

Eligibility

Initial-Eligibility

In order to be eligible for practice and competition, all incoming first-time college students wishing to be a member of any Limestone College athletic team MUST register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The NCAA Clearinghouse is responsible for the evaluation of high school academic records to determine whether they meet the NCAA initial-eligibility guidelines per Bylaw 14.3.

The basic guidelines for becoming eligible to practice and compete at the Division II level during the first academic year are as follows:

- Graduate from high school
- Attain a minimum high school grade point average of 2.0 in 14 core curriculum courses as specified by Bylaw 14.3.1.1, and
- Achieve a corresponding sum ACT or SAT score as specified by Bylaw 14.3.1.1 (b)

The Athletic Compliance Office will track initial eligibility status with the NCAA Clearinghouse. The NCAA Clearinghouse provides our office with daily updates on current and potential student-athletes. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to consult with their high school academic counselor to ensure their academic records are forwarded to the NCAA Clearinghouse.

Continuing Eligibility

The continuing eligibility standards have been updated. Please note the changes made and follow the guidelines accordingly.

In order to maintain eligibility at Limestone College a student-athlete must have satisfactorily completed a minimum of 6 semester hours each semester (fall and spring), and have completed 24 semester hours for each fall and spring semesters combined. Additionally, student-athletes are required to meet the following standards in order to maintain eligibility for competition.

Fulfillment of Minimum Grade-Point-Average Requirements. A student-athlete shall meet the “satisfactory completion” provision of this requirement by maintaining a grade-point average that places the individual in good academic standing, as established by the institution for all students who are at an equivalent stage of progress toward a degree. To fulfill the “satisfactory completion” provision of this requirement, a student-athlete must achieve the following cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) at the beginning of the fall term or at the beginning of any other regular term of that academic year, based on the student-athlete earning:

- (a) 24-semester or 36-quarter hours: 1.800;
- (b) 48-semester or 72-quarter hours: 1.900;
- (c) 72-semester or 108-quarter hours: 2.000; and
- (d) 96-semester or 144-quarter hours: 2.000.

Remedial, Tutorial or Noncredit Courses. Remedial, tutorial or noncredit courses may be used by the student to satisfy the minimum academic progress requirement of Bylaw 14.4.3.3.1 only if they meet all of the following conditions:

- (a) The courses must be considered by the institution to be prerequisites for specific courses acceptable for any degree program;
- (b) The courses must be given the same weight as others in the institution in determining the student’s status for full-time enrollment;

- (c) Noncredit courses may not exceed the maximum institutional limit for such courses in any baccalaureate degree program (or the student's specific baccalaureate degree program once a program has been designated); and
- (d) For those students first enrolled in the certifying institution beginning with the 1986-87 academic year, the credit in such courses shall not exceed 12 semester or 18 quarter hours, and the courses must be taken during the student's first academic year of collegiate enrollment.

Other Eligibility Considerations

Student-athletes are permitted to compete in only 4 seasons of competition, except for extensions that have been approved in accordance with NCAA legislation (Bylaws 14.2 and 30.6.1).

14.2.5 Hardship Waiver. A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of competition by the conference or the Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee for reasons of "hardship." Hardship is defined as an incapacity resulting from an injury or illness that has occurred under all of the following conditions:

(Revised: 1/14/02 effective 8/1/02)

(a) The incapacitating injury or illness occurs in one of the four seasons of intercollegiate competition at

any two-year or four-year collegiate institution; *(Revised: 1/10/92 effective 8/1/92)*

(b) The injury or illness results in an incapacity to compete for the remainder of that playing season; and

(Revised: 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97, 1/14/02 effective 8/1/02, 1/13/03 effective 8/1/03 for any injury or illness occurring on or after 8/1/03)

(c) The injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete has not participated in more than two contests or

dates of competition (whichever is applicable to that sport) or 20 percent (whichever number is greater) of the institution's scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition in his or her sport. Only scheduled or completed competition (excluding scrimmages and exhibition contests per Bylaw 17.1.9.2) against outside participants during the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship,

or, if so designated, during the official NCAA championship playing season in that sport (e.g., spring baseball, fall soccer), shall be countable under this limitation in calculating both the number

of contests or dates of competition in which the student-athlete has participated and the number of scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition during that season in the sport. *(Revised: 1/10/92, 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97, 1/14/02 effective 8/1/02, 4/29/04, 1/10/05 for any competition occurring on or after 8/1/04)*

10-SEMESTER/15-QUARTER RULE WAIVER

As authorized in Bylaws 14.2.2.3 and 14.2.3.6, the Management Council, or a Management Council-designated committee, by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting, may approve waivers of the 10-semester/15-quarter rule.

30.6.1 Waiver Criteria. A waiver of the 10-semester/15-quarter period of eligibility is designed to provide a student-athlete with the opportunity to participate in four seasons of intercollegiate competition within a 10-semester/15-quarter period. This waiver may be granted, based upon objective evidence, for reasons that are beyond the control of the student-athlete and the institution, which deprive the student athlete of the opportunity to participate for more than one season in his/her sport within the 10-semester/15-quarter period. The Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee reserves the right to review requests that do not meet the more-than-one-year criteria detailed in this bylaw for extraordinary circumstances or extreme hardship.

30.6.1.1 Circumstances Beyond Control. Circumstances considered to be beyond the control of the student-athlete and the institution and do not cause a participation opportunity to be used shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Situations clearly supported by contemporaneous medical documentation, which states that a student-athlete is unable to participate in intercollegiate competition as a result of incapacitating physical or mental circumstances;
- (b) The student-athlete is unable to attend a collegiate institution full time as a result of a life-threatening or incapacitating injury or illness suffered by a member of the student-athlete's immediate family, which clearly is supported by contemporaneous medical documentation;
- (c) Reliance by the student-athlete on written, contemporaneous, clearly erroneous academic advice provided to the student-athlete from a specific academic authority from a collegiate institution regarding the academic status of the student-athlete or prospective student-athlete, which directly leads to that individual not being eligible to participate and, but for the clearly erroneous advice, the student-athlete would have established eligibility for intercollegiate competition;
- (d) Natural disasters (e.g., earthquakes, floods);
- (e) Extreme financial difficulties as a result of a specific event (e.g., layoff, death in the family) experienced by the student-athlete or by an individual on whom the student-athlete is legally dependent, which prohibit the student-athlete from participating in intercollegiate athletics. These circumstances must be clearly supported by objective documentation (e.g., decree of bankruptcy, proof of termination) and must be beyond the control of the student-athlete or the individual on whom the student-athlete is legally dependent.

30.6.1.2 Circumstances Within Control. Circumstances that are considered to be within the control of the student-athlete and the institution and cause a participation opportunity to be used include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) A student-athlete's decision to attend an institution that does not sponsor his/her sport, or decides not to participate at an institution that does sponsor his/her sport;
- (b) An inability to participate due to failure to meet institutional/conference or NCAA academic requirements, or disciplinary reasons or incarceration culminating in or resulting from a conviction;
- (c) Reliance by a student-athlete on misinformation from a coaching staff member;
- (d) Redshirt year;
- (e) An inability to participate as a result of a transfer year in residence or fulfilling a condition for restoration of eligibility; and
- (f) A student-athlete's lack of understanding regarding the specific starting date of his or her 10-semester period of eligibility.