OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

MARCH 2026

The GREY AREA CHRONICLES

NCAA INSTITUTIONAL SPORTS CAMPS & CLINICS

TRANSFER EVALUATIONS

NAME, IMAGE & LIKENESS (NIL) ACTIVITIES

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NCAA INSTITUTIONAL SPORTS CAMPS & CLINICS

Institutional sports camps and clinics offer valuable programming opportunities, but they come with significant compliance obligations. Below is a summary of the key rules your department must follow.

OPEN ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Camps and clinics must be open to any and all entrants (limited only by number, age, grade level, or gender)
- Camps cannot be structured to attract only prospects or limit attendance to recruited athletes
- Any restriction beyond the above constitutes an impermissible recruiting inducement

RECRUITING CALENDAR EXCEPTIONS

- Institutional camps/clinics are exempt from recruiting calendar restrictions, allowing coaches to interact with prospects during dead periods if the prospect is a bona fide camp participant
- However, the camp must be open to the general public and not designed to circumvent recruiting calendar rules
- Coaches may evaluate prospects at their own institution's camp regardless of the recruiting calendar

EMPLOYMENT RULES

- High school and club coaches may be employed at institutional camps, but compensation must be at the same rate as other camp employees performing similar duties
- A high school/club coach who is employed at a camp may not receive compensation that is contingent on the attendance of any specific prospect
- Institutional athletics staff (including head and assistant coaches) may work at their institution's camps and receive compensation above their normal salary

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE RESTRICTIONS

- Prospects may attend institutional camps and clinics
- Prospects may receive camp scholarships/fee waivers, provided they are available to all campers on the same basis
- An institution may not pay the camp fees of a prospect as a recruiting inducement

SPORT-SPECIFIC TIMING RESTRICTIONS

- Some sports have additional restrictions on when camps may be conducted (e.g., football, basketball)
- Camps held outside permissible windows may constitute impermissible contact or evaluation
- Always consult sport-specific bylaws before scheduling

BASKETBALL-SPECIFIC RULES (BYLAW 13.12.1.4)

- In men's basketball, all institutional men's/boys' camps and clinics shall offer the same participation, registration procedure, fee structure, advertisement and/or logistical experience (e.g., lodging, meals, transportation or awards/mementos)
- In women's basketball, all institutional women's/girls' camps and clinics shall offer the same participation, registration procedure, fee structure, advertisement and/or logistical experience (e.g., lodging, meals, transportation or awards/mementos)
- Off-campus basketball camps are prohibited , this is a hard rule with no exceptions
- Recruiting contacts at basketball camps are subject to the same restrictions as all other recruiting contacts

⚠️ Compliance Reminder: Before scheduling any camp or clinic, submit your camp plan to the compliance office for review. Off-campus basketball camps are strictly prohibited under NCAA bylaws.

TRANSFER EVALUATIONS

The transfer evaluation process is a critical step in ensuring student-athletes remain on track academically and athletically. Understanding the process and the common pitfalls can save your program significant time and headaches.

OVERVIEW OF THE TRANSFER EVALUATION PROCESS

When a student-athlete transfers, the receiving institution must submit a transfer evaluation request through the NCAA Eligibility Center. The evaluation determines whether the student-athlete meets academic eligibility requirements at the new institution.

COMMON REASONS EVALUATIONS ARE DENIED

- Insufficient transferable credit hours (fewer than 24 semester/36 quarter hours)
- Failure to meet the progress-toward-degree requirements at the previous institution
- GPA below the required minimum for the applicable division
- Missing or incomplete academic transcripts submitted to the Eligibility Center
- Discrepancies between self-reported information and official records

5 THINGS COACHES MUST VERIFY BEFORE SUBMITTING A REQUEST

1. **Official Transcripts** — Confirm all official transcripts from every institution attended have been submitted to the NCAA Eligibility Center
2. **Credit Hour Count** — Verify the student-athlete has earned the minimum transferable hours required (24 semester/36 quarter)
3. **GPA Verification** — Confirm the cumulative GPA meets the minimum threshold (2.0 for most divisions)
4. **Degree Progress** — Ensure the student-athlete was making satisfactory progress toward a degree at the previous institution
5. **Amateurism Status** — Confirm no amateurism issues exist that could affect eligibility at the new institution

PRACTICAL SCENARIOS

Qualifier 2-Year Transfer (Two-Year to Four-Year)

A student-athlete who attended a two-year college and meets qualifier standards (core GPA + test scores) may be eligible for competition in the first academic year of residence if they meet ALL of the following:

- Has spent at least one full-time semester or one full-time quarter of residence at the two-year college (excluding summer sessions)
- Has presented a minimum grade-point average of 2.500
- Has satisfactorily completed an average of at least 12 semester or quarter hours of transferable degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution for each full-time academic term of attendance at the two-year college

Coaches should confirm qualifier status was established at initial enrollment.

Nonqualifier 2-Year Transfer

A nonqualifier who transfers from a two-year college is eligible for financial aid, practice, and competition during the first academic year of residence only if the student meets ALL of the following requirements:

- Has graduated from the two-year college
- Has completed a minimum of 48 semester or 72 quarter hours of transferable degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution, including: 6 semester/8 quarter hours of transferable English credit, 3 semester/4 quarter hours of transferable math or quantitative reasoning credit, and 3 semester/4 quarter hours of transferable natural/physical science credit
- Has attended a two-year college as a full-time student for at least three semesters or four quarters (excluding summer terms)
- Has achieved a cumulative GPA of 2.500

Coaches should not assume immediate eligibility, always verify with compliance before extending any offer.

Qualifier 4-Year Transfer (Four-Year to Four-Year)

Under the one-time transfer exception, a student-athlete who has not previously transferred from a four-year institution may be immediately eligible if they meet all academic requirements and the previous institution does not withhold permission. Coaches must ensure the student-athlete was academically eligible at the previous institution.

Nonqualifier 4-Year Transfer

A nonqualifier who transfers from a four-year institution faces significant eligibility restrictions. They must complete one academic year in residence at the new institution before competing. Coaches should consult compliance before extending any offer to a nonqualifier transfer.

Best Practice: Submit transfer evaluation requests as early as possible ideally before the student-athlete enrolls. Late submissions can delay eligibility determinations and impact practice and competition participation.

NAME, IMAGE & LIKENESS (NIL) ACTIVITIES

NIL continues to be one of the most rapidly evolving areas of NCAA compliance. While student-athletes have broad rights to monetize their NIL, important restrictions remain particularly around the use of institutional trademarks, logos, and apparel. Here's what your staff needs to know.

USE OF COMMERCIAL TRADEMARKS OR LOGOS ON EQUIPMENT, UNIFORMS & APPAREL

WHAT IS PERMISSIBLE:

- A student-athlete may wear or display a manufacturer's logo or trademark on equipment, uniforms, or apparel during NIL activities, provided the logo/trademark does not exceed the size limitations established by the NCAA or the institution's governing conference
- Student-athletes may wear their own personal apparel (not issued by the institution) during NIL activities, including apparel bearing a commercial brand or sponsor logo
- A student-athlete may appear in an NIL advertisement wearing generic athletic apparel that includes a manufacturer's logo, as long as it does not conflict with institutional contracts

WHAT IS PROHIBITED:

- Student-athletes may NOT wear or display institutional uniforms, practice gear, or equipment issued by the institution during NIL activities without explicit written approval from the institution
- Using institutional marks, logos, or branding (including team colors in a way that implies institutional endorsement) in NIL content without authorization is prohibited
- Student-athletes may not use the institution's name, logo, or marks in a way that implies the institution endorses or sponsors the NIL activity

ADDITIONAL TRADEMARKS OR LOGOS

THIRD-PARTY BRANDING:

- Student-athletes may enter into NIL agreements with third-party brands and display those brands' logos in NIL content
- Third-party logos may appear on personal apparel, social media content, and promotional materials used in NIL activities
- The institution is not required to approve third-party NIL deals, but student-athletes are encouraged (and in many cases required by state law or institutional policy) to disclose NIL agreements to the compliance office

MANUFACTURER LOGOS:

- Manufacturer logos (e.g., Nike, Adidas, Under Armour) may appear on personal apparel worn during NIL activities
- However, if the institution has an exclusive apparel/equipment contract with a manufacturer, student-athletes may not promote a competing manufacturer's products in a way that conflicts with that contract
- Example: If your institution has an exclusive Nike contract, a student-athlete may not appear in an Adidas NIL advertisement wearing Adidas gear in a way that implies institutional affiliation

CONFLICTS WITH INSTITUTIONAL APPAREL/EQUIPMENT CONTRACTS:

- Institutions must communicate their apparel/equipment contract restrictions clearly to student-athletes
- Student-athletes who enter into NIL deals that conflict with institutional contracts may be required to modify or terminate those agreements
- Compliance staff should work proactively with student-athletes to identify potential conflicts before agreements are signed

✅ PERMISSIBLE

- Wearing personal Nike gear in a social media ad
- Promoting a local restaurant on Instagram
- Displaying a sponsor logo on personal apparel
- Disclosing NIL deals to compliance office

❌ PROHIBITED

- Wearing team-issued uniform in a paid ad
- Using school logo without written approval
- Promoting a competing apparel brand that conflicts with institutional contract
- Implying institutional endorsement in NIL content

IN THE NEWS

A roundup of notable developments from across the NCAA landscape.

WOMEN'S SPORTS REACH RECORD NCAA PARTICIPATION AS LEADERSHIP ROLES KEEP RISING

NCAA.org | March 1, 2026

Women's participation in NCAA sports has reached an all-time high. During the 2024-25 academic year, 242,341 student-athletes competed across NCAA women's championship and emerging sports — a 14% increase over the past decade. Growth was recorded across all three divisions: Division I (94,935, up 14%), Division II (59,999, up 21%), and Division III (87,407, up 11%).

Emerging sports are driving some of the fastest gains. Stunt grew 75% year over year to 1,231 participants, while women's wrestling surged 42% to 1,738 — one of the most significant jumps across all sports.

At the 2026 NCAA Convention, members approved four new women's championships: acrobatics and tumbling and stunt (inaugural spring 2027), and Division II bowling and Division III women's wrestling (inaugural spring 2028). Women's flag football was also added to the Emerging Sports for Women program.

Source: NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation Data, 2024-25 | **ncaa.org**

BY THE NUMBERS

242,341
Total women's student-athletes (2024-25)

14%
Decade-long participation growth

6,992
Emerging sports participants (up 24% YoY)

279
Female athletics directors (up 24% over 10 years)

5,126
Female head coaches (up 13% over 10 years)

378
Female college presidents/chancellors (up 27% since 2017)

TOP WOMEN'S SPORTS BY PARTICIPATION

- **1.** Outdoor Track & Field — 33,519
- **2.** Indoor Track & Field — 31,828
- **3.** Soccer — 31,200
- **4.** Softball — 21,916
- **5.** Volleyball — 19,810

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COMPLIANCE REMINDERS & NEXT STEPS

Staying ahead of NCAA compliance requirements is a team effort. Whether you're running a summer camp, evaluating a transfer, or advising a student-athlete on an NIL opportunity, the compliance office is here to help. Don't wait until an issue arises reach out early and often.

Camps & Clinics

Submit your camp plan to the compliance office at least 30 days before the start date. Basketball programs: remember that off-campus camps are strictly prohibited.

Transfer Evaluations

Contact compliance before extending any offer to a transfer student-athlete. Early submission of evaluation requests prevents delays in eligibility determinations.

NIL Activities

Encourage student-athletes to disclose all NIL agreements to the compliance office. Review institutional apparel/equipment contracts before student-athletes sign any brand deals.

> **Questions? Contact the Office of Athletic Compliance, we're your first call, not your last resort.**

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This newsletter is intended for internal use by coaches, athletic administrators, and compliance staff. For official NCAA interpretations, consult the NCAA website or contact your conference office.