College-Bound Student-Athletes

Delayed Enrollment

After your **expected date of high school graduation** (Divisions I and II) or actual date of high school graduation (Division III), you have a certain amount of time (grace period) to continue sports participation before initially enrolling full time at any two- or four-year college or university. Generally, if you do not enroll at the first opportunity after the grace period and continue to participate in organized competition, you may have to serve a withholding condition and/or be charged the use of a season of NCAA eligibility. *(See chart below for grace periods by sport and division.)* In Division III, you may also be required to serve an academic year in residence (two full-time semesters or three quarters) at the Division III school before becoming eligible to compete.

Grace Periods by Sport and Division
The grace period ends on October 1 or March 1,
whichever occurs first (immediately) after the end of the grace period.*

Sport	Grace Period		
	Division I	Division II	Division III
Men's Ice Hockey	Up to 21st Birthday	Three Years	12 Months
Men's and Women's Skiing	Up to 21st Birthday	Three Years**	
Men's and Women's Tennis	Six Months or up to 20th birthday***	12 Months	
All Other Sports	12 Months	12 Months	

**This does not apply to Division I men's ice hockey and Division I men's and women's skiing.*
*** Competition must be sanctioned by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association or its international counterparts.*
**** For Division I men's and women's tennis, a college-bound student-athlete who is eligible under the six-month delay period may be subject to delayed enrollment conditions if they participate in competition after their 20th birthday and before enrollment at the Division I school.*

Example: Callum is a PSA with a date of birth of July 31, 2006. Based on the grace period chart above, if Callum's NCAA graduation date was set at June 1, 2024, his grace period would be the following:

Soccer

» The 12-month grace period for all divisions would end on June 1, 2025. Callum would need to enroll full time at any two- or four-year college or university by fall 2025 or stop competing in organized competition in soccer by October 1, 2025.

Tennis

» The 6-month grace period for Division I would end on December 1, 2024. Callum would need to enroll full time at any two- or four-year college or university by winter/spring 2025 or stop competing in organized competition in tennis by March 1, 2025.

» If Callum enrolls at a non-NCAA college or an NCAA Division II or III school by winter/spring 2025, but does not enroll at a Division I school before his 20th birthday (July 31, 2026), Callum would need to maintain full-time status for each regular academic term between his initial full-time enrollment date and his enrollment at the Division I school or stop competing in organized competition, including collegiate competition, after his 20th birthday.

Skiing

» The grace period for Division I would end the day before Callum's 21st birthday. Callum would need to enroll full time by July 31, 2027, or stop competing in organized competition in skiing after July 30, 2027.

» The grace period for Division II would end on June 1, 2027. Callum would need to enroll full time at any two- or four-year college or university by Fall 2027 or stop competing in organized competition in skiing by October 1, 2027.

CERTIFYING DELAYED ENROLLMENT LEGISLATION COMPLIANCE

The Eligibility Center requires the following to certify compliance of delayed-enrollment legislation:

» Final expected or actual date of high/secondary school graduation (all transcripts may be required).

» **Matriculation date** (from the NCAA school recruiting you) identifying your initial full-time collegiate enrollment.

» Dates of every game, match or meet you competed in after the applicable graduation date but before initial full-time collegiate enrollment.

» **For Division III:** Confirmation whether the participation met any of the following:

- Any team competition or training in which pay in any form is provided to any of the participants above actual and necessary expenses.
- Any individual competition or training in which you accept pay in any form based on your place finish or any competition or training in which you accept pay in any form above actual and necessary expenses.
- Any competition pursuant to the signing of a contract with a professional team for athletics participation or entering a professional draft.
- Any competition funded by a representative of an NCAA school's athletics interests that is not open to all participants.

» **For Division I Men's and Women's Tennis (Participation After 20th Birthday)**: Confirmation (from the Division I school recruiting you) whether you maintained full-time enrollment at a college or university during each regular term after your full-time collegiate enrollment [the matriculation date].

Note: NCAA rules may be different based on division, sport and/or timing (pre- or post-enrollment). If you have questions regarding your athletics eligibility status or NCAA legislation, contact the athletic compliance office at the NCAA school recruiting you or the NCAA's legislative line at 317-917-6008, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time.

NCAA is a trademark of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. August 2026.