

NCAA Rule of the Month

August 2011

Eligibility—Start of the Semester

Student-athletes must be enrolled in 12 credits (full-time) in order to be eligible to practice, receive aid and compete. There are a few exceptions to this rule:

Practice during the first week of class: A student-athlete may practice, but not compete during the first week of classes, even if the student-athlete is enrolled in less than 12 credits. This is provided they are otherwise eligible under NCAA, Pac-12 and CU regulations.

Student in their final semester: A student-athlete in their final semester may be enrolled in less than 12 credits, provided they are enrolled in the courses necessary to graduate.

Incoming student-athletes must also be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center for both academic and amateur purposes. A student-athlete **MUST** have both academic and amateur certification in order to compete. There is a grace period for practice, depending on their recruited status.

WALK-ONS: Walk-on student-athletes may practice, but not compete, for 45 days while waiting for their academic certification to be completed. After the 45 days, a student-athlete must be removed from practice until they are certified as a qualifier.

RECRUITED STUDENT-ATHLETES: Recruited student-athletes may practice, but not compete, for 21 days while waiting for their academic certification to be completed. After the 21 days, a student-athlete must be removed from practice until they are certified as a qualifier.

AMATEUR STATUS (ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES): Both walk-on and recruited student-athletes may practice, but not compete for 45 days while waiting for their amateur certification to be completed. After the 45 days, a student-athlete must be removed from practice until their amateur status is cleared.

Athletics financial aid cannot be awarded to a student-athlete until their academic status has been certified. This includes accepting books through the book loan program.

Ultimately, student-athletes are responsible for their eligibility; however, it is important for those that surround them to be aware of these exceptions and deadlines.