

NCAA Rule of the Month

December 2008
Outside Competition

The NCAA has rules prohibiting CU student-athletes from competing in competition outside of their CU uniform during the academic year when they still have eligibility remaining. However, we are in a time period which **does** permit an exception to this rule. CU's winter break is considered a "vacation period" by the NCAA, and during vacation periods, it could be possible for a student-athlete (except for basketball) to participate on an outside amateur team without jeopardizing their eligibility.

14.7.1 Outside Competition -- Sports Other Than Basketball.

A student-athlete in any sport other than basketball who participates during the academic year as a member of any outside team in any noncollegiate, amateur competition becomes ineligible for intercollegiate competition unless eligibility is restored by the NCAA. A student-athlete is permitted to practice on such a team.

All sports' rules on outside competition during the academic year are different. It is important to know what rule applies to which sport:

Sport	# of Participants
Basketball (M & W)*	0
Cross Country	2
Football	0
Golf (M & W)	2
Skiing	4
Soccer*	0
Tennis	2
Track & Field	7
Volleyball*	0

*= Sport allows outside competition only during the summer months.

Once the sport's season begins, the student-athlete is no longer eligible to participate in outside competition during the vacation period. For example, if the CU Ski Team reports for their season on January 1, their student-athletes would no longer be able to participate in outside competition. However, Skiing student-athletes would have been able to participate in outside competition from the time the semester ended to the date they report to begin practice.

This rule does have exceptions. For example, Jenny Barringer's (steeplechase) participation in the Olympics would not have violated this rule, as the Olympic Games are exempt. Also exempt from this rule was the run Nikki Marshall (soccer) made with her teammates on the U-20 National Team en route to the U-20 World Cup.

One exception that is also applicable to our student-athletes is a high school alumni game. Again, excluding basketball, a student-athlete may compete in one game a year involving players from the student-athlete's former high school and its alumni team. However, like the other permissible outside competition, this game must take place during a vacation period. Be sure to complete the outside competition form and submit to Jo Marchi in the compliance office at gate #1, if you do plan to engage in outside competition.