

AT A GLANCE ELIGIBILITY BY SPORT

Sport	Number of Games/Contests/Playing Dates	# of Scrimmage Dates	Min Gms Qualifying for Championships
Basketball (M & W)	30 games. A student who participates in a varsity contest and a junior varsity contest, on the same day, and at the same location, is considered to have participated only in one game. A student is limited to participating in no more than 40 games.	2	18
Cross Country (M & W)	8 meets	0	see below
Soccer (M & W)	18 games played at any time during the sport season. Three (3) additional dates to be played only after the fall term has concluded. The three additional dates may be played only during weekends and other nonscheduled class dates, according to the academic calendar.	2	10
Indoor Track (M & W)	10 meets	0	see below
Outdoor Track (M & W)	10 meets or 12 meets if indoor track is not sponsored	0	see below
Volleyball	28 dates	2	16

Notes:

Track & Field: Based on performance, if you have a top performance in your season you can qualify for championship.

Cross Country: To participate in conference championship, runner has to win conference or receive an at large bid by running in at least 4 meets

Basketball: For the sport of basketball, an institution is allowed one or more exhibition competitions per season so long as the total number of games, exhibitions and scrimmages does not exceed 32. For the sport of basketball, an exhibition competition will not count as a varsity game.

- All Sports:**
1. The number of junior varsity or freshman games, contests or playing dates scheduled during a given term cannot exceed the number of varsity games, contests or playing dates scheduled during that term. Further, no student may compete in a sport in a an academic year in more than the number of games, contests or playing dates listed below (this includes varsity, junior varsity, freshman, etc.), excluding NAIA-approved postseason participation.
 2. (Except Basketball) An institution is allowed one exhibition competition per season. The competition must meet the definition of an exhibition under Article V, Section B, item 6 of the NAIA Bylaws. The exhibition competition will count as one varsity game, contest, or playing date within the limits stated above.
 3. The number of scrimmage dates per sport will be allowed in addition to the maximum number of varsity games, contests or playing dates which an institution may schedule or in/on which a student may compete.
 4. (Except CC & TF) An institution that does not schedule or participate in the maximum number of allowable varsity games, meets or playing dates may conduct additional scrimmages of up to the NAIA limits. In no case can the combined number of scheduled contests and scrimmages exceed the maximum number listed in Article I, Section F of the Bylaws.

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5. A maximum of two contests against teams from foreign countries (excluding Canada and Mexico) played in the United States and/or Canada/Mexico will be permitted without counting against the maximum allowable number. Contests held in a foreign country (except Canada and Mexico) will not apply to the limitation. Conditions set forth in Article II, Section E of the bylaws must be met.

6. Each sport shall have a maximum 24 week practice and competition season established by each member institution. Frequency of play, practice and scheduling policies shall be applied only during the period of August 1 to May 15. Frequency of play, practice, and scheduling outside of this period is governed by each member institution and will not be regulated by the NAIA.

7. There shall be no more than three break periods during the 24 weeks. NAIA approved postseason participation shall not be counted as part of the 24 week period. A week is defined as Sunday (12:01 a.m.) through Saturday (11:59 p.m.). Any practice or competition during this period shall constitute one of the 24 weeks permitted.

EXCEPTION:

Practice activities occurring between the deadline for the sport's completion of conference/independent/unaffiliated competition and the team's participation in its final contest in NAIA-approved postseason shall not count towards the team's 24-week season. Once teams are selected for NAIA-approved postseason, institutions not selected for the NAIA-approved postseason must cease practice activities or comply thereafter with the restrictions of the 24-week rule. Teams selected to participate in NAIA-approved postseason must count all activities at the conclusion of its postseason participation.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE

Break Periods:

Approved Ruling: A break is any week (Sunday 12:01 a.m. through Saturday 11:59 p.m.) or series of consecutive weeks in which no practice or competition occurs. Scheduled breaks for the institution that meet the definition (such as Christmas vacation) must be counted as one of the three allowable breaks if no practice or competition occurs.

8. Practice will be defined as follows: An activity organized and/or directed by an identified member of the coaching staff of that sport in which appropriate equipment is used or instruction and/or evaluation of the athlete takes place.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLES

Conditioning:

Approved Ruling: Conditioning and weight-training activities that do not utilize equipment associated with a sport will not be considered practice in that sport.

Activity Classes:

Approved Ruling: A college activities class involving the teaching of sports skills that is open to all students will not be considered practice. A college activities class involving the teaching of sport skills open only to invited students shall apply to the practice/competition season of that sport.

Alumni Games/Season of Competition

Approved Ruling: An alumni contest is considered to be an "in house" event and shall be treated the same as an internal practice.