

NCAA Rule of the Month

February 2009
Hardship Waivers

A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of competition by the Big 12 Conference for reasons of "hardship." These are commonly referred to as "medical redshirts," which is **incorrect terminology**. Hardship is defined as an incapacity resulting from an injury or illness that has occurred under **all of the following conditions**:

- The **incapacitating injury or illness occurs in one of the four seasons** of intercollegiate competition at any two-year or four-year collegiate institutions or occurs after the first day of classes in the student-athlete's senior year in high school
- The injury or illness occurs in the **first half** of the championship season & it results in incapacity to compete for the remainder of that playing season
- The injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete **has not participated in more than three contests/dates of competition (whichever is applicable) or 30 percent (whichever number is greater) of CU's scheduled or completed contests/dates of competition**. Only scheduled or completed competition against outside participants during the championship playing season shall be countable. Permissible exempted dates of competition can count. Other contests (e.g. scrimmages) cannot count. We do round up, if the number of contests is a fraction—so 30% of 12 games is 3.6—we round up to 4 games that the SA could play in and still qualify for the hardship.

Contemporaneous medical documentation from the time period of when the injury occurred is REQUIRED if we are going to have a chance of being granted a hardship waiver. The sooner we submit these waiver requests, the better the odds for the student-athlete. **WE NEED TO MAKE SURE WE SUBMIT THESE WAIVER REQUESTS DURING THE YEAR IN WHICH THE INJURY OCCURS. REQUESTING HARDSHIPS NEAR THE END OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE'S ELIGIBILITY MAKES IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO ENSURE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION IS IN ORDER SO THAT WE CAN GET THE WAIVER GRANTED!**

If a student-athlete gets injured during the first half of the playing season and attempts a comeback during the second half of the season, or is "cleared" by the medical staff to participate during the second half, he/she will not qualify for a hardship waiver.

Computing percentages & contests for sports counting CONTESTS:

Example- Women's Basketball:

% of season played-> 8 contests played ÷ 29 overall scheduled contests = 27.6%

This student-athlete could qualify for a hardship waiver

Computing percentages & contests for sports counting DATES OF COMPETITION:

Example- Men's Golf:

% of season played-> 8 contests played ÷ 24 scheduled dates of team competition = 33.3%

This student-athlete would NOT qualify for a hardship waiver

Bylaw we are referencing: all of Bylaw 14.2.4.