevant NCAA rules to your roles as parents of student-athletes. If you have any questions, please encourage your student-athlete to contact us.

A good rule of thumb that we tell our student-athletes when it comes to whether or not they can do something under NCAA rules is **ASK BEFORE YOU ACT**. That's something you can abide by, as well!

### Topics Covered:

- Financial Aid
- Academics
- Employment
- Extra Benefits
- Gambling Activities
- Promotional Activities
- Competition Eligibility
- Agents and Amateurism
- Outside Competition



## Financial Aid

A student-athlete may not receive athletically related financial aid in excess of a full grant-in-aid. A full grant-in-aid consists of tuition, mandatory fees, room, board, and required textbooks. Certain scholarships, including many academic awards, are permissible up to cost of attendance. Cost of attendance is a calculated using federal guidelines and designed to capture what it should cost a student, total, to attend IUPUI.

Athletic scholarships are awarded one academic year at a time. At the end of every academic year, the head coach of your son or daughter's team has the option to renew, reduce, or cancel the athletics aid that your son or daughter received the previous year. IUPUI sends out letters to student-athletes prior to each academic year (postmarked by July 1) whether his or her athletics aid has been renewed, reduced, or cancelled for the following academic year.

During the academic year (period of the award), IUPUI may not decrease or cancel your child's athletics aid because of athletics ability, performance, or contribution to team success; injury, illness, or physical or mental medical condition, or for any other athletics reason. There are 4 reasons that athletics aid can be reduced during the academic year: a student-athlete (1) renders himself or herself ineligible; (2) fraudulently misrepresents any information on his or her application to IUPUI, letter of intent, or financial aid agreement; (3) engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty; or (4) voluntarily withdraws from a sport at any time for personal reasons.

Student-athletes can receive financial aid in addition to athletics aid, including institutional scholarships or outside scholarships. However, sometimes these scholarships are countable against the full grant-in-aid limit for your student-athlete. If so, there is a small chance the student-athlete may have to decline the additional scholarship based on individual or team limits. IUPUI wants to maximize the financial aid resources available to all student-athletes. If your son or daughter receives financial aid outside of his or her athletics aid, send your son or daughter to the IUPUI Compliance Office to fill out a brief form reporting the scholarship.

### Contact Information

**Karen Metzger:**  
metzgerk@iupui.edu

**Jared Chasey:**  
jchasey@iupui.edu

**Phone:** 317-278-4110

**Fax:** 317-274-0505

**Visit our website:** <http://www.iupui.edu/~jagsncaa>

**Follow us on Twitter:**  
@iupuiCompliance



## Academics

All NCAA legislation surrounding academics are designed to support student-athlete graduation rates. Each student-athlete must meet NCAA and IUPUI academic requirements in order to practice, compete, and in some cases, receive financial aid. Each semester, every student is evaluated to ensure they continue to maintain progress towards earning a degree within 5 years. Please note that transfer student-athletes face additional academic standards, including increased credit requirements.

### Credit Hour Requirements for Continuing Students

Generally, a student-athlete must be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies—12 credit hours per term. To be academically eligible for the next term, student-athletes must complete a minimum of 6 credits per term, not including summers, from the previous term. In addition, students must meet benchmarks based on the number of semesters they have been enrolled full-time.

- Prior to their **second year of enrollment**, student-athletes must complete a minimum of 24 credit hours, 18 of which must be earned during the academic year (fall and spring). AP, IB, and dual enrollment credit recognized by IUPUI can count towards these limits. Please note that remedial credit can count only if taken during the freshman year.
- Prior to the **third year of enrollment**, a student-athlete must declare a major. Student-athletes must have completed 40% of degree requirements AND must have earned 18 credits during the previous academic year (fall and spring). Six of those credits must be earned during the previous regular term (typically the spring).
- For their **fourth year of enrollment**, student-athletes must have completed 60% of degree requirements AND must have earned 18 credits during the previous academic year. Six of those credits must be earned during the previous regular term (typically the spring).
- For their **fifth year of enrollment**, if applicable, student-athletes must have completed 80% of degree AND must have earned 18 credits during the previous academic year. Six of those credits must be earned during the previous regular term (typically the spring).
- In cases where student-athletes graduate prior to exhausting their eligibility, students retain their eligibility provided they are enrolled full-time in a second baccalaureate degree or a graduate program.

### GPA Requirements for Continuing Students

Student-athletes must be on track to graduate with the GPA required by their major. In addition, students must remain in good standing with the institution. Most majors at IUPUI require a 2.0 GPA for graduation.

- 90% of the GPA required for graduation for their second year of enrollment;
- 95% of the GPA required for graduation for their third year of enrollment;
- 100% of the GPA required for graduation for their fourth year of enrollment;
- 100% of the GPA required for graduation for their fifth year of enrollment, if applicable.

Please remember that academic fraud is handled seriously by IUPUI and the NCAA. Plagiarism and other cases of academic fraud may result in permanent ineligibility, failure of coursework, and/or expulsion from IUPUI.

## Employment

Student-athletes are allowed to work both during the academic year and vacation periods. However, there are common sense restrictions on employment and compensation. Student-athletes may only be paid for the work they actually perform. Student-athletes must also be paid at a rate comparable with the going rate in the locale for the type of work performed. Compensation may not include remuneration for value that the employer obtained because of a student-athlete's publicity, reputation, fame, or personal following. Student-athletes may not receive any special discounts or services, transportation to and from work, health benefits, vacation/sick time, or bonuses, etc., unless they are provided or made available to all employees. Any student-athlete that plans to work needs to contact IUPUI Compliance to fill out a brief form.

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## Extra Benefits

An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or representative of athletics interest (“booster”) to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete’s relatives or friends a benefit not authorized by the NCAA. A representative of athletics interest is any individual, corporation, or other entity that participated in an organization promoting IUPUI’s athletics program, made financial contributions to the athletics department or to an athletics booster organization of IUPUI, assisted in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes, assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families, OR have been involved otherwise in promoting the institution’s athletics program. Once an individual attains the status of “representative of athletics interest,” he or she maintains that status forever.

A student-athlete, his or her parents, relatives, or friends who receive an extra benefit immediately place the student-athlete’s eligibility for participation at IUPUI in jeopardy.

Examples of extra benefits include, but are not limited to, the following items:

- A special discount, payment arrangement, or credit on a purchase or service
- Free or reduced housing
- Use of an automobile or an actual automobile given to a student-athlete or relatives
- Any free or reduced rate services—e.g. meals, entertainment, clothing, car services, legal fees
- Cash; gift cards

Similar to an extra benefit, student-athletes must not accept financial awards or payment for their participation in their sport. Often, questions arise regarding what student-athletes may accept through their competition during the summer in their sport outside of IUPUI (e.g. participation in a golf tournament, summer leagues). Any questions on this particular topic should be directed at IUPUI Compliance.

As a parent of a student-athlete, it is likely that you will have interactions with boosters or representatives of athletics interest of IUPUI. Befriending one of these individuals does not change their status as a booster or representative of athletics interest. These individuals may not provide benefits to you or your student-athlete.

There are situations where someone other than you or a legal guardian may provide a student-athlete with a benefit or service. The NCAA uses 4 questions to objectively determine if the receipt of such benefits is permissible:

1. Did the relationship between the student-athlete or his or her parents and the individual providing the benefits develop as a result of the student-athlete’s participation in athletics or notoriety relating to that participation?
2. Did the relationship between the student-athlete or his or her parents and the individual providing the benefits predate the student-athlete being a prospective student-athlete?
3. Did the relationship between the student athlete or his or her parents and the individual providing the benefits predate the student-athlete’s status achieved as a result of his or her athletics ability or reputation?
4. Was the pattern of benefits provided by the individual to the student-athlete or his or her parents prior to the student-athlete attaining notoriety as a skilled athlete similar in nature to those provided after attaining such stature?

Essentially, any benefit a student-athlete or you receive from a booster or representative of athletics interest as a result of your student-athlete’s athletic ability, status, reputation, or participation in athletics is receipt of an extra benefit, a violation of NCAA rules. Such a violation could jeopardize the eligibility of your student-athlete and his or her ability to participate in IUPUI athletics.

IUPUI Compliance recommends that if a situation arises where you or your student-athlete receives or is offered something that seems to be an extra benefit, you or your student-athlete contact IUPUI Compliance. While the 4 questions above are guidelines, it is best practice to consult IUPUI Compliance rather than make a determination yourself.

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## Complimentary Admission

In sports where IUPUI charges admission, we provide eligible student-athletes with a maximum of four complimentary admissions for home and away regular season competitions. As long as the student is eligible to compete, he or she is eligible to receive these admissions even if he or she is not actually competing in the contest. Guests of student-athletes will not receive “hard tickets,” but complimentary admissions will be provided only through a pass list. Student-athletes will designate up to 4 people who may receive complimentary admissions. Any individual on the list must present identification at the admission gate to receive complimentary admission. Neither the student-athlete nor any individual who is designated to receive a ticket may exchange the ticket for money or any item of value.

## Gambling

All individuals affiliated with college sports, including college presidents, student-athletes, coaches, and even NCAA staff members, are prohibited from participating in gambling activities involving any sport in which the NCAA sponsors a championship. Gambling activities require a risk and a reward; as a result, free activities are permissible but discouraged. Common examples of impermissible sports wagering activity include dorm/office pools and fantasy leagues involving a fee, internet sports wagering, parlay cards, betting activity on the golf course, and friendly bets surrounding events like the Super Bowl. With the prominence of fantasy leagues and NCAA bracket challenges, it is best practice for student-athletes to refrain from participating in those activities, regardless of whether a fee is charged. **A student athlete who participates in any sports wagering activity involving IUPUI or who engages in activities designed to influence the outcome of an intercollegiate contest or in an effort to affect win-loss margins (“point shaving”) shall permanently lose all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports.**

It is also impermissible to knowingly provide information to those involved in sports wagering. For example, individuals who place bets on sporting events often attempt to obtain “inside information” from student-athletes, managers, trainers, and those close to student-athletes. Knowingly providing these individuals information is also a violation of NCAA rules.

## Risk + Reward + Sports = SPORTS WAGERING

## Promotional Activities

Several times throughout the year, a student-athlete may receive public appearance requests from community groups or the institution. Student-athletes may participate in these promotional activities, provided all of the below criteria are met:

- Student-athletes may not allow their name, picture, or personal appearance to advertise, recommend, or promote the sale or use of any commercial products, services, or businesses.
- Student-athletes must receive **written approval** from the Compliance Office prior to participating in any promotional activities.
- Student-athletes must not miss class to participate in the promotional activities.
- Student-athletes may not receive payment for their appearance at a promotional activity.

It is important that for any request that your student-athlete receives, he or she consult IUPUI Compliance **BEFORE** accepting an offer to participate or participating in any promotional activity, and for your student to avoid making any type of endorsement of a commercial product or establishment.

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**When in doubt about any NCAA or IUPUI rules, do not hesitate to contact IUPUI Compliance or consult the IUPUI Compliance website or the NCAA website ([www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)) for further information.**

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## Competition Eligibility

A student-athlete has 5 calendar years to participate in 4 seasons of competition in any one sport. This 5 year clock begins when the student-athlete initially registers in a regular term of an academic year for a minimum full-time program of studies—12 credit hours— AND attends his or her first day of classes for that term or competes for the institution. Events such as military service and required mission work are excepted from the 5 year clock. Within these 5 years, a student has 4 years of seasons of eligibility. A student-athlete uses a full season of competition if he or she participates in any competition, regardless of the length of time, during the season. However, during a student-athlete's initial year of enrollment at a four-year institution, he or she may compete in preseason exhibition contests and preseason practice scrimmages without counting such competition as a season of competition if the student-athlete does not subsequently participate in regular season competition.

If a student-athlete does not compete at all during one of his or her seasons, he or she will not use a season of competition. This "redshirt" year does not extend the 5 year clock, but the student does not use one of the four seasons of eligibility available to him or her. Exceptions to the use of a season of competition (such as a medical hardship) and extensions to the 5 year clock are considered on a case-by-case basis; waivers of eligibility legislation may only be filed by an NCAA member institution, not from a student-athlete.

## Agents and Amateurism

If your student dreams of playing his or her sport at the professional level, IUPUI Compliance and the IUPUI Professional Sports Counseling Panel are here to help your child reach his or her goals. However, it's important to protect the eligibility of elite student-athletes until they are ready to move to the professional ranks. Student-athletes may jeopardize their amateur status if they have inappropriate contact with an agent or their representative ("runner"). Loss of amateur status prohibits a student-athlete from competition in intercollegiate activities.

- A student athlete may not agree, orally or in writing, to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing their athletic ability or reputation in a sport, even if the agreement is for future representation.
- Student-athletes (or their relatives or friends) may not accept transportation or other benefits (e.g. dinner, lodging) from anyone who wishes to represent their athletic interests.
- Student-athletes may not receive any type of pay or enter into any kind of agreement to compete in professional athletics, either orally or in writing, regardless of the legal enforceability of that agreement.
- Student-athletes cannot endorse a commercial product, service, or establishment.

Student-athletes may obtain legal advice from a lawyer concerning a proposed professional sports contract, so long as the lawyer does not represent the student-athlete in negotiations for such a contract and the student pays the attorney's regular legal fees. A lawyer may not be present during discussions of a contract offer with a professional sports organization, as a lawyer's presence during such discussions is considered representation by an agent. The student may consult the **IUPUI Professional Sports Counseling Panel**, a group of experts prepared to advise students on the transition to professional athletics. **A student-athlete may inquire of a professional sports organization about eligibility for professional-league player draft or request information about their market value without affecting their amateur status.**

## Outside Competition

Student-athletes often wish to participate on non-IUPUI teams or as an individual in their sport. Regardless of the level of competition, your child **MUST** visit the compliance office to determine if his or her participation falls within NCAA rules. The compliance office will consider factors such as missed class time, the number of IUPUI student-athletes participating, and the sport's declared playing season to determine if the activity is permissible. The compliance office will also provide your child with education on accepting prize money and expenses at the event. Participation in an unapproved competition may result in a loss of athletic eligibility. *NCAA non-qualifiers are not eligible to participate in outside teams during their first year of enrollment at IUPUI.*