

NCAA Division I One-Time Transfer FAQs

Student-athletes and families need to understand the key changes to the one-time transfer exception for those student-athletes seeking immediate eligibility when transferring from a four-year school to an NCAA Division I school beginning fall 2021*.

Student-athletes will want to seek assistance from their campus compliance administrator to ensure whether this one-time transfer exception will apply to their specific transfer situation. Student-athletes may also contact NCAA Customer Service at 317-917-6008 for general rules education. Please visit ncaa.org/transfer to view additional NCAA transfer guides and resources.

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One-Time Transfer Exception Criteria for 2021-22 Enrollment

Q1: What criteria does the student-athlete need to meet in order to utilize the new Division I one-time exception to seek immediate transfer eligibility?

A1: In order to meet the criteria of the one-time transfer exception, the student-athlete must:

- Transfer from a four-year collegiate institution to an NCAA Division I school;
- Leave their current four-year school academically eligible;
- Have not transferred previously from another four-year institution, and
- Certify in writing, along with their new head coach, they did not have [direct or indirect communication](#) with the new school's athletics staff prior to entering the NCAA Transfer Portal.

Additionally, a student-athlete must provide their current school with a written request to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal by July 1, 2021 (all sports) to use the one-time exception.

Other rules (e.g., disciplinary suspension at the previous school, transferable credits accepted by your new school, sport specific midyear transfer rules) may also factor into the campus compliance administrator's certification of transfer eligibility.

Q2 What happens if a student-athlete does not satisfy the one-time transfer exception criteria but still decides to transfer?

A2: The student-athlete must attend full time and complete an [academic year of residence](#) at the new Division I school before being eligible for competition. Student-athletes should discuss additional transfer exceptions or eligibility options that may be available, depending on the specific transfer situation, with their campus compliance administrator.

Prior Transfers

- Q3:** What if a student-athlete previously transferred from a four-year school and would like to transfer again?
- A3:** Generally, a student-athlete who has previously transferred from another four-year school would not qualify for the one-time exception. There is an additional exception to this application if their previous transfer was due to the discontinuation or nonsponsorship of their sport at their original school.
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- Q4:** Does a student-athlete who previously transferred at the beginning of the spring 2021 academic term now qualify for a one-time exception to compete in fall 2021 at their same school?
- A4:** Yes, provided the campus compliance administrator can certify the student-athlete met the new one-time exception criteria at the time they transferred to their current Division I school in spring 2021.

Academic Eligibility

- Q5:** How does a student-athlete know if they will be academically eligible at the time they prepare to transfer from their current school?
- A5:** Student-athletes will want to seek assistance from their campus compliance administrator to ensure whether this one-time transfer exception will apply to their specific transfer situation prior to requesting entrance to the NCAA Transfer Portal.
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- Q6:** Are there other eligibility requirements a student-athlete must consider?
- A6:** Like all Division I student-athletes, an incoming transfer student-athlete will also need to meet minimum academic progress requirements at their new school to be eligible to compete. The requirements an individual student-athlete must meet depends on how far along they are in their degree progression, their sport, and the time of transfer (e.g., fall versus midyear). Compliance and academic staff at schools a student-athlete is considering will be able to help the student-athlete understand if they are on track to meet the necessary academic requirements.

Recruiting and Impermissible Communication

- Q7:** Is a student-athlete who enters the NCAA Transfer Portal automatically eligible to compete at another Division I school?
- A7:** No. Entry into the NCAA Transfer Portal is required for student-athletes to permissibly contact (and be contacted by) other schools about transfer opportunities, but they still must qualify for a transfer exception and be academically eligible at their new school to compete immediately. For more information on the implications of entering the NCAA Transfer Portal, please consult the [Notification of Transfer resource](#).
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- Q8:** What happens if a student-athlete had impermissible communications, directly or indirectly, with coaching staff or boosters at the Division I school to which they transfer?
- A8:** Existing recruiting rules prohibit communication and contact with a student-athlete enrolled at another NCAA school prior to the student-athlete appearing in the NCAA Transfer Portal. These rules also prohibit the indirect use of third parties contacting individuals on the student-athlete's behalf (e.g., family member, scholastic or nonscholastic coach, advisor). Certain violations of these rules can constitute a significant breach of conduct as it relates to the NCAA infractions process. A student-athlete's eligibility can be jeopardized at the school that engaged in impermissible communication.

General Information

- Q9:** Does the sport you participate in matter when qualifying for this exception?
- A9:** No. The new one-time exception is available to transferring student-athletes in all Division I sports provided [certain criteria](#) are met.
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- Q10:** Is the current four-year school the student-athlete is transferring from able to object to the student-athlete's use of the one-time exception?
- A10:** No. The former written support requirement was removed from the one-time transfer exception criteria. Please note that the student-athlete's current school will still assist the new school with determining whether the necessary one-time exception criteria are satisfied by the student-athlete.
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- Q11:** Does the one-time transfer exception apply to student-athletes transferring from two-year colleges?
- A11:** No. The exception only applies to students transferring between four-year collegiate institutions. To view two-year transfer eligibility requirements, please visit ncaa.org/transfer.
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** The above described changes are considered final once approved by the Division I Board of Directors during its April 28 meeting.*

Disclaimer: This document and other NCAA transfer guides and resource are intended to address frequently asked questions related to the NCAA Division I One-Time Transfer exception and are for educational purposes only. A campus compliance administrator must certify student-athlete transfer eligibility. General guidance and information for students considering transferring can be found at ncaa.org/transfer.