



## Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association

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October 22, 2020

To: NIAA Member Schools and Districts

From: Bart Thompson, Executive Director, NIAA

Re: Update 14, Academic Eligibility

There have been inquiries to this office in regard to academic eligibility of student athletes as they begin participation in the adjusted sports seasons adopted for the 2020-21 school year.

As noted in the memorandum issued June 18, 2020, with the subject line [Update 9](#), the Board of Control took action at their June meeting to authorize a one-time hardship for all tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students (2020-21 school year) to begin the 2020-21 school year academically eligible. That memo went on to state,

The academic eligibility regulations have not changed and with the exception of the one-time hardship will be in full effect. Three-week grade checks remain in effect along with the eligibility requirements associated with them. The effect of the one-time hardship is that all students beginning the 2020-21 school year, for the purposes of academic eligibility only, will be treated as if they were entering high school as a ninth-grade student. Again, this waiver is for academic eligibility only and does not in any way affect the eight-semester limit on eligibility, the age limit on eligibility, the residence or transfer requirements of eligibility or any other eligibility requirement.

As is always the case, schools and/or districts may impose a more strict academic eligibility standard, but not one that is less stringent.

This one-time hardship applies only at the beginning of the first semester of the 2020-21 school year. As noted, academic eligibility regulations are in full effect with exception of the one-time hardship that applies only to students beginning the first semester of the 2020-21 school year. The exception does not apply to the second semester of the 2020-21 school year. **To have eligibility for the second semester, all academic eligibility requirements must be met as in any other school year.** At the beginning of the second semester for the 2020-21 school year, all students must meet all academic eligibility requirements to participate in any interscholastic scrimmage or competition. Because the one-time hardship applies only to the beginning of the first semester, those schools at which the second semester begins after the first competition is allowed are to deal with academic eligibility the same as they would in any other school year.