



Four-Year Transfer Eligibility

This sheet answers some of the common questions of student-athletes who wish to transfer to or from a Pac-12 or other four-year institution. It does not address all situations and is not a substitute for the NCAA Manual or Pac-12 Handbook. For more information, contact your institution's compliance coordinator or faculty athletics representative.

❶ DID YOU SIGN A NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT?

If you did not sign a [National Letter of Intent](#) (NLI), skip to ❷.



If you signed a NLI while in high school, then the provisions of the NLI are satisfied if you attend the school with which you signed for one year, or if you graduate from a junior college. If you don't satisfy the NLI provisions and transfer to a school which participates in the NLI program, you will lose one season of competition in all sports and have to fulfill one academic year of residence at the school to which you transfer before you can compete. If you have not satisfied the NLI provisions but you obtain a complete release via the Release Request Form (RRF) there will be no penalty for failing to fulfill the requirements of the NLI. If you are unable to secure a complete release, full relief from the NLI penalties from the NLI Steering Committee may be available under *extenuating circumstances*. Go on to ❷.

❷ ARE YOU AN INTRA-CONFERENCE TRANSFER?

If you have not attended a Pac-12 school, skip to ❸.



If you intend to transfer directly from one Pac-12 school to another and have previously attended or participated in practice there you may be subject to the Pac-12 Intra-Conference Transfer Rule. This rule's penalty requires that you fulfill one academic year of residence and lose one season of competition in all sports before being eligible to compete. You also may not receive athletically related financial aid during this period of ineligibility.

Depending upon whether or not you were recruited or received aid at the first Pac-12 school, you may be exempt from the rule and its penalties. You are exempt from the application of the rule if, at the first Pac-12 school, you were:

- Not recruited and did not receive athletics aid
- Recruited but received no athletics or institutional aid

If you are not exempt, once you have either been admitted to, enrolled in, or practiced at your second Pac-12 school the faculty representative can apply on your behalf for a reduction of the rule's penalty, including elimination of the ban on athletically related financial aid. A reduction must be approved by at least nine of the Pac-12's faculty representatives.

② INTRA-CONFERENCE TRANSFER, Cont.

Here's a summary of the possible reductions of the penalty:

- Recruited or non-recruited, athletics aid—Minimum penalty: one-year residence.
- Recruited, institutional aid, but no athletics aid—Minimum penalty: Use NCAA rules.
- Recruited or non-recruited, any aid not renewed—Minimum penalty: Use NCAA rules.
- Received athletics aid at first Pac-12 institution, transferred to second Pac-12 institution for graduate school; no athletics aid at second Pac-12 institution, not recruited by second Pac-12 institution while at first Pac-12 institution—Minimum penalty: Use NCAA rules.

If you are a nonqualifier and you enrolled in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 1997, then additional academic requirements may apply to you if you are transferring into the Pac-12. [See page three](#) (Pac-12 Rules for Qualifiers and Nonqualifiers) of this document. Go on to ③.

③ WHICH NCAA RULES APPLY TO YOU?



If a more stringent Pac-12 rule applies to your case, its penalties and requirements will be applied before (and sometimes concurrently with) restrictions that result from the application of NCAA rules.

Four-year transfers generally must complete one academic year of residence (excluding summer terms) at their new school in order to be eligible for competition.

The One-Time Transfer Exception (NCAA 14.5.5.2.10) is a commonly used exception for sports other than baseball, basketball, football, and ice hockey. If you meet the following three criteria...

- You have not transferred previously from one four-year school (unless your sport was discontinued or never sponsored)
- You would have been academically eligible had you remained at your previous school (except you would not have to meet percentage-of-degree requirements at your previous four-year school)
- Your previous school certifies in writing that it has no objection to a waiver of the one-year residence requirement

...then you can become immediately eligible upon enrollment at your new four-year school. You cannot compete during the traditional season at both the school from which you transfer and the school to which you transfer. You cannot use the one-time transfer exception if you plan to transfer to a four-year school and play baseball, basketball, ice hockey, or Football Bowl Subdivision football unless you were not recruited by your original four-year institution and have never received athletically related aid from any four-year institution. Additional rules may apply to Football Championship Subdivision football and some Divisions II and III sports.

If you believe that your case is somehow unusual, some other exception or waiver may apply to you. Contact your institution's faculty representative or compliance office for details.

PAC-12 RULES FOR QUALIFIERS AND NONQUALIFIERS		
For student-athletes who initially enroll fulltime at a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/97.		
	Qualifier	Nonqualifier
Incoming freshmen		
All incoming freshmen	Use NCAA rules.	Permanently ineligible for financial aid, practice, and competition unless designated as one of school's 4 nonqualifiers (2 male, 2 female, 1 per sport) per year who have been granted partial relief by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee, permitting them to receive aid and/or practice. Designate S-A when athletically related aid is awarded; otherwise in first year of enrollment or practice/competition. Then use other applicable NCAA rules.
Non-recruited exception	—	If nonrecruited S-A was offered no athletically related aid and was admitted without regard to athletics ability, use NCAA rules except S-A may not practice until Year 2 and may not receive athletically related aid until Year 3.
Learning disability exception	—	A nonqualifier who, upon petition to the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee, is granted a partial waiver permitting him/her to receive aid and/or practice as an accommodation for a learning disability is exempted from counting against the institution's numerical limits for nonqualifiers.
Summer enrollment exception	—	Summer enrollment prior to initial fulltime enrollment does not constitute enrollment in a Pac-12 institution; thus athletics aid may be provided per NCAA 15.2.8.1.3 or NCAA 15.2.8.1.4.
Non-Conference transfers		
2-4	Use NCAA rules.	Permanently ineligible for financial aid, practice, and competition unless the S-A meets NCAA transfer rules for competition upon initial fulltime enrollment at the Pac-12 institution.
2-4-4	Use NCAA rules.	If S-A satisfied NCAA transfer rule requirements for competition from a two-year college transfer at the time of transfer to the non-Conference four-year institution then use NCAA 4-4 rules.
4-2-4	Use NCAA rules.	Permanently ineligible for financial aid, practice, and competition unless the S-A meets NCAA transfer rules for competition upon initial fulltime enrollment at the Pac-12 institution.
4-4	Use NCAA rules.	Permanently ineligible for financial aid, practice, and competition unless (1) S-A meets NCAA transfer rules and satisfactorily completes 48s/72q transferable units with cumulative 2.000 GPA with 3s/4q of fulltime attendance at the previous four-year school, or (2) S-A is a recruited foreign S-A who completes secondary studies in a foreign country and achieves qualifying test score after deadline and receives waiver from NCAA Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee.
Non-recruited exception	—	If nonrecruited S-A was offered no athletically related aid and was admitted without regard to athletics ability, use NCAA rules.
Intra-Conference transfers		
Any Type	Use Pac-12 intra-Conference transfer rules.	Use rules for incoming freshmen above, if applicable. Then apply Pac-12 intra-Conference transfer rules.