

## Rule 3

# ELIGIBILITY

**3.1 Student-Athlete.** The term “student-athlete” is the same as defined by NCAA Bylaw 12.02.14.

**3.2 Eligibility for Regular Season Competition and NCAA Championships.** Except where this Handbook establishes additional requirements or standards, Mountain West rules governing financial aid, recruiting, and transfers are consistent with those of NCAA Bylaws 13-15.

**3.2.1 Nonqualifiers.** The provisions in this section shall apply to Mountain West and non-Mountain West sports. A nonqualifier, as defined by the NCAA, whose initial full-time enrollment occurs at a Mountain West institution shall be permanently ineligible for practice and competition at any Mountain West institution. Exceptions within NCAA Bylaw 14 regulations do not take precedent over Mountain West Rule 3 regulations. *(Adopted June 2002; Revised November 2002, June 2003, June 2019; Clarified September 2016)*

**3.2.1.1 NCAA Academic Redshirts.** A student-athlete who is classified as an academic redshirt in accordance with NCAA rules shall not be subject to the Mountain West nonqualifier rule. *(Adopted January 2013)*

**3.2.1.2 Partial Approval of NCAA Initial-Eligibility Waivers.** A student-athlete who is granted partial approval of an NCAA initial-eligibility waiver shall be permitted to compete for a Mountain West institution after all NCAA initial-eligibility waiver requirements and applicable progress-toward-degree requirements are met. *(Adopted October 2007)*

**3.2.1.3 Male Practice Player Exception.** Male students may engage in practice sessions with women’s teams pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 12.7.5 (Eligibility Requirements for Male Students to Practice with Women’s Teams) and are not subject to Rule 3.2.1 (Nonqualifiers). *(Adopted November 2016)*

### **3.3 Eligibility Forms and Procedures.**

**3.3.1 Historical Information.** Historical information shall be prepared by each member institution for every first-time freshman, transfer or re-entering student-athlete prior to the time the student-athlete first reports for practice. The following information must be completed and on file: *(Revised April 2017)*

- a. Educational history from ninth grade year of high school, or equivalent grade level for international student-athletes, to initial full-time enrollment at the certifying institution (including collegiate enrollment status of each collegiate semester or quarter);
- b. Amateurism information since the date of final NCAA amateurism certification;
- c. Athletics history since high school graduation date (as determined by the NCAA Eligibility Center);

- d. Eligibility for athletics aid, practice and competition during each collegiate semester or quarter;
- e. National Letter of Intent information;
- f. All scholarship information;
- g. Employment information at the time of initial full-time enrollment at the certifying institution; and
- h. For transfers, transfer information used to determine satisfaction of transfer requirements.

Required information shall be retained by the member institution and shall be available to the Conference upon request.

**3.3.2 Squad List.** A squad list shall be compiled prior to the first date of competition for each team the member institution sponsors as a part of its intercollegiate athletics program and shall be signed by the director of athletics (or his or her designee, who may not be a coaching staff member) and the head coach of the applicable sport. Squad lists shall be revised to cover any changes made to a squad prior to the competition of any student-athlete whose eligibility status changed or any student-athlete added to the list and shall be signed by the aforementioned institutional officials. Squad lists shall be forwarded to the Conference office twice a year: once prior to a team's first competition and once at the end of the academic year or the completion of the season, whichever is later. *(Clarified September 2016, August 2017)*

**3.4 Minimum Grade-Point Average for Competition.** To be eligible for competition, a Mountain West student-athlete shall meet the grade-point average requirements set forth by the NCAA. *(Revised June 2005)*

**3.4.1 Eligibility Between Terms.** Certification of a student-athlete's eligibility between terms shall take place in accordance with applicable NCAA rules. Student-athletes participating in football bowl contests between terms must be certified in accordance with applicable NCAA rules prior to being permitted to compete on behalf of the institution in the football bowl contest. *(Revised July 2003, August 2003, June 2005)*

**3.5 Medical Hardship Waivers.** A student-athlete may request and be granted an additional season of competition by the Conference for injury or illness in accordance with NCAA Bylaw 12.8.4. The request for a medical hardship waiver shall be submitted to the Conference office by a staff member (i.e., faculty athletics representative, director of athletics, senior woman administrator, compliance administrator) of the member institution at which the illness or injury occurred. In the case of a transfer, if the member institution the student-athlete was attending at the time of the injury or illness refuses to pursue a medical hardship waiver, the institution to which the student-athlete transferred may submit the medical hardship waiver and all supporting documentation to the Conference office. The Conference office shall review the request and make a determination based on legislated NCAA criteria. The Conference office shall report to the faculty athletics representatives' designated governance group the outcome on all medical hardship waiver requests on a bi-annual basis. The faculty athletics representatives' designated governance group shall report the actions taken to the Joint Council on a bi-annual basis. *(Revised April 2006)*

**3.5.1 Appeals.** Appeals of Conference medical hardship waiver decisions shall be reviewed by the NCAA Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement. All such appeals shall be submitted by member institutions. A member institution that would like to submit an appeal of a medical hardship waiver decision to the NCAA shall submit such a request to the faculty athletics representatives' designated governance group. The faculty athletics representatives shall review the request and make a determination as to whether it should be submitted to the NCAA. *(Revised April 2006; Clarified August 2018)*