

**PATRIOT LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY, ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID RULES
POLICY AND PROCEDURES, OPERATIONAL BYLAWS, ARTICLES IV, V AND VI**

ARTICLE IV – ELIGIBILITY

- 1. First Year Student-Athletes.** First year students are eligible for varsity competition.
- 2. Institutional Requirements.** All students participating in intercollegiate athletics must meet the institutional requirements for participation published by each member institution.
- 3. Statistical Data.** The member institutions of the League may share annual statistical data relating to academic eligibility, degree objectives, and graduation of students participating in intercollegiate teams.
- 4. Normal Academic Progress.** All students participating in intercollegiate athletics must be enrolled fulltime and must be making normal academic progress in an academic program leading to a first baccalaureate degree. (NCAA bylaw 14.1.8.2.1.3 “Final Semester/Quarter” may be applied to a student-athlete enrolled during their final undergraduate semester {first 8 semesters only})
 - A. Normal Academic Progress Waiver.** Students who complete the first baccalaureate in less than eight semesters of full-time study may apply for exception to this rule if they continue full-time enrollment in a second baccalaureate or graduate degree program at the certifying institution. Normal Academic Progress waivers must be approved in writing by the institution’s President/Superintendent and reported to the Policy Committee to monitor compliance with the spirit of the rule. [Council, June 2002]
- 5. Years of Eligibility.** A student’s normal years of eligibility shall be the first eight semesters (or term equivalent) after initial enrollment. “Athletic red-shirting” (holding a student out of competition as an underclassman for the express purpose of saving a year of NCAA eligibility for a fifth year of enrollment) is prohibited. An additional semester(s) of eligibility may be granted for the following reasons provided that the student-athlete presents sound academic rationale for continuing in their academic program:
 - A. Years of Eligibility due to a Hardship Waiver.** An extension of eligibility may be granted by a member institution at its discretion to a student who misses a season of competition as a result of serious injury, illness, or other cause beyond the student’s control. These waivers must be approved in writing by the institution’s President/Superintendent, reviewed by the Executive Director to assure that all NCAA requirements are met, and reported to the Policy Committee to monitor compliance with the spirit of the rule. [Council, June 2002]
 - B. Years of Eligibility due to a Transfer Waiver.** Transfer students whose academic programs require a ninth semester/fifth year from the date of their first college matriculation toward a baccalaureate degree will normally be eligible for athletic competition in the ninth semester/fifth year (assuming the student has met all other NCAA Division I criteria including the one year waiting period). These waivers must be approved in writing by the institution’s President/Superintendent and reported to the Policy Committee to monitor compliance with the spirit of the rule. [Council, June 2002]

C. Years of Eligibility due to Normal Academic Progress. An extension of eligibility may be granted by a member institution for a student that completes the first baccalaureate in less than eight semesters of full-time study and continues full-time enrollment in a second baccalaureate or graduate degree at the certifying institution.

6. Post Baccalaureate Eligibility due to Hardship. The Patriot League is committed to its founding principle of providing intercollegiate athletics competitive opportunities for undergraduate students. However, under special circumstances, the Policy Committee may grant a waiver enabling a student to compete as a graduate student in their first year after earning the first baccalaureate degree. In order to apply for such a waiver, a student must:

1. Have eligibility remaining due to reasons of hardship;
2. Choose to pursue a graduate degree at the League institution from which he/she graduated;
3. Present sound academic rationale or documentation related to enrollment in a post baccalaureate degree program; and
4. Attain the written approval of the institution's President/Superintendent supporting the additional year of eligibility.

Such waiver requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Policy Committee, subject to approval by the Council of Presidents. [Council, June 2002]

7. Other Eligibility Waivers. Interpretation of, or exceptions to, the rules on eligibility other than those expressly stated above (e.g. special academic program, study abroad) will be considered on a case-by case basis by the Policy Committee, subject to approval by the Council of Presidents. [Council, June 2002] Note: This provision is meant to accommodate an academically grounded exception to League eligibility rules.

8. Intra-league transfers.

A. All Sports, except Basketball. A recruited student-athlete who transfers from one Patriot League institution to another must complete a year in residence at the institution in which he/she transfers and cannot receive any athletically related aid (within need or above need) during the remaining years of eligibility at that institution. All other Patriot League eligibility policies regarding transfer students will continue to apply. [Council, June 2002]

B. Basketball. In the sport of basketball, a student-athlete who transfers from one Patriot League institution to another must sit out two seasons before being eligible to play. However, if the student-athlete receives an NCAA waiver of the one-year residency requirement, the League basketball transfer rule will be waived. [June 1999]

ARTICLE V - ADMISSIONS

1. Admissions. Student-athletes will be admitted only through the normal admissions procedures of each institution. The member institutions of the League, except the U.S.M.A. and the U.S.N.A., agree to maintain a common Candidate Reply Date to offers of admission.

2. Standards. Standards are established to permit each member institution to demonstrate that the student-athletes in each entering class are representative of their class. Quantitative data on academic qualifications for matriculating student-athletes in the sports of football and basketball,

and for any student-athlete receiving a merit-based financial aid award above need, will be shared annually by the member institutions. Refer to Patriot League Admissions and Academics Index Guidelines. [Council, March 2001]

ARTICLE VI - FINANCIAL AID (Revised March 2001)

1. General Policies. In accordance with the Patriot League's commitment to a true student-athlete model and academic integrity, the League's financial aid policy is firmly based on high academic expectations. At the same time the League respects the different financial aid philosophies of its members and allows them to follow different paths to achieve the League goal that every student-athlete is an academically successful student and that student-athletes are academically representative of their class. The League's financial aid policy and specific principles follow.

2. Academic Principles. Each student-athlete receiving a financial aid award within need or above need shall meet the required academic standards of the institution. Collectively, student-athletes receiving financial aid shall be academically representative of the student body of the institution.

3. Merit Awards-Academic and Athletic. Student-athletes receiving academic and athletic merit awards should collectively reflect the academic qualifications consistent with the profile of their entering class. The Council of Presidents (in consultation with the Policy Committee) will develop standards for determining whether this requirement has been satisfied and for enforcing compliance with it.

A. Sports other than Football. Consistent with the above principles, and at the discretion of the member institution, student-athletes in all sports other than football may be granted academic or athletic merit-based financial aid awards. All student-athletes receiving merit awards above need, shall be reported annually, along with their academic index, to the Executive Director for review by the Policy Committee at its spring meeting.

B. Football. In the sport of football, student-athletes may not be awarded financial aid based upon athletic ability in excess of demonstrated need (also known as grants-in-aid). Any football student-athlete receiving an academic merit-based financial aid award above need should have academic credentials similar to other students generally receiving academic merit awards at that institution.

They shall be reported bi-annually (every odd year), along with their academic index, to the Executive Director for review by the Policy Committee at its spring meeting. Further, institutional data on all financial aid offers (within need and above need) made to incoming student-athletes participating in football shall be reported to the Executive Director and reviewed by the Policy Committee at its fall meeting in odd numbered years. Student-athletes receiving athletic merit-based financial aid awards in sports other than football are not eligible to participate in Patriot League football.

4. Institutional Policies. Consistent with the League goals of competitive balance and open communication, member institutions should notify the League membership of changes in their institutional financial aid policy before such changes are implemented. [Council, March 2001]