

PR 12(i) **Hardship Waivers** (See Appendix I)

PR 12(j) Eligibility Questions (renumbered to keep this section last)

APPENDIX I - HARDSHIP WAIVERS

1. **Definition:** A Hardship Waiver is an extension of up to two seasons beyond the Five-Year Limit defined in PR 12(c).

2. **Qualification** – A Student-Athlete (“SA”) may apply for a Hardship Waiver:
 - a. if injury or illness causes the SA to withdraw from school or become a part-time student for one or two seasons to recuperate, thereby preventing the SA from competing.
 - b. if injury or illness causes an eligible SA to withdraw from school after competing in no more than the first 34% of competition weekends for which the SA’s team was originally scheduled in that season.
 - c. when extenuating circumstances which are beyond the control of an eligible SA – including but not limited to: caring for an immediate family member; layoff or death of a financially supporting family member – cause the SA to withdraw from school.
 - d. regardless of the number of seasons or partial seasons in which injury, illness, or extenuating circumstances are involved. Each case will be considered on its own merits, without reference to previous cases.

3. **Limitations**
 - a. Re-injury after 34% of the competition weekends shall not be grounds for a Hardship Waiver.
 - b. No SA shall be awarded more than one Waiver.
 - c. Waivers shall not permit a SA to violate PR 12(d).

4. **Submission of Application**
 - a. Applications must be submitted to the Chair of the Eligibility Committee during the season immediately preceding that in which the Hardship Waiver will be used.

5. **Contents** – Applications must include:
 - a. a description of the injury, illness, or extenuating circumstance that qualifies the SA for the Waiver.
 - b. each Season & Year when the SA competed in an ICSA event and the Season & Year when the SA is expected to acquire the credits for a bachelor’s degree.
 - c. If the SA is applying for a partial season waiver: the dates of any ICSA event(s) in which the SA competed and the number of Weekends scheduled by the SA’s team.
 - d. If the SA suffered an injury or illness: a detailed statement from a physician(s) indicating the nature and time of the injury or illness making it necessary for the SA to withdraw from competition, as well as when clearance was approved for the SA to resume competition. If ADA or other legal rights are involved they need to be included in the application.
 - e. If the SA is claiming extenuating circumstances: full documentation of the circumstances using physician’s statements, Decree of Bankruptcy, Proof of Termination or other independent records including when the SA will earn a bachelor’s degree.

6. **Decisions** – The Eligibility Committee shall select one of the following after reviewing applications:
 - a. Indicate that the application needs to have additional or more detailed documentation
 - b. Decide that the Application is not approved
 - c. Approve a one season extension to immediately follow the 5th year Season
 - d. Approve a contiguous two season extension to immediately follow the 5th year Season
7. **Appeals**
 - a. Should the SA feel that new information is available which was not considered by the Eligibility Committee, they may submit this information within 14 calendar days from receipt of the original decision.