

How to Request a Waiver or Interpretation Through the IRA

Institutions are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the attached chart to determine if the IRA has more or less restrictive legislation for men's rowing student-athletes.

In most cases, similar rules apply as they would for women's rowing student-athletes.

Compliance offices are encouraged to go through their multisport conference for all standard waivers the NCAA permits multisport conferences to process **EXCEPT for Delayed Enrollment waivers**. If your multisport conference will not process a standard waiver, please reach out to the IRA. **In all cases, any waivers processed by your multisport conference must be shared with the IRA administration.**

Before reaching out to the IRA for an interpretation or waiver, institutions are encouraged to do their own research on LSDBi and provide that research to the IRA if additional follow up is needed. The Eligibility and Infractions Committee will need to see similar precedence and waivers granted from the NCAA to consider any waivers for men's rowing student-athletes.

- 1) Is the question related to NCAA Bylaw 11 or 15?
If yes, STOP, no further action is required as the IRA does not follow these bylaws. Adherence to these bylaws is based on institutional autonomy.
- 2) Is the question related to NCAA Bylaw 12 or 16?
If yes, institutions are encouraged to search LSDBi and RSRO for case precedence, interpretations, and educational columns from the NCAA. Ask yourself, "would this be permissible for a women's rowing student-athlete?" If the answer is yes, it should be applied to a men's rowing student-athlete.
- 3) Is the question related to Bylaw 13?
 - a. Does the question relate to official visits?
 - i. If NO, institutions are encouraged to search LSDBi and RSRO for case precedence, interpretations, and educational columns from the NCAA. Ask yourself, "would this be permissible for a women's rowing student-athlete?" If the answer is yes, it should be applied to a men's rowing student-athlete.
 - ii. If YES, institutions are encouraged to reference the IRA Eligibility and Operating Bylaws as the Association has a MORE RESTRICTIVE rule as related to Official Visits.
 - b. Does the question relate to the transfer portal?
 - i. If NO, institutions are encouraged to search LSDBi and RSRO for case precedence, interpretations, and educational columns from the NCAA. Ask yourself, "would this be permissible for a women's rowing student-athlete?" If the answer is yes, it should be applied to a men's rowing student-athlete.

- ii. If YES, institutions are reminded that the IRA does not mandate the use of the transfer portal. Institutions must still request permission to contact and retain hard copies if an institution is not using the transfer portal

4) Is the question related to Bylaw 14?

- a. Does the question relate to Delayed Enrollment?
 - i. If NO, institutions are encouraged to search LSDBi and RSRO for case precedence, interpretations, and educational columns from the NCAA. Ask yourself, “would this be permissible for a women’s rowing student-athlete?” If the answer is yes, it should be applied to a men’s rowing student-athlete.
 - ii. **If YES, contact the IRA immediately.** The IRA has its own rule as related to Delayed Enrollment. ONLY the IRA can process interpretations and waivers related to Delayed Enrollment
- b. Does the question relate to initial Eligibility Certification?
 - i. If NO, institutions are encouraged to search LSDBi and RSRO for case precedence, interpretations, and educational columns from the NCAA. Ask yourself, “would this be permissible for a women’s rowing student-athlete?” If the answer is yes, it should be applied to a men’s rowing student-athlete.
 - ii. If yes, institutions are reminded that the IRA does not go through the NCAA for initial eligibility certification, but do certify annually their compliance with incoming SAs

5) Is this question related to Bylaw 17?

- a. If yes, institutions are encouraged to reference the IRA Eligibility and Operating Bylaws. The IRA partially (and mostly) follows NCAA Bylaw 17, however, changes to NCAA Playing and Practice Season rules do not automatically apply to men’s rowing unless specifically adopted by a vote of the Association members. Any ‘new’ rules related to Bylaw 17 may not have been adopted by the IRA.

IRA Compliance Chart

August 4, 2022 (effective for 22-23 Academic Year)

NCAA Bylaw Number	Does the IRA Follow?	Does the IRA have any more or less restrictive legislation?	Additional Comments
Article 11 (Conduct and Employment of Athletics Personnel)	NO	The IRA does not legislate adherence to this Bylaw	Institutions have autonomy on whether they follow this bylaw for men's rowing personnel
Article 12 (Amateurism)	Yes	No	All NCAA regulations and Official Interpretations apply
Article 13 (Recruiting)	Yes	Yes - Time Period for Official Visits	Official visits cannot be provided earlier than the opening day of classes of a PSAs senior year (as designated by the high school). NCAA regulations and official interpretations for all other NCAA recruiting legislation applies.
Article 14 (Academic and General Requirements)	Yes	Yes - Initial Eligibility Certification is NOT Required	Institutions do not to go through the NCAA for initial eligibility certification, but do certify annually their compliance with incoming SAs
Article 14 (Academic and General Requirements)	Yes	Yes - Association Adopted Delayed Enrollment Legislation	PSAs are not permitted to compete in organized rowing events after their 20th birthday and before FT enrollment. PSAs forego a year of eligibility and must serve a year in residence if they fail to adhere to this rule. Please note: NCAA affiliated conferences ARE NOT permitted to process waivers for this rule. All interpretations and waivers must go through the IRA Eligibility Committee.
Article 15 (Financial Aid)	NO	The IRA does not legislate adherence to this Bylaw	Institutions have autonomy on whether they follow this bylaw for men's rowing student-athletes
Article 16 (Awards and Benefits)	Yes	No	All NCAA regulations and Official Interpretations apply
Article 17 (Playing and Practice Seasons)	Yes, partially	Changes in NCAA Playing and Practice Season Rules do NOT apply unless specifically adopted by vote of the Association members.	IRA Institutional Compliance Offices are strongly encouraged to review the IRA Eligibility and Operating Bylaws to ensure they are aware of Playing and Practice Season legislation and foreign travel exemptions.