

Will You Be Ready for the New NCAA Initial Academic Eligibility Standards?

by Anthony Caruso on September 21, 2012

Student-athletes and their parents should be aware that new initial-eligibility standards for NCAA Division I college-bound student-athletes are on the horizon. Student-athletes first entering a Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2016, will need to satisfy more stringent eligibility requirements.

The new academic requirements govern whether student-athletes can receive athletics aid (scholarship), practice or compete during their first year.

For a college-bound student-athlete to receive a scholarship, practice, and compete in the first year of enrollment at the Division I college or university, he or she must satisfy the following requirements:

- Complete 16 core courses: Ten of the 16 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester (senior year) of high school; and seven of the 10 core courses must be English, math or science.
- Have a minimum core-course GPA of 2.300: Grades earned in the 10 required courses required before the senior year are “locked in” for purposes of GPA calculation. A repeat of one of the “locked in” courses will not be used to improve the GPA if taken after the seventh semester begins.
- Meet the competition sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/SAT score (this is a new scale with increased GPA/test score requirements); and
- Graduate from high school.

To be eligible as an academic redshirt—an athlete who may receive a scholarship in the first year of enrollment and may practice in the first regular academic term (semester or quarter) but may NOT compete in the first year of enrollment—the student must meet the following requirements:

- Complete 16 core courses;
- Have a minimum core-course GPA of 2.000;
- Meet the academic redshirt sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/SAT score; and
- Graduate from high school.

For students entering high school, this is something you should be thinking about now. For more information about NCAA eligibility requirements, please contact Anthony Caruso, Chair of Scarinci Hollenbeck’s Sports and Entertainment Law Group.