

TRANSFER POLICY

NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.3 specifies that athletics staff members or other representatives of the institution's athletics interests shall not make contact with the student-athlete of another NCAA or NAIA four-year collegiate institution, directly or indirectly, without first obtaining the written permission of the first institution's athletics director (or an athletics administrator designated by the athletics director) to do so, regardless of who makes the initial contact. If permission is not granted, the second institution shall not encourage the transfer and the institution shall not provide athletically related financial assistance to the student-athlete until the student-athlete has attended the second institution for one academic year. If permission is granted to contact the student-athlete, all applicable NCAA recruiting rules apply. If an institution receives a written request from a student-athlete to permit another institution to contact the student-athlete about transferring, the institution shall grant or deny the request within seven business days (see Bylaw 13.02.1) of receipt of the request. If the institution fails to respond to the student-athlete's written request within seven business days, permission shall be granted by default and the institution shall provide written permission to the student-athlete.

Any student-athlete wishing to transfer to another institution should initiate their request with the head coach. A student-athlete is required to have prior written approval for permission to speak with another institution and for completion of the actual transfer, which would certify eligibility for athletic aid and competition. Written permission shall be granted solely by the Athletic Director (or designee) with input from the head coach and sport administrator.

In accordance with NCAA legislation, UNI considers each transfer request on a case-by-case basis using the policies stated below.

Requests for contact and transfer exception will be denied:

- To any Missouri Valley or MAC Conference institution, or any other Division I institution against whom Northern Iowa regularly competes, or any Division I institution within the state.
- If the request is received late in the academic year (defined as after March 1) and results in a situation creating a recruiting disadvantage.
- To scholarship student-athletes who have been found to be deficient in fulfilling athletics and academic related obligations (i.e., quitting the team, failing to participate in required team activities, APR etc.).

Extenuating circumstances, which justify the need to transfer (i.e., financial need, family problems, etc.) may result in the athletics department granting exceptions to the stated policies. UNI athletics considers the welfare of the student-athlete in all of its decisions. The athletic department believes a quality student-athlete experience also includes understanding the meaning and value of commitment and responsibility.

A complete transfer release, certifying immediate eligibility for athletic aid and competition, will only be issued if the student-athlete meets all NCAA and UNI academic eligibility requirements upon departure from the University.

APPEALS

If UNI denies a student-athlete's request for permission to contact other institutions and/or transfer, the student-athlete will be informed in writing that he or she, upon request, shall be provided a right to

request an appeal hearing. The student-athlete will be notified that he/she has two weeks from the date of the written notification to formally appeal the transfer request denial decision. The student-athlete will also be notified of the appeal process/order of proceedings in writing. In order to appeal the decision, the student-athlete must submit a completed *Transfer Appeal Hearing Request* (in writing or via e-mail) to the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative within this two-week period. Failure to submit a written request for an appeal hearing in this format within this time frame to the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative or failure to fill out the appeal form completely will result in the appeal being denied. Upon receipt of the written appeal request for a hearing, the NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative will review the request and submit it to all of the members of the Appeals Committee, the Sport Administrator, and the Head Coach.

The Faculty Athletics Representative, as chairperson, will schedule an in-person or phone appeal hearing and the student-athlete will be notified of the date/time of the hearing by the FAR. The student-athlete may choose to participate by only providing written information, but must have the opportunity to actively participate in the hearing. The appeal hearing will be conducted and a written decision (on behalf of the Appeals Committee) of the hearing outcome will be provided to the student-athlete within 15 business days from the date of receipt of the student-athlete's appeal request form. If the hearing is not conducted and/or the decision is not provided to the student-athlete within this time period, the appeal shall be granted by default. Note: An appeal hearing may not be conducted beyond the 15 business day period, even if requested by the student-athlete.

Prior to the appeal hearing, the Faculty Athletics Representative will request written statements and any other necessary documentation from the student-athlete's head coach and from the Department of Athletics detailing their positions. The student-athlete will be permitted to submit additional documentation, if necessary, to the FAR to be considered by the Appeals Committee. At the appeal hearing, the student-athlete and the Athletics Department shall have the right to present pertinent information and offer testimony of relevant witnesses, if necessary. A representative from the UNI Athletic Compliance Office shall be present at the hearing as an ex-officio member of the Appeals Committee to ensure NCAA bylaws are followed regarding the scope of review. The hearing shall involve a disclosure of positions from "both sides" and is not a court of law or legal adjudication. The decision of the Appeals Committee will be based on the facts and information provided at the hearing. Copies of the decision will be sent in writing (or via e-mail) to the student-athlete, the Athletics Director and/or SWA, the head coach, and the Deputy Athletic Director. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final and binding and may not be appealed further by the student-athlete or by the Athletics Department.

SERVICES AND BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO STUDENT-ATHLETES WHO REQUEST PERMISSION TO CONTACT OR INDICATE THEIR INTENTION TO TRANSFER

Student-athletes who request permission to contact another institution or indicate their intent to transfer at the conclusion of the next academic term or year may still have access to utilize weight-training areas, athletic training rooms, and the academic study center. However the dates and time these areas are made available may not be the same dates and times with which the student-athlete is accustomed. The availability of each facility shall be determined by the managing staff. Student-athletes who cease to participate in their sport will no longer receive complimentary admission to UNI contests through UNI Athletics, but may acquire admission

through the same means as the general student body. Student-athletes who cease to participate in their sport will not have access to priority registration privileges through UNI Athletics. Student-athletes who fail to complete the entire season as a participating member of their team, as determined by their head coach, may be excluded from team banquets and/or receiving institutional awards.

Extenuating circumstances may warrant an exception to some or all of the services and benefits described above, and may be examined by the Director of Athletics on a case-by-case basis.

MISSOURI VALLEY INTRA-CONFERENCE TRANSFER RULE

A student-athlete who has accepted or received an athletic scholarship or participated in any intercollegiate contest as a member of a MVC member institution is subject to the MVC Intra-Conference Transfer Rule. Unless a waiver or appeal is granted, a student-athlete who has triggered the application of the intra-conference transfer rule may not compete in any sport at the certifying institution until after that student-athlete has served a one-year residence (2 full-time semesters) requirement from the official date of transfer. The intra-conference transfer rule does not impact a student-athlete's ability to practice or receive financial aid at the certifying institution.

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL INTRA-CONFERENCE TRANSFER RULE

A prospective student-athlete or student-athlete who has accepted or received an athletic scholarship or participated in any intercollegiate contest as a member of a MVFC member institution is subject to the MVFC Intra-Conference Transfer Rule. Unless a waiver or appeal is granted, a student-athlete who has triggered the application of the intra-conference transfer rule may not practice or compete at a certifying institution until a two-year requirement (four full-time semesters) has been served. Additional questions about this rule should be directed to Athletic Compliance Staff.

- a. **Impact of Other Regulations.** Once a student-athlete has triggered the application of the intra-conference transfer rule, it continues to apply until the residence requirement is fulfilled or a waiver or appeal is received. Other circumstances (e.g., NLI release, initial eligibility status, graduation from initial institution) do not automatically negate or lessen the residence requirement under the intra-conference transfer rule.

MID-AMERICAN INTRA-CONFERENCE TRANSFER RULE

A current student-athlete at a MAC Institution who has accepted or received an athletic scholarship or a prospective student-athlete who attends summer session on athletics related financial aid prior to initial enrollment is subject to the MAC Intra-Conference Transfer Rule. The rule states that a student-athlete must serve one year in residence (two full-time semesters) from the date of transfer before becoming eligible to compete at another MAC Institution. In addition, the student-athlete must sacrifice one of the four seasons of competition permitted under NCAA Rules. Additional questions about this rule should be directed to Athletic Compliance Staff.