

Eligibility

In order to compete in OUA/U SPORTS and alternate university leagues, each student-athlete must comply with eligibility requirements.

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to be aware of all eligibility rules. Below is a summary of the eligibility rules:

Complete versions can be found on the U SPORTS website (www.usports.ca) and the OUA website (www.oua.ca).

All student-athletes must be cleared by the Intercollegiate Program Office prior to starting any competitive season.

For further questions, clarifications or for a complete list of eligibility requirements, contact Skye Angus at anguss@uoguelph.ca.

1. All student-athletes must register for intercollegiate participation through the Guelph Gryphons Athlete website at: gryphons.athletesystems.ca
2. This must be completed prior to the start of any training/practice/tryouts with the program. If you are intending to tryout/compete on multiple teams, you must register for each program.
3. All online forms must be completed in their entirety, paying close attention to all sections. This is a legal document and student-athletes are required to complete it fully and honestly.

Academic Eligibility Rules for OUA and U SPORTS Athletes

- A student-athlete must be enrolled in a minimum of 1.5 credits or 9 credit hours or equivalent in the same term in which they are competing. Exceptions: Full-time graduate students and students on a co-op work term.
- B. For student-athletes participating in U Sports, Rowing and Men's Rugby, each continuing student-athlete must also have successfully completed 3.0 credits (or equivalent) in the previous academic year (Sept. 1 to Aug. 31) they were a student-athlete to be eligible for competition during the following season. Athletes may take summer courses, including online, in order to qualify, as long as those courses taken can be applied to the student-athlete's degree and are fully recognized by the University of Guelph.
- C. If there are circumstances within a student's academic program which would warrant an exception to A and/or B and in which the University continues to declare the student a full-time student (e.g. special needs or graduate student), the student can be declared in good standing and therefore eligible to compete.

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- D. Academic records are checked daily. A student-athlete will not be permitted to compete if he/she reduces his or her course load below the eligibility requirement.
- E. Penalties for non-compliance with any eligibility rule may include but are not limited to team and/or individual disqualification.

Years of Eligibility

- A. U SPORTS – basketball, curling, cross country, football, field hockey, ice hockey, women's rugby, soccer, swimming, track and field, volleyball and wrestling – are limited to 5 years of eligibility. Men's rugby is the only OUA sport that has a 5-year eligibility maximum. All other OUA sports have no limitation to the number of years of eligibility. In the sport of football and men's rugby, there is also an age-cap limitation.

Please contact Skye Angus at anguss@uoguelph.ca for more details.

- B. A year of eligibility in U SPORTS is consumed if:
 - A student-athlete's name appears on the playing roster (or equivalent) of two or more regular season competitions if your team does not have an exhibition schedule. If a team does play in exhibition, eligibility is consumed for a single regular season competition. The exception to this rule is within the sports of football and women's rugby;
 - For U SPORTS exhibition and playoff competition, CEGEP participation, as well as national team and professional participation. Please consult the Intercollegiate Program Office for further details;
 - For men's basketball, hockey and football sport-specific regulations related to non-U SPORTS participation. Please consult the Intercollegiate Program Office for further details;
 - Within related jurisdictions, such as the CCAA or NCAA, eligibility consumption is in accordance with that jurisdiction's rules; and,
 - REMEMBER: The appearance of a student-athlete's name on a game sheet or entry form constitutes your participation in that game/event, even if you don't step onto the court/field/ice.
- D. Injury: The consumption of eligibility after being injured early in a season will be determined on an individual basis. Contact Skye Angus at anguss@uoguelph.ca for more information.

U SPORTS Participation as a Professional Athlete

In U SPORTS, a professional athlete is defined as any student-athlete who at any time played in a professional and or semi-professional league recognized by U SPORTS. All student-athletes that are deemed to be 'professional' must be cleared prior to competition. For OUA sports, student-athletes must have an "amateur status" to be eligible for participation.

Transfers

A U SPORTS student-athlete who transfers to another academic institution is not eligible to compete for one calendar year of competition prior to competing in interuniversity athletics.

For a student to be cleared for play, a Transfer Verification Form must be completed by the student-athlete's previous school before a student-athlete participates in practice and/or competition.

Exceptions:

1. A U SPORTS student-athlete who has completed a degree at a U SPORTS institution may transfer to another U SPORTS institution and will not be required to sit out for a year if they enroll in a graduate or first professional degree program at a school different from the one he/she attended the previous year. All eligibility of transfers must be confirmed with the Intercollegiate Program Office prior to competing.
2. In the sports of track and field and cross country, a student-athlete may transfer after having competed one year at a previous institution without a penalty.
3. In the sport of swimming, a student-athlete may apply to transfer to a U SPORTS institution from any degree granting institution, without a penalty.
4. A Canadian student-athlete who transfers to a U SPORTS institution from a non-Canadian degree granting institution (e.g. NCAA or NAIA) shall be eligible to participate immediately if certain conditions are met. Please contact Skye Angus at anguss@uoguelph.ca for more information.
5. In OUA sports only, student-athletes may transfer from one institution to another without penalty, provided all other eligibility requirements are met.

NOTE:

The Department of Athletics completes regular eligibility verification checks regarding the status of each student-athlete. Should a student-athlete drop a course which places him/her below the minimum required course load (3 courses/1.5 credits), a course must

be added immediately for that student athlete to be eligible. Should a student-athlete participate in any contest while ineligible, the University of Guelph will be in violation and the appropriate penalties and/or sanctions will be applied (i.e. forfeiture of wins, loss of points gained, etc.).