

Situation Analysis

The NAIA Eligibility Center is responsible for determining the eligibility status for each student-athlete seeking to compete in an NAIA recognized sport for the first time per NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section C and CFAR Policy Article III, Section 5, Item A. The eligibility center's determination is binding for all NAIA institutions.

Once a student receives an "eligible" determination from the eligibility center, the campus faculty athletics representative (FAR) is responsible for certifying the student's eligibility to represent the institution in a given academic term. Campus certification for a first-time student-athlete is based on the eligibility center's determination **and** the proper application of institutional, conference and NAIA rules.

Reapplication with the NAIA Eligibility Center

In many instances a student may be required to reapply for an NAIA Eligibility Center determination. These situations are outlined in detail below. In situations requiring reapplication, the institution is required to request reapplication on behalf of the student, the student is required to update academic and athletic experience with any new information and submit his/her PlayNAIA profile. Any new coursework must be sent via official transcripts. The eligibility center must issue a new determination of "eligible" before the student can be certified on campus.

Situations

The scenarios on the following pages describe campus responsibilities in different situations, and explain when it is necessary for students to return to the eligibility center for reapplication.

Situation No. 1 – Eligible, Fall Competition

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Student registers with Fall enrollment date (term A)*❖ Receives an 'eligible' decision for Fall term A❖ Identifies at NAIA institution in Fall term A❖ Seeks to compete for the first time in Fall term A | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition <p><i>* Also applies when student registers with Spring enrollment date, then enrolls and seeks to compete in the same designated Spring term</i></p> |
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Situation No. 2 – Eligible, Spring Competition

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Student registers with Fall enrollment date (term A)*❖ Receives an 'eligible' decision for Fall term A❖ Maintains continuous identification at NAIA institution through conclusion of term A❖ Seeks to compete at the same institution for the first time in term B (Winter or Spring) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No reapplication required• FAR verifies completion of required institutional credit hours for Fall term A (no communication with eligibility center required)• FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition <p><i>* Also applies if term A is Spring enrollment and term B is the Fall that immediately follows</i></p> <p>• NOTE: A student seeking a determination to compete in the Winter/Spring term must send the eligibility center an official transcript with completed Fall term coursework if the student enrolled in the Fall term but the NAIA Eligibility Center did not receive all required official documents prior to the last day of the institution's Fall term.</p> |
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Situation No. 3 – Eligible, Participation in Scrimmages in First Year

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Student registers for term A❖ Receives an 'eligible' decision for term A❖ Identifies at NAIA institution in term A❖ Competes in scrimmages only in term A❖ Maintains continuous identification at the NAIA institution through the conclusion of the initial academic year*❖ Seeks to compete the following academic year/s | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No reapplication required• FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to scrimmage• FAR verifies any competition in which the student participates meets the definition of a scrimmage, as outlined in the NAIA Handbook• FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition in subsequent terms <p><i>* If student transfers and has only competed in scrimmages, situation #6 applies</i></p> |
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Situation No. 4 – Eligible, No Competition in First Year

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Student registers for term A❖ Receives an 'eligible' decision for term A❖ Does not compete in initial academic year❖ Maintains continuous identification at NAIA institution through the conclusion of the initial academic year❖ Seeks to compete for the same institution the following academic year/s with no break in continuous identification | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No reapplication required• FAR verifies (via Official Eligibility Certificate) full-time identification at that NAIA institution for the entire academic year• FAR verifies that any outside competition in which the student participates meets the definition of unattached, as outlined in the NAIA Handbook• FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition in subsequent terms |
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Situation No. 5 – Eligible, No Competition in First Year, Break in Enrollment

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Student registers for term A❖ Receives an 'eligible' decision for term A❖ Maintains continuous identification at NAIA institution through conclusion of initial academic year❖ Does not compete in initial academic year❖ Seeks to compete for the same institution after a break in continuous identification of one or more terms | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reapplication required prior to competition after the break• FAR directs student to reconnect with eligibility center to update information and seek new determination prior to competition• Student submits to the eligibility center additional information related to academics and competitive experience since previous determination was made• Student requests official transcripts be sent directly from institution to eligibility center• Eligibility center indicates eligibility status for new term• FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition |
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Situation No. 6 – Eligible, No Competition at First NAIA School, Transfer

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Student registers for term A❖ Receives an 'eligible' decision for term A❖ Maintains continuous identification at NAIA institution through conclusion of term A❖ Does not compete in term A❖ Transfers to another NAIA institution in term B❖ Seeks to compete at new institution | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reapplication required prior to competition at new institution• FAR directs student to reconnect with eligibility center to update information and seek new determination prior to competition at new institution• Student submits to the eligibility center additional information related to academics and competitive experience since previous determination was made• Student requests official transcripts be sent directly from previous institution to eligibility center• Eligibility center indicates eligibility status for new term• FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition |
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Situation No. 7 – Ineligible, Subsequent Competition

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Student registers for term A❖ Receives a 'not eligible' decision for term A❖ Maintains continuous identification at NAIA institution through conclusion of term A❖ Seeks to compete in term B or later | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reapplication required prior to competition in term B or later• Student submits to the eligibility center additional information related to academics and competitive experience for the intervening period• Registrar's office forwards official transcript with updated coursework• Eligibility center indicates eligibility status for new term• FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition |
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Situation No. 8 – EC Registration, No NAIA Enrollment

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Student registers for term A❖ Receives an eligibility decision for term A ('eligible' or 'not eligible')❖ Does not identify at an NAIA institution in term A❖ Seeks to compete in term B or later | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reapplication is required prior to competition after identification in future term• Student submits to the Eligibility center additional information related to academics and competitive experience for the intervening period• Eligibility center indicates eligibility status for new term• FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition |
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Situation No. 9 – NAIA Enrollment Prior to EC Registration

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Student does not register❖ Maintains continuous identification at NAIA institution through conclusion of term A❖ Seeks to compete in term B (or a later term with no break in continuous identification) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student is required to register with the eligibility center• Student must request official transcripts be sent to the eligibility center from the NAIA institution and other educational institutions previously attended• Eligibility center indicates eligibility status• FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition |
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Situation No. 10 – Eligible, Additional Sport Participation

- ❖ Student registers for term A
- ❖ Receives a decision of 'eligible' for term A
- ❖ Subsequently decides to play additional NAIA sports not listed on original registration in term A or beyond

There are two applications for this situation:

- A.** For students who identified at an NAIA institution before the first day of the thirteenth month after high school graduation and maintained continuous identification at the same institution.
- **No reapplication required**
 - FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules for original and additional sport(s) and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition.
- B.** For students who identified at the NAIA institution on or after the first day of the thirteenth month following high school graduation, and/or did not maintain continuous identification at an NAIA institution.

Competition in the original sport before adding a new sport:

- **Reapplication is not required** if the student competes for the NAIA school in the original sport before adding new sport (regular season or scrimmage)
- FAR completes the Competitive Experience form for the new sport(s) and submits to the conference eligibility chair with the Official Eligibility Certificate prior to the student competing in the added sport
- FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules prior to competition in the original sport reviewed by the eligibility center

Competition in the new sport before competing in the original sport:

- **Reapplication is required** if the student does not compete for the NAIA school in the original sport before adding new sport (regular season or scrimmage),
- FAR directs the student to the eligibility center to provide competitive experience details for the additional sport
- Eligibility center indicates eligibility status in the new sport(s) based on additional research
- FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition

Situation No. 11 – Multi-Sport Athlete, Mixed Determination

- ❖ Student registers for term A
- ❖ Receives a decision of 'eligible' for term A in sport X and "not eligible" for term A in sport Y
- ❖ Maintains continuous identification at NAIA institution
- ❖ Seeks to compete in sport Y in term B or later

There are two applications for this situation:

A. For students who competed in sport X

- **No reapplication required** for students who are no longer first-time NAIA participants
- FAR completes the Competitive Experience form for the new sport(s) and submits to the conference eligibility chair with the Official Eligibility Certificate prior to the student competing in the added sport
- FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules prior to competition in the original sport reviewed by the eligibility center
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If student has only competed in scrimmages, situation 11.B applies

B. For students who did not compete (or competed in only scrimmages) in sport X

- **Reapplication is required** prior to competition in sport Y
- FAR directs student to submit to the eligibility center additional information related to academics and competitive experience for the intervening period
- Eligibility center indicates eligibility status for new term
- FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition
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** If student transfers and has only competed in scrimmages, situation #6 applies*

Situation No. 12 – Emerging Sport Participation, Additional Sport Participation

- ❖ Student does not register
- ❖ Competes in emerging sport not requiring an eligibility center determination
- ❖ Maintains continuous identification at NAIA institution through conclusion of term A
- ❖ Seeks to compete in term B (or a later term with no break in continuous identification) in an additional championship (or year-2 invitational or later) sport

- **Student is required to register with the eligibility center**
- Student must request official transcripts be sent to the eligibility center from the NAIA institution and other educational institutions previously attended
- Eligibility center indicates eligibility status
- FAR certifies proper application of NAIA, institutional and conference rules and submits all required forms to the conference eligibility chair prior to competition.