

Policies and Procedures

40 – Eligibility

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PREAMBLE

National competition for university athletes is administered by U SPORTS. The athletes participating represent the highest competitive level of university competition in their sport. It is to be considered an honour and a privilege to participate in U SPORTS events and to be a U SPORTS registered athlete.

U SPORTS reserves the right to govern its competition and, in doing so, to demand prerequisites from the athletes and institutions. U SPORTS attempts to provide a reasonable level of fairness of competition within the framework of U SPORTS Championships.

U SPORTS conducts national competition for its members. U SPORTS will not be accountable for extraordinary requirements, beyond those identified as U SPORTS prerequisites, which are imposed by a Regional Association.

It is the moral and ethical responsibility of the Director of Athletics and the coach to be completely cognizant of the spirit and intent of all Eligibility Rules governing interuniversity sport and it is their professional responsibility to convey to all athletes the rationale and philosophical persuasion of any rule in question.

40.10.1 PRINCIPLES

The following principles are observed in the formulation of U SPORTS eligibility rules:

- 40.10.1.1 U SPORTS shall promote ethics, fairplay, and the opportunity for all eligible athletes to participate in interuniversity sport while pursuing their education.
- 40.10.1.2 All athletes must be demonstrating progress towards furthering their education and maintaining academic success.
- 40.10.1.3 Only Regional Association representatives (team and individual) and/or institutional representatives may enter into competition with one another in U SPORTS Championships.
- 40.10.1.4 Athletes are eligible according to acceptable course load standards as established by U SPORTS.
- 40.10.1.5 Authority for accepting an athlete as eligible rests with U SPORTS.
- 40.10.1.6 U SPORTS reserves the right to interpret and apply the Eligibility Rules and to impose penalties on athletes and members for breaches of the Eligibility Rules.
- 40.10.1.7 U SPORTS competitions shall include only athletes acceptable to U SPORTS as eligible.
- 40.10.1.8 The length of time an athlete may participate in U SPORTS competition shall be restricted.
- 40.10.1.9 U SPORTS supports the provision of benefits to athletes according to acceptable ethical practices (and within guidelines established by U SPORTS).

40.10.2 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

40.10.2.1 Jurisdiction of Rules

40.10.2.1.1 U SPORTS Eligibility Rules

40.10.2.1.1.1 These rules shall apply to all athletes participating in U SPORTS competition, inclusive of Regional Association, Conference and non-Conference competition in any sport in which U SPORTS recognizes, conducts and awards a national championship. Additionally, these rules shall apply to all athletes participating on behalf of their institution in non-U SPORTS sports that are considered as equivalent to a U SPORTS sport. Member institutions are required to confirm with their respective Eligibility Review Officer as to the application of these rules to sport participation on behalf of the institution that could be considered similar in nature to a traditional U SPORTS sport. Presently this list includes, but is not limited to: 11-aside indoor soccer; outdoor track & field disciplines; NCAA sand volleyball; and greco-roman wrestling.

40.10.2.1.1.2 With respect to non-conference (exhibition) competition in a recognized team sport of U SPORTS (basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, rugby, soccer, volleyball) during the same academic year that the institution is registered for that team sport, please note the following:

40.10.2.1.1.2.1 when athletes utilize either the traditional name or uniform of the institution's U SPORTS team while participating on behalf of their institution in a club or community league, U SPORTS rules shall apply.

40.10.2.1.1.2.2 when athletes do not utilize the traditional name or uniform of the institution's U SPORTS team while participating on behalf of their institution in competition, U SPORTS rules shall apply, with the following exceptions:

- i) If the competitions of the athletes occur out of season (that is, subsequent to the last U SPORTS competition for the athletes in a given academic year and prior to August 15 of the same academic year), and the competitions are part of a recognized league that is sanctioned or affiliated by the respective provincial sport organization or equivalent.
- ii) If all the participating athletes are distinct from the institution's U SPORTS team.

40.10.2.1.2 Regional Association Rules

40.10.2.1.2.1 Any deviations from U SPORTS Eligibility Rules made by Regional Associations or institutions may only be of a more stringent nature.

40.10.2.1.2.2 The recognized Regional Associations of U SPORTS include:

- 1) Atlantic University Sport
- 2) Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec
- 3) Ontario University Athletics
- 4) Canada West

40.10.2.1.3 Member Institution Responsibility

40.10.2.1.3.1 The institution, inclusive of administrators and coaches and student-athletes, is responsible for placing only U SPORTS eligible athletes into U SPORTS competition.

40.10.2.2 Application of Eligibility Rules to New Sports Recognized by U SPORTS

Where a new sport is adopted as a recognized sport of U SPORTS, these Rules shall have effect on the eligibility of an athlete to participate in the new sport only from the first day of registration for the academic year next following the adoption of the new sport.

40.10.2.3 Application of Eligibility Rules to New Teams of Current Members

In the academic year immediately preceding a current member's declaration of participation in a U SPORTS recognized sport, for the first time, and the respective team is competing under the traditional school name or uniform, the entirety of Policy 40 – Eligibility Rules shall have effect, with the exception of 40.10.4.1 (post-secondary participation). Notwithstanding the non-application of 40.10.4.1, a student-athlete who wishes to transfer to another U SPORTS school in the immediately subsequent academic year is still subject to the transfer rule.

40.10.2.4 Application of Eligibility Rules to New Members

In the academic year a university becomes a member (probationary or otherwise) of a Regional Association, the respective teams that compete under the traditional school name or uniform of the new member shall be subject to the entirety of Policy 40 – Eligibility Rules, with the exception of 40.10.4.1 (post-secondary participation and the

charging of eligibility) in certain instances. In the event a team is already participating within a jurisdiction that charges eligibility, U SPORTS will recognize the consumption of eligibility within that jurisdiction in accordance with that jurisdiction's rules. Irrespective of the application of 40.10.4.1 and the charging of eligibility, a student-athlete who wishes to transfer to another U SPORTS school shall be subject to the U SPORTS to U SPORTS transfer rule.

40.10.3 ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

40.10.3.1.1 Academic Year

An academic year is defined as being 365 consecutive days calculated from the first day of fall classes as set out in a member institution's official calendar. A year is defined as a period of 365 consecutive days. In the instance of a leap year, the number of consecutive days shall be 366.

40.10.3.1.2 Academic Transcript

40.10.3.1.2.1 A student's academic transcript, from the institution he/she is representing, is the official record to be used when determining and monitoring a student's status with respect to U SPORTS Course Load requirements and Academic Standing Requirements.

40.10.3.1.2.2 Online and correspondence courses can contribute to U SPORTS Course Load requirements and Academic Standing requirements provided the course is both completed and recognized for credit on a student's transcript within the academic semester (for half-year courses) or year (for full-year courses) the course is initiated.

40.10.3.1.2.3 In recognition that certain full-time post-degree programs are not recognized for credit on a student's academic transcript, the Eligibility Committee will review such programs on request to determine if the course credits can contribute to U SPORTS Course Load and Academic Standing requirements.

40.10.3.1.3 Integrated Academic Programs ~ College and University

A student-athlete has the opportunity to participate with a U SPORTS member institution in a U SPORTS sport while attending a college provided the student is registered in an integrated academic program between the college and the respective U SPORTS member university, subject to all U SPORTS regulations. There are three guidelines utilized to determine if an "integrated academic program" exists:

- i) A student-athlete is at all times registered in a degree-granting program, and
- ii) The program requires a student-athlete to attend both partner institutions in order to complete the degree; the degree cannot be completed in total at just one of the partner institutions, and
- iii) The President or designate of each of the colleges and universities participating in the program must confirm in writing that the program is an integrated academic program.

40.10.3.1.4 Integrated Academic Programs ~ Multiple Universities

A student-athlete has the opportunity to participate with a U SPORTS member institution in a U SPORTS sport while attending a different university provided the student is registered in an

“integrated academic program” between the respective U SPORTS member universities, subject to all other U SPORTS regulations inclusive of the transfer rule.

There will be one guideline utilized to determine if an “integrated academic program” exists:

- The President or designate of each of the universities participating in the program must confirm in writing that the program is an “integrated academic program”, for the purpose of this regulation.

40.10.3.2 Course Load Requirements

- 40.10.3.2.1 A student-athlete must be enrolled in a minimum of three (3) courses (minimum 9 credit hours or equivalent) in the semester in which they are competing within U SPORTS, unless there are circumstances within their academic program which would warrant an exception to this ruling and in which the university continues to declare this individual a full-time student in that semester (such as graduate students as per 40.10.3.5, exchange students as per 40.10.3.3.8, registered special needs students as per 40.10.3.2.2, and co-op students as per 40.10.3.2.3).

The student-athlete’s academic transcript, from the member institution he/she is representing, must recognize all semester hours that are applied to Course Load Requirements (reference Policy 40.10.3.1.2).

Athletic participation during the time period beginning on August 15 and ending at the conclusion of December 25 of the same calendar year (the "Fall Period"), is subject to Course Load Requirements of the September-December academic semester encompassed by that Fall Period. Athletic Participation during the time period beginning on December 26 and ending at the conclusion of August 14 of the next calendar year (the "Winter/Spring Period") is subject to the Course Load Requirements of the January-April academic semester encompassed by that Winter/Spring Period."

- 40.10.3.2.2 A Special Needs student-athlete must be enrolled in a full-time course load (or full-time equivalent as defined by their institution as a Special Needs Student), or minimum nine credit hours in the semester in which they are competing. A Special Needs student must be formally designated as such by the institution’s Special Needs department or equivalent.
- 40.10.3.2.3 A student-athlete registered in a co-op program and on a recognized work term that (i) is a recognized component of their academic program and / or (ii) is recognized for university credit, will be eligible to participate for that institution in that semester and provided the university continues to declare the individual as a full-time student in that term.
- 40.10.3.2.4 **An exception to rule 40.10.3.2 will be made allowing any U SPORTS swimmers with a qualifying time within 1% of the FINA A standard (long course made subsequent to September 2014), to be eligible for U SPORTS competition in the 2016 winter semester as long as they are registered in a minimum 3 credit hours at their U SPORTS institution.**

40.10.3.3 Academic Standing

- 40.10.3.3.1 A student-athlete who successfully complete a minimum of three full courses, or six half courses, or eighteen semester hours during the academic year at a degree

granting institution, is for the purpose of this rule, a student in good standing for that academic year, unless there are circumstances within their academic program which would warrant an exception to this ruling and in which the university continues to declare this individual a full-time student (such as graduate students as per 40.10.3.5, registered special needs students as per 40.10.3.3.3, and co-op students as per 40.10.3.2.3).

The member institution registering the U SPORTS student-athlete must recognize all semester hours that are applied to the 18 semester hour requirement (reference Policy 40.10.3.1.2).

In the case of a student-athlete transfer from another post-secondary institution (excluding CEGEP) to a U SPORTS member in the same academic year, the credits earned at the originating institution, plus any new credits earned at the U SPORTS member that the student-athlete will eventually represent in competition, contribute to the 18 semester hour requirement for the academic year.

- 40.10.3.3.2 In order to be eligible for U SPORTS competition, a student-athlete who has attended and been charged with a year of eligibility in a recognized sport of U SPORTS at a degree-granting post-secondary institution must have been a student in good standing in that year, as per 40.10.3.3.1, in his or her final year as a student-athlete at their previous institution.
- 40.10.3.3.3 A Special Needs Student must successfully complete either a full-time course load (or full-time equivalent as defined by their institution as a Special Needs Student), or minimum eighteen credit hours in order to be eligible for the following year. A special needs student must be formally designated as such by the institution's special needs department or equivalent.
- 40.10.3.3.4 Any student-athlete who is ineligible to compete in U SPORTS competition because the athlete is no longer a student in good standing, must successfully complete within an academic year; three full courses, or six half courses, or eighteen semester hours at a recognized post-secondary institution where courses are recognized for credit at the member institution registering the U SPORTS athlete. The student-athlete is eligible for participation immediately upon successful completion of the above academic requirements.
- 40.10.3.3.5 Any student-athlete who has been required to withdraw by their institution can compete immediately upon successfully completing 18 credit hours within an academic year at any post-secondary institution where courses are recognized for credit at the member institution registering the U SPORTS athlete.
Exception: Any student-athlete who successfully completes 18 credit hours, but is required to withdraw by their institution for academic reason, will be eligible upon re-admittance to any member institution, subject to the transfer rule if applicable.
- 40.10.3.3.6.1 Subject to Policies 40.10.3.3.4 and 40.10.3.3.5, a student-athlete transferring from a non-degree granting institution (excluding CEGEP student-athletes) to a U SPORTS member institution, is considered to be a student in good standing if the student has achieved the following:
- i. a minimum 60% average on those courses utilized to determine the student's university admission; and,

- ii. successfully completed a minimum of three full courses, or six half courses, or eighteen semester hours during their most recently completed academic year, or the most recent academic year he/she was a student-athlete at their previous institution; and,
- iii. specific to CCAA student-athletes, has also maintained their academic eligibility in the CCAA.

Please reference Policies 40.10.5.7.1 and 40.10.5.7.2 for additional non-academic regulations associated with these student-athletes.

In those instances when a student-athlete has been accepted into a U SPORTS member institution but has not achieved the 60% requirement, or has not maintained their academic eligibility in the CCAA, the student-athlete must successfully complete 9 credit hours or equivalent in a single semester prior to becoming eligible to participate.

In those instances when a student-athlete has been accepted into a U SPORTS member institution but has not achieved the 18 semester hour requirement at their previous institution, the student-athlete must do so at their U SPORTS institution prior to participation.

- 40.10.3.3.6.2 Subject to Policies 40.10.3.3.4 and 40.10.3.3.5, a student-athlete transferring from a CEGEP to a U SPORTS member institution, is considered to be a student in good standing if the student has achieved a minimum 60% average on those courses utilized to determine the student's university admission and has maintained their academic eligibility in the RSEQ.

In those instances when a student-athlete has been accepted into a U SPORTS member institution but has not achieved the 60% requirement while maintaining their academic eligibility in the RSEQ, the student-athlete must successfully complete 9 credit hours or equivalent in a single semester prior to becoming eligible to participate.

In those instances when a student-athlete has been accepted into a U SPORTS member institution but has not maintained their academic eligibility in the RSEQ (as evidenced by being listed on the RSEQ ineligible list), the student-athlete must successfully complete 18 credit hours or equivalent within an academic year prior to becoming eligible to participate. The student-athlete is eligible immediately upon successful completion of the above academic requirements.

- 40.10.3.3.7 A student-athlete who enrolls in post-secondary education (excluding CEGEP) for the first time at any U SPORTS member institution in January, and who successfully completes a minimum of three half courses or nine semester hours prior to the first of September of the following academic year, is a student in good standing. Specific to men's hockey, a student-athlete who has previously enrolled as a part-time student at a post-secondary institution while concurrently playing within the Canadian Hockey League, and who has not previously participated with another post-secondary team, shall also qualify for this academic accommodation of requiring the successful completion of three half courses or nine semester hours prior to the first of September of the following academic year when they enroll for the first time in January at any U SPORTS member institution. In all other instances, if an individual has previously enrolled in a

post-secondary institution previously, either full-time or part-time, this accommodation is not available to them.

- 40.10.3.3.8 A student-athlete officially classified by a member institution as an academic exchange student shall be exempt from the applicable transfer rule (40.10.5.7.3) and academic standing rule (40.10.3.3.2) so that they can be immediately eligible to participate in U SPORTS competition for one competitive season at the U SPORTS institution they are attending as an exchange student, subject to all other regulations. The requirements of regulation 40.10.5.7.3 (non-Canadian degree granting transfer students) would be applied in the student-athlete's second competitive season in the event he/she remains at the U SPORTS institution.

(note 1: An exchange student is a student who is involved in an established academic exchange program between a U SPORTS member institution and a non-Canadian post-secondary degree-granting institution.)

(note 2: in those instances where a U SPORTS student-athlete participates with a non-Canadian post-secondary degree-granting institution while classified as an academic exchange student, all eligibility regulations apply with the exception of the transfer rule, i.e. the student-athlete does not have to sit out one year when they return from their exchange school to their original U SPORTS school).

- 40.10.3.3.9 Any athlete officially classified by a member institution as a visiting student, shall be subject to all Eligibility Rules at the institution they are attending as a visiting student, inclusive of the transfer rule.

(note 1: a visiting student is a student who is taking courses at one institution which leads to a degree at another institution.)

40.10.3.4 Graduating Year

An athlete who completes a degree during a previous academic year is eligible to participate in U SPORTS competition notwithstanding that the athlete did not, during that previous academic year, successfully complete sufficient courses to maintain the status of "student in good standing". This shall be a one-time allowance.

40.10.3.5 Graduate Student

An exception to 40.10.3.2 (Course Load) and / or 40.10.3.3 (Academic Standing) is available to an athlete registered as a full-time student in any graduate program offered by a member institution.

40.10.3.5.1 A student-athlete, who enrolls in either a doctorate or master's degree at a member institution, and who attended another institution the previous academic year in an undergraduate (or equivalent) program, shall retain any available U SPORTS eligibility to participate immediately. This shall be a one-time allowance. This accommodation is also available to a student-athlete who enrolls in any of the following designated programs:

- Bachelor of Law(s)
- Doctor of Dental Medicine
- Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)
- Doctor of Medicine (MD)
- Doctor of Optometry

- Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
- Juris Doctor (JD)
- Additional programs may be considered upon request of the U SPORTS Eligibility Committee.

40.10.4 ATHLETIC REQUIREMENTS

40.10.4.1 Post-Secondary Participation (conference and non-conference)

- 40.10.4.1.1 The appearance of the name of an athlete on any score sheet or final entry form or results sheet or equivalent, within U SPORTS, shall be deemed participation in that game or competition for which the athlete was registered.
- 40.10.4.1.2.1 Specific to wrestling and the appearance of the name of an athlete on an Eligibility Certificate, the appearance of the name of an athlete on any entry form or results sheet (or equivalent) prior to their Conference Championship (or equivalent) shall be deemed as participation in that competition for which the athlete was registered. This includes any competition where the athlete was registered as a club wrestler (or equivalent). Further, with the exception of the U SPORTS National Championship and the Conference Championship (or equivalent), all competitions are considered to be non-conference (exhibition) competitions.
- 40.10.4.1.2.2 Specific to indoor track & field and the appearance of the name of an athlete on an Eligibility Certificate, the appearance of the name of an athlete on any entry form or results sheet (or equivalent) between November 1 and the U SPORTS National Championship shall be deemed as participation in that competition for which the athlete was registered; and the result of that competition be recognized for national ranking and qualification purposes. This includes any competition where the athlete was registered as a club athlete (or equivalent). Further, with the exception of the U SPORTS National Championship and the Conference Championship (or equivalent), all competitions are considered to be non-conference (exhibition) competitions.
- 40.10.4.1.3 Within U SPORTS, an athlete shall be charged with a year of eligibility for each year of competition where the athlete participated in any one of the following:
- a) With the exception of curling, participation in three or more non-conference competitions or tournaments, wherein any number of competitions that occur during three consecutive days shall count as one non-conference competition for the purposes of this rule. This includes participation within a club or community league, beyond U SPORTS conference competition, during the academic year.
- Specific to the sports of cross-country running, wrestling, track & field, and swimming, all competitions outside a U SPORTS Championship or Conference Championship (or equivalent) are considered to be non-conference competitions for the purpose of this rule.

A non-conference or exhibition competition shall be recognized as such if any one of the following conditions exists (unless otherwise designated as a Conference competition):

- i. The competition is scheduled and publicized in advance;
- ii. Official score is kept;
- iii. Individual or team standings are maintained;
- iv. Admission is charged;
- v. Teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined; or
- vi. Team uniforms are utilized.

Exception: Institutions have the opportunity to exclude one alumni game for each of its teams from being considered a non-conference or exhibition competition. Please note, all other eligibility rules continue to apply to U SPORTS student-athletes participating in the alumni game.

- b) In the sports of basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, and volleyball, participation in any conference competition if there is a non-conference schedule in that sport as determined by the institution, irrespective of the participation of the student-athlete in the non-conference schedule.
- c) **Specific to the sport of Soccer participation in 11vs.11 non-conference soccer between the end of the U SPORTS Soccer Championships and August 15th (or earlier if a successful application is made) of the following year will not count towards an eligible student-athletes participation count for the purposes of eligibility. All other U SPORTS rules apply.**
- d) In the sports of football and rugby, and where a team has a one-game or event exhibition schedule, a student-athlete may participate in one regular season game without consuming a year of eligibility.
- e) In the sports of basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, rugby, soccer, and volleyball, participation in two or more conference competitions if there is no non-conference schedule in that sport as determined by the institution.
- f) Applicable to all sports, any participation in a conference playoff, regional qualifying event or conference-specific competitive structure that determines qualification to a U SPORTS Championship.
- g) Applicable to all sports, any participation in a U SPORTS Championship.

40.10.4.1.4 If a U SPORTS student-athlete suffers a season-ending injury or illness after surpassing current eligibility thresholds outlined in rule 40.10.4.1.2.1, the school, on behalf of the student-athlete, may request relief of the rule by submitting a Season-Ending Injury Form (40.20.2.7) as per the parameters established in 40.20.2.6.

A student-athlete who has his/her season-ending injury application upheld continues to be subject to U SPORTS Eligibility Requirements, including Academic Standing Requirements and the traditional transfer rule. The same applies to medical hardship waivers, or equivalents, provided within another post-secondary jurisdiction.

- 40.10.4.1.5 Within another post-secondary jurisdiction (national, regional, or provincial) in the United States or Canada, an athlete shall be charged with a year of eligibility in a U SPORTS recognized sport in accordance with that jurisdiction's regulations. If the jurisdiction does not charge eligibility, U SPORTS does not consider eligibility to be consumed. The jurisdiction's definition of participation is respected as well. In those instances where the other jurisdiction provides a medical hardship waiver, or equivalent, U SPORTS will respect that waiver, however the student-athlete would remain subject to the traditional transfer rule if they attend a U SPORTS institution in the academic year immediately following the year he/she was provided the medical hardship waiver.

Note: Although non-Canadian jurisdictions may recognize a distinction between, for example, indoor and outdoor track & field, and freestyle and roman-greco wrestling, the U SPORTS recognizes all of these as equivalents to its related U SPORTS sport.

- 40.10.4.1.6 Participation which occurs exclusively within a club or community league involving a U SPORTS member in a U SPORTS recognized sport will not result in the charging of a year of eligibility.
- 40.10.4.1.7 Athletes participating and representing their institution in sport recognized by U SPORTS prior to August 15th will be considered to have participated in the academic year in which such participation occurred. Participation on or after August 15th will be considered as participation in the following academic year. Application, via email and a \$50 fee, can be made to the U SPORTS office to request participation between July 15 and August 15 to be considered and contributing to the following academic year.
- 40.10.4.1.8 An athlete who was not registered in the required number of courses for U SPORTS competition as per 40.10.3.3 in the fall semester (September-December), but who has registered for the required number of courses for U SPORTS competition as per 40.10.3.3 in the winter semester (January-April), shall be eligible to participate as of December 26 in that academic year.

40.10.4.2 CEGEP Participation

- 40.10.4.2.1 CEGEP athletes shall be charged with a year of U SPORTS eligibility for each year of participation beyond three (3) years in CEGEP athletic programs in a recognized sport of U SPORTS, with the following exceptions:
- 40.10.4.2.1.1 Within Men's Basketball, a student-athlete, who has used up his high school eligibility outside Quebec, or graduated from high school in their home province (excluding Quebec), and is attending a CEGEP, shall be charged with a year of eligibility for each year or partial year of participation in CEGEP basketball.
- 40.10.4.2.1.2 With respect to participation that is exclusive to football, regulation 40.10.4.3.1.2 takes precedence.
- 40.10.4.2.2 As noted elsewhere in these regulations, CEGEP athletes must have maintained their academic eligibility within the RSEQ as one of the conditions to be deemed eligible for U SPORTS participation.

40.10.4.3 Maximum Years (all sports)

40.10.4.3.1.1 An athlete shall be allowed to participate in U SPORTS competition for five (5) academic years.

40.10.4.3.1.2 Men's Football (effective 2014-15)

Please note, beginning in academic year 2014-15, and subject to all other regulations, including Policy 40.10.4.3.1.1 (Maximum Years), a U SPORTS football student-athlete must have been born on or after September 1 of the year specified in order to be eligible for U SPORTS football competition during the academic year indicated:

Born September 1, 1992 or subsequently; eligible for academic year 2017-18;

Born September 1, 1993 or subsequently; eligible for academic year 2018-19;

Born September 1, 1994 or subsequently; eligible for academic year 2019-20.

40.10.4.3.2 An athlete who has been assessed a season of competition (or a year of eligibility or equivalent) in any recognized sport(s) of U SPORTS in four academic years within a non-Canadian post-secondary jurisdiction is ineligible for U SPORTS competition.

40.10.4.3.3 An athlete who has completed their eligibility to participate in any recognized sport of U SPORTS within another post-secondary jurisdiction, in accordance with that jurisdiction's rules, is ineligible for U SPORTS competition, with the following exceptions:

- a) NJCAA (or equivalent) student-athletes
- b) NCAA and NAIA student-athletes who have been assessed a season of competition (or equivalent) in three or less academic years but are no longer eligible for NCAA or NAIA competition because of the jurisdiction's respective time-clock / terms of attendance regulations subsequent to their attendance at their NCAA or NAIA institution.
- c) CEGEP student-athletes are subject to Policy 40.10.4.2 "CEGEP Participation".
- d) U SPORTS registered student-athletes who participate concurrently at institutions that hold dual membership in the both the U SPORTS and another jurisdiction (e.g. NAIA) shall not forfeit their fifth (5th) season of U SPORTS eligibility if they participate in four (4) years of competition in that other jurisdiction as a U SPORTS registered student-athlete, in the same sport.

40.10.4.4 Canadian Citizenship

40.10.4.4.1 Within Men's Basketball, the following rules regarding Canadian Citizenship are in effect:

A member institution shall be permitted to use a maximum of three athletes (as listed on the team's Eligibility Certificate) who are not Canadian Citizens or who do not have landed immigrant status in Canada for U SPORTS competition.

40.10.4.4.2 Effective 2013-14 within Women's Basketball, a member institution shall be permitted to use a maximum of three athletes (as listed on the team's Eligibility Certificate) who are not Canadian Citizens or who do not have permanent resident status in Canada for U SPORTS competition. Any non-Canadian student-athlete who was appropriately listed on a 2012-13 U SPORTS Eligibility Certificate, and

who continues her participation in U SPORTS basketball in subsequent years uninterrupted, as evidenced by her continued inclusion on her team's Eligibility Certificate, shall be exempt from the application of this rule.

- 40.10.4.4.3 Beginning in 2014-15, in Men's and Women's Volleyball, a member institution shall be permitted to list a maximum of two athletes on the team's Eligibility Certificate, who are not Canadian Citizens or who do not have landed immigrant status in Canada (a "foreign student-athlete").

This rule shall not apply as a bar to any foreign student-athlete who was appropriately listed on a 2013-14 U SPORTS Eligibility Certificate (as of November 1, 2013), and who continues to be so listed in subsequent years uninterrupted, for the duration of their eligibility.

Any member institution wishing to list more than two foreign student-athletes on a team's 2013-14 Eligibility Certificate must submit a "compassionate appeal" to the Eligibility Committee by no later than 26 August 2013.

40.10.4.5 Requirements of Athletes

- 40.10.4.5.1 An athlete is responsible for making an honest, full, and continuing disclosure to his or her institution of all matters that affect his or her eligibility; and,
- 40.10.4.5.2 The athlete must have represented the declaring institution, with the exception of open national championships, in the designated Regional Association, league and/or conference championship or similar event as legislated by U SPORTS rules for that event unless the U SPORTS Office representative is satisfied that the athlete has a valid reason for non-participation; and,
- 40.10.4.5.3 must have fulfilled U SPORTS requirements which determine who will represent the conference, region, and/or institution in that sport, in that year; and,
- 40.10.4.5.4 must have maintained the requirements for eligibility up to and inclusive of participation in the National Championships.

40.10.4.6 Eligibility for Conference Championship

An athlete may not participate in conference, regional or National Championships unless the athlete was **listed on the institution's eligibility certificate and was** eligible to participate prior to the conclusion of the last regular season game or event or equivalent in the sport conference or equivalent within which they would compete. As per Policy 40.30.3.5.3.3, the latest the eligibility certificate may be submitted is 11:59 PM (EST) the day prior to the last regular season Conference game or event.

40.10.5 STUDENTS ENTERING A U SPORTS INSTITUTION

40.10.5.1 Students Entering Directly from High School or CEGEP

- 40.10.5.1.1 A student entering a U SPORTS member institution direct from high school or CEGEP, is eligible to participate immediately in a recognized sport of U SPORTS, provided that he / she has achieved a minimum of 60% average or equivalent on those courses utilized to determine the student-athlete's university admission; and particular to CEGEP student-athletes, they must also have maintained their academic eligibility in the RSEQ.

- 40.10.5.1.2 In those instances when a student-athlete has not achieved the 60% requirement but has been accepted into a U SPORTS member institution, the student-athlete must successfully complete 9 credit hours or equivalent in a single semester prior to becoming eligible to participate.
- 40.10.5.1.3 In those instances when a student-athlete has been accepted into a U SPORTS member institution but has not maintained their academic eligibility in the RSEQ, the student-athlete must successfully complete 18 credit hours or equivalent within an academic year prior to becoming eligible to participate.
- 40.10.5.1.4 A mature student, as defined by the accepting institution, and who has not participated within a post-secondary institution (excluding CEGEP), and who has maintained their academic eligibility in the RSEQ (particular to CEGEP student-athletes), would be an exception to the above minimum standards.
- 40.10.5.1.5 Within men's football, it is unacceptable for non-registered student-athletes to practice with a member's team in spring training camps and out-of-season practice sessions. Such practices are restricted to U SPORTS eligible registered students of that institution.
- a) Since Canada West has traditionally held spring camps, Canada West may continue this practice with the proviso that only student-athletes within the Canada West boundaries be allowed to participate in these camps. This traditional territory is defined as extending from British Columbia to Thunder Bay, Ontario.
 - b) A student-athlete is considered to be from within the "traditional Canada West boundaries" if where they currently play or where they last played for is/was within these boundaries.
- 40.10.5.2 Discontinuance of a Sport (post-secondary degree granting)
Notwithstanding the requirements of 40.10.5.6 and 40.10.5.7, an athlete who is registered at a post-secondary degree granting institution and who successfully completes at least one academic year at that institution, shall be allowed to transfer to a member institution and participate immediately when the original institution cancels the sport. All other eligibility regulations continue to apply.
- 40.10.5.3 Discontinuance of an Undergraduate Program (post-secondary degree granting)
An athlete who is registered at a post-secondary degree institution, which has discontinued the undergraduate program in which the athlete was registered, shall be allowed to transfer to a member institution and participate immediately when the original institution cancels the undergraduate program. All other eligibility regulations continue to apply.
- 40.10.5.4 Transfer Rule Exception (track & field and cross-country)
Specific to the sports of track & field and cross-country running, a student-athlete can transfer to a U SPORTS institution from any degree granting post-secondary institution without restriction, subject to all other eligibility requirements, in an immediately subsequent academic year if all the following conditions are satisfied:
- i) The student-athlete is transferring prior to the start of the first date of class of what would be his/her second consecutive academic year at the post-secondary institution; and,

- ii) The student-athlete has not previously attended and been charged with a year of eligibility at another post-secondary institution prior to the one they are seeking an unrestricted transfer from; and,
- iii) The U SPORTS school the student-athlete is transferring to has successfully applied for U SPORTS approval by using form 40.30.3.4.1.2.

Please note, all recruiting regulations continue to apply.

40.10.5.5 Transfer Rule Exception (swimming)

Specific to the sport of swimming, a student-athlete may apply to transfer to a U SPORTS institution from any degree granting post-secondary institution without restriction in accordance with the following parameters:

- i) U SPORTS recruiting regulations have been adhered to; and,
- ii) The student-athlete has not previously been granted a transfer waiver under this policy (that is, this accommodation is only available one time in a student-athlete's career); and,
- iii) The U SPORTS school the student-athlete is transferring to has successfully applied for U SPORTS approval by using form 40.30.3.4.2.2.

40.10.5.6 Student-Athletes Entering Directly from another U SPORTS Institution

40.10.5.6.1 Participation

40.10.5.6.1.1 An athlete, who has participated in a recognized sport of U SPORTS at a member institution, irrespective of consuming a year of eligibility for that participation, shall not be eligible to transfer and participate in the same sport at another member institution in the same academic year.

40.10.5.6.1.2 Within men's football, any athlete attending a training camp at one institution cannot participate for another U SPORTS member institution in the same competitive season.

40.10.5.6.2 A student-athlete who transfers from one U SPORTS member institution team to another member institution team after having been assessed one year of eligibility, must not participate in any competition (conference or non-conference) for a period of one year in the recognized sport of U SPORTS in which such athlete participated at the previous U SPORTS institution in order to be eligible for U SPORTS participation. Reference 40.10.3.5.1 – Graduate Student and 40.10.5.4 (track & field and cross-country) & 40.10.5.5 (swimming) for exceptions.

40.10.5.7 Student-Athletes Entering Directly from a Non-U SPORTS post-secondary Institution

40.10.5.7.1 Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA)

A student-athlete, who transfers to a member institution team from a post secondary degree or non-degree granting institution team that participates in the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association leagues shall be eligible to participate immediately in U SPORTS competition, unless:

- a) the athlete has participated in any post-secondary institution game or games in that semester or term, or

- b) the athlete has not achieved a minimum 60% average or equivalent on those courses utilized to determine his / her university admission as per Policy 40.10.3.3.6.1, or
- c) effective 2012-13, a student-athlete transferring from the CCAA (excluding CEGEP student-athletes) must have been a student in good standing (as per 40.10.3.3.1) in his or her final year as a student-athlete at their CCAA institution), or
- d) the athlete has not maintained his/her academic eligibility to continue participating in the CCAA, inclusive of transfers between the traditional fall and winter terms, or
- e) the athlete has completed his/her CCAA eligibility as per Policy 40.10.4.3.2.

40.10.5.7.2 Non-Degree Granting Institutions (excluding CCAA)

A student-athlete, who enters a U SPORTS member institution after most recently attending a post secondary non-degree granting community or university college (within Canada or otherwise) shall be eligible to participate immediately in U SPORTS competition, unless:

- a) the athlete has participated in any post-secondary institution game or games in that semester or term, or
- b) the athlete has not achieved a minimum 60% average or equivalent on those courses utilized to determine his / her university admission as per Policy 40.10.3.3.6.1 (Academic Standing)
- c) effective 2012-13, a student-athlete must have been a student in good standing (as per 40.10.3.3.1) in his or her final year as a student-athlete at their former institution, or
- d) the athlete has completed his/her eligibility to participate in any recognized sport of U SPORTS as per Policy 40.10.4.3 (Maximum Rules).

40.10.5.7.2.1 Within men's football, any athlete attending a training camp at one institution cannot participate for a U SPORTS member institution in the same competitive season.

40.10.5.7.3 Non-Canadian Degree Granting Institutions

A student-athlete, who transfers to a U SPORTS member institution team from a non-Canadian post-secondary degree granting institution team (such as the NCAA or NAIA), shall be eligible to participate immediately in U SPORTS competition, unless:

- a. the student-athlete has participated in any competition with their former non-Canadian post-secondary institution in that semester or term, or
- b. the student-athlete has been assessed a season of competition (or a year of eligibility or equivalent) in the same academic year that they wish to transfer and compete with a U SPORTS member institution, or
- c. the student-athlete has not satisfied Academic Standing Requirements in his or her final year as a student-athlete at their former institution (as per 40.10.3.3), or

- d. the student-athlete has been assessed a season of competition (or a year of eligibility or equivalent) in any recognized sport(s) of U SPORTS in four academic years within their former non-Canadian post-secondary jurisdiction(s) (as per 40.10.4.3.2), or
- e. the student-athlete left their former NCAA or NAIA institution having exhausted their eligibility as per the jurisdiction's respective time-clock / terms of attendance regulations (as per 40.10.4.3.3.b), or
- f. the student-athlete is not a Canadian Citizen or does not have permanent resident status in Canada, in which case the individual cannot participate for a period of one year from their last competition in the sport in which they participated at their former institution.

Member institutions are required to submit an application using form 30.40.3.4.3.2 in order to receive confirmation that a student-athlete is able to access this accommodation.

40.10.6 ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR COMPETITION OUTSIDE OF POST-SECONDARY SPORT

40.10.6.1 Concurrent National Team and U SPORTS Participation

40.10.6.1.1 An athlete who is an official member of a Canadian National Team in a U SPORTS team sport (football, field hockey, soccer, rugby, volleyball, basketball, ice hockey), who attends a National Designated Training Centre, as determined by Sport Canada or the respective National Sport Federation, shall not be eligible to participate in U SPORTS competition for the institution that is designated as the National Training Centre. Exceptions are noted within Policies 40.10.6.1.4 and 40.10.6.1.5 for men's and women's volleyball respectively.

40.10.6.1.2 An athlete who is a member of a Canadian National Team during an academic year, is eligible to participate in a recognized sport of U SPORTS, provided that the athlete is registered in enough courses to fulfill 40.10.3.2 at the time of participation.

40.10.6.1.3 Upon successful application, an athlete who has been charged with a year of eligibility in a recognized sport of U SPORTS at a degree-granting post-secondary institution, and who was also a member of a Canadian National Team in the same academic year, may be considered to have satisfied Academic Standing Requirements if he/she successfully completes a minimum of 9 semester hours, 3 half courses, or equivalent. Member institutions are required to submit an application using form 40.30.3.3.3.2 which requires confirmation by the respective NSO or respective National Team Coach, within the academic year of the concurrent U SPORTS and National Team participation.

40.10.6.1.4 Within Men's Volleyball, a student-athlete may not train or compete for the Senior Men's National Team (of Canada or otherwise) and a U SPORTS institution within the time period of September 1 of one calendar year and March 31 of the subsequent calendar year.

Exceptions:

40.10.6.1.4.1 In an Olympic year an athlete who is on the Senior Men's Team competing at the Olympic Games may begin U SPORTS competition in the winter

semester if competing in the Olympic Games precludes the athlete from registering for courses in the fall.

40.10.6.1.4.2 A current U SPORTS student-athlete may compete with the Senior Men's National Team during the U SPORTS season without losing a year of eligibility under the following stipulations:

- The total time spent with the National Team shall not exceed twenty-one (21) days total (inclusive of competition, training, travel, and inactive days);
- A maximum of three (3) days of practice prior to competition is allowed for training with the team.

40.10.6.1.4.3 In the event of an injury to a Team Canada player on the official FIVB 02 form of a major international event after September 1, a U SPORTS player, registered on the official FIVB 02 form may replace the injured player. This circumstance may require the player to exceed the allowable 21 days to prepare with Team Canada immediately if necessary and beyond the allowable 3 days of training prior to the event.

40.10.6.1.4.4 The period in which an athlete participates with the national team program shall not count towards a sit out year as per transfer rules.

40.10.6.1.4.5 All national team eligibility rules shall apply in the same manner to non-Canadian athletes who wish to compete for their respective national teams during the U SPORTS season.

40.10.6.1.5 Within Women's Volleyball, a National Team athlete must be in at least their second year of eligibility to be dual-centered. Dual-centered refers to the situation wherein the National Team program continues through the Fall portion of the U SPORTS season (September to December). In this case athletes in at least their second year of eligibility would be able to return to their U SPORTS team for the second half of the season (January to March). Further, an official member of the National Team (dual-centered) must sever all ties with their respective U SPORTS team during the U SPORTS season. They shall not participate in meetings, practices or other functions with their U SPORTS team until the National Team Centre has finished its program for that year.

In those instances where the National Team's competitive schedule is such that one or more major international competitions (NORCECA, Olympics, Olympic Qualifier, World Championships, Zone Championships) occur during the season, a U SPORTS student-athlete is permitted to participate with both the National Team and their U SPORTS team if all the following conditions are satisfied:

- Participation in meetings, practices or other functions of their U SPORTS team is discontinued during the time period the student-athlete begins training and/or competing with the National Team, through to the completion of the major international competition in which the student-athlete is participating; and,
- The student athlete is limited to participating with the National Team on two separate occasions during the season; and,

The student-athlete is required to satisfy U SPORTS Course Load Requirements when participating with their U SPORTS team, and the student-athlete must satisfy U SPORTS Academic Standing Requirements to remain eligible the following academic year.

40.10.6.2 Participation Rules for Competition Outside of Post-Secondary Sport (sport-specific)

40.10.6.2.1 Participation in the following leagues is subject to the charging of one year of U SPORTS eligibility for each year or season played, and where specified, prohibits participation in U SPORTS competition within one year from the date that the athlete last participated in the identified league.

Please note that an athlete who participates in one of these leagues and U SPORTS in the same academic year shall only be charged with one year of eligibility:

40.10.6.2.1.1 Basketball – Men’s

40.10.6.2.1.1.1 Participation in the following leagues are subject to the charging of eligibility and prohibit participation in U SPORTS competition within one year of participation:

- a) The National Basketball Association (NBA).
- b) The Continental Basketball Association (CBA).
- c) The International Basketball Association (IBA).
- d) The International Basketball Federation (IBF).
- e) The United States Basketball League (USBL).
- f) The International Basketball League (IBL)
- g) The top three (3) divisions of competition, whether professional or amateur, in any country outside of Canada (excluding post-secondary academic jurisdictions, which are subject to 40.10.4.1.3, 40.10.4.3, and 40.10.5)

40.10.6.2.1.1.2 Participation in any other league outside of Canada or the United States is subject to the charging of eligibility.

40.10.6.2.1.1.3 Exemptions:

- a) An athlete who has participated in any of the identified leagues prior to August 16 of the year that athlete turns 20 shall be exempt from the application of this rule.
- b) A student-athlete who was appropriately listed on a 2011-12 U SPORTS Eligibility Certificate, and who has continued his participation in U SPORTS basketball in subsequent years uninterrupted, as evidenced by his continued inclusion on his team’s Eligibility Certificate, shall be exempt from the application of rule 40.10.6.2.1.1.2 for participation during and prior to 2011-12.

40.10.6.2.1.2 Basketball – Women’s

There are no restrictions associated with non-post-secondary participation.

40.10.6.2.1.3 Cross-Country

There are no restrictions associated with non-post-secondary participation.

40.10.6.2.1.4 Curling

There are no restrictions associated with non-post-secondary participation.

40.10.6.2.1.5 Field Hockey – Women’s

There are no restrictions associated with non-post-secondary participation.

40.10.6.2.1.6 Football – Men’s

40.10.6.2.1.6.1 Participation, including affiliation, in the following leagues are subject to the charging of eligibility and prohibit participation in U SPORTS competition within one year of participation:

i) CFL regular season or play-offs

Participation in the following CFL opportunities are exempt from this rule:

a) CFL training camp

b) pre-season exhibition game

c) Listed on the Practice roster until August 15th

ii) NFL, NFL – Europe, the United Football League, and the Arena Football Leagues.

For the purpose of this policy, affiliation exists when an athlete’s name appears, with his acquiescence, on a practice roster, reserve list, injury list, suspended list, or retired list, or such other list that directly or indirectly confers a monetary benefit to the athlete after August 15.

The year of eligibility shall be charged to the academic year that commences in the fall of the same calendar year as the date of participation.

40.10.6.2.1.6.2 Participation in any other league outside of Canada or the United States, subsequent to August 15 of the year an athlete turns 20, is subject to the charging of eligibility.

40.10.6.2.1.7 Ice Hockey – Men’s

40.10.6.2.1.7.1 An athlete who participates in amateur ice hockey outside of U SPORTS competition subsequent to January 10 shall be ineligible to participate in U SPORTS competition in that competitive season. This does not apply to student-athletes who have been requested to participate in two or less exhibition games or events with the National Team.

40.10.6.2.1.7.2 An athlete may participate in U SPORTS and other amateur competition prior to and including the 10th of January in a competitive U SPORTS season. Any continuing participation in both U SPORTS and other amateur competition subsequent to the 10th of January in that same competitive year shall render the athlete ineligible for U SPORTS competition for the following season. That is, an athlete must choose to participate exclusively within the U SPORTS or exclusively within the other amateur league subsequent to the 10th of January. This does not apply to student-athletes who have been requested to participate in two or less exhibition games or events with the National Team.

40.10.6.2.1.7.3.1 Participation in a regular season or playoff game of a professional league, inclusive of all European Hockey Leagues in any division, is subject to the

charging of eligibility and participation in U SPORTS competition is prohibited within one year of participation (participation in a training camp or pre-season exhibition games is exempt from this policy), unless such participation takes place prior to December 31 of the year the athlete turns 21.

40.10.6.2.1.7.3.2 If the participation outlined in 40.10.6.2.1.7.3.1 occurs subsequent to the 10th of January in the same competitive year as participating in U SPORTS hockey, and irrespective of the athlete's age, the athlete will be ineligible for U SPORTS competition for the remainder of the current season and the entirety of the following season.

40.10.6.2.1.7.3.3 Participation in any other league based outside of Canada or the United States is subject to the charging of eligibility, unless such participation takes place prior to December 31 of the year the athlete turns 21.

40.10.6.2.1.7.4 A member institution may make an application (to the U SPORTS Office Representative for eligibility) for a one game exemption to the professional participation rules for a U SPORTS men's hockey goalie in those instances when a professional team is requiring an "emergency" call-up. Such application must include the following information:

- i) detail the traditional 'call-up' process of the professional team (from which teams in which leagues)
- ii) detail the circumstances that preclude the professional team from utilizing their traditional 'call-up' process
- iii) detail when contact was made requesting the emergency 'call-up', who initiated the contact, and who were all the parties involved in the contact
- iv) please confirm the regulations of the professional jurisdiction relating to the number of goalies that must be dressed for any game
- v) contact information to enable a U SPORTS invoice in the amount of \$300 to be forwarded to the professional team.

40.10.6.2.1.8 Ice Hockey – Women's
There are no restrictions associated with non-post-secondary participation.

40.10.6.2.1.9 Rugby – Women's
There are no restrictions associated with non-post-secondary participation.

40.10.6.2.1.10 Soccer – Men's

40.10.6.2.1.10.1 Within Canada or the United States, participation **in a regular season or playoff or cup competition** in the following leagues are subject to the charging of eligibility and prohibit participation in U SPORTS competition within one year of participation:

- Major League Soccer (MLS)
- United Soccer Leagues Division 1 and Division 2 (USL)
- North American Soccer League (NASL)
- **United Soccer League (USL Pro)**

40.10.6.2.1.10.2.1 Participation in a regular season or playoff or cup competition in any league outside of Canada or the United States while under a professional contract

or equivalent is subject to the charging of eligibility and participation in U SPORTS competition is prohibited within one year of such participation.

40.10.6.2.1.10.2.2 Participation in a regular season or playoff or cup competition in any other league outside of Canada or the United States is subject to the charging of eligibility.

40.10.6.2.1.10.3 Exemptions:

- a) An athlete who has participated in any of the aforementioned leagues prior to August 16 of the year that athlete turns 20 shall be exempt from the application of this rule.
- b) A student-athlete who was appropriately listed on a 2011-12 U SPORTS Eligibility Certificate, and who has continued his participation in U SPORTS soccer in subsequent years uninterrupted, as evidenced by his continued inclusion on his team's Eligibility Certificate, shall be exempt from the application of this rule for participation during and prior to 2011-12.

40.10.6.2.1.11 Soccer – Women's

There are no restrictions associated with non-post-secondary participation.

40.10.6.2.1.12 Swimming

There are no restrictions associated with non-post-secondary participation.

40.10.6.2.1.13 Track & Field

There are no restrictions associated with non-post-secondary participation.

40.10.6.2.1.14 Volleyball – Men's

40.10.6.2.1.14.1 Participation in any league outside of Canada or the United States, subsequent to August 15 of the year an athlete turns 20, is subject to the charging of eligibility. If such participation also occurred in a league that is identified by Volleyball Canada as being subject to an International Transfer Fee (or equivalent), participation in U SPORTS competition is prohibited within one year of such participation.

40.10.6.2.1.14.2.1 Exception : A student-athlete who was appropriately listed on a 2011-12 U SPORTS Eligibility Certificate, and who continues his participation in U SPORTS volleyball in subsequent years uninterrupted, as evidenced by his continued inclusion on his team's Eligibility Certificate, shall be subject to the following regulation:

40.10.6.2.1.14.2.2. With respect to participation prior to 2011-12, if an athlete, Canadian or otherwise, participates in a league that is identified by Volleyball Canada as being subject to an International Transfer Fee (or equivalent) for the services of a Canadian athlete, each year in which the athlete participates in that league shall count for one year of U SPORTS eligibility and that athlete shall be deemed to be a "professional". Any such participation prior to June

2006 by a non-Canadian athlete who has participated in the U SPORTS subsequent to 2005-2006 is exempt.

40.10.6.2.3.15 Volleyball – Women’s

There are no restrictions associated with non-post-secondary participation.