

XX: PLAYER TRANSFERS & CONTINUITY OF COMPETITION

2. Eligibility for Transferred Student-Athletes. Student-athletes who transfer from one university or college to another between the fall and spring semesters are eligible to compete in AAU College Hockey for the spring semester, provided they meet all academic and athletic eligibility requirements outlined by the AAU College Hockey Operations rules and protocols. This includes being a fully enrolled, degree-seeking student at the educational institution he/she represents and maintaining the required academic standing.
3. Rostering Procedures. Teams must follow the official AAU College Hockey rostering procedures when adding a transfer student-athlete to their roster. This includes the completion of the official AAU registration process and updating the official team roster verification document with conference compliance officers and divisional commissioners.
4. Education First. The policy underscores AAU College Hockey's core value: education is paramount. Student-athletes must prioritize their academic responsibilities to maintain eligibility. This policy facilitates the balance between academic pursuits and athletic commitments, emphasizing the importance of the student-athlete experience.
5. This policy ensures that education remains a priority while allowing student-athletes mobility and athletic development within the AAU College Hockey framework.

XXI: AAU COLLEGE HOCKEY PLAYER MOVEMENT FOR MULTI-DIVISIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Recognizing the unique structure of member organizations within AAU College Hockey, including those with multiple teams across different divisions of the AAU, the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA), or institutions with NCAA teams, AAU College Hockey establishes the following policy to ensure competitive integrity and maintain high standards across all divisions:
2. Player Movement Between AAU College Hockey Divisions. Member programs with multiple teams across different divisions of AAU College Hockey may move players during the regular season and before the official roster freeze, which is January 30th of each season.
3. Teams may freely move players from AAU rosters at DIII to DII, DII to DI, DI to DII, or DII to DIII at any time for up to 4 games (dressed). When the player dresses for the 5th game at the transferred level, the player becomes locked on that roster unless circumstances or situations (e.g., injuries, illness, etc.) are presented and approved by the divisional commissioner before the initial roster move transpires.

4. Player Movement Between AAU College Hockey Rosters and ACHA Rosters. Member programs with teams registered in AAU College Hockey and the ACHA may move players during the regular season and before the official roster freeze on January 30th of each season.

5. Teams may move players from AAU rosters to ACHA rosters or ACHA rosters to AAU rosters at any time for up to 4 games (dressed). Before the roster moves between associations, the AAU team must notify their conference and divisional commissioner of the move and its rationale. If the player that moved dresses for a 5th game at the transferred level, the player becomes locked on that roster unless circumstances or situations (e.g., injuries, illness, etc.) are presented and approved by the divisional commissioner before the initial roster move transpires.

6. Player Movement Between AAU College Hockey Rosters and NCAA Rosters. Member programs with teams registered in both AAU College Hockey and the NCAA may move players during the regular season and before the official roster freeze, which is January 30th of each season.

7. Teams may move players from an AAU roster to an NCAA roster during the regular season. Before the roster moves between associations, the AAU team must notify their conference and divisional commissioner of the move and its rationale. When the AAU player is added to an NCAA roster, the AAU player is prohibited from playing any AAU College Hockey games until they are removed from the NCAA roster. Suppose the transferred player continues to be rostered on the NCAA team after the January 30 freeze date. In that case, that player is ineligible for participation in the remainder of the AAU regular season and post-season unless circumstances or situations (e.g., injuries, illness, etc.) are presented and approved by the divisional commissioner before the initial roster move transpires.

XXIII: STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to compete in AAU College Hockey, a player must:

- a) Have been admitted as a regularly enrolled, degree-seeking student according to the published entrance requirements of the member university or college.
- b) Be in good academic standing according to the standards of the member university or college and

c) Be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or the equivalent (not less than 9 semester or quarter hours) and maintain satisfactory progress (2.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average) toward that degree; be enrolled in a full-time graduate or professional degree program (as defined by the school for all graduate students) or be enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate degree, and maintain satisfactory progress (2.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average) toward that degree.

1. Players must achieve the minimum academic progress standards established by the AAU, consisting of 18 credits by the beginning of their second year 36 credits by the beginning of their third year, 54 credits by the beginning of their fourth year 72 credits by the beginning of their fifth year.

2. Players may be enrolled in less than a full-time program only if enrolled in the last term of their baccalaureate or graduate degree or their minor or undergraduate certificate program, or they carry credits necessary to finish their degree, minor, or certificate program requirements.

3. Players are eligible to compete during the official vacation period immediately before initial enrollment, provided your school has accepted them for enrollment in a regular, full-time program of studies and at the time of their initial participation, players are no longer enrolled in your previous educational institution and are eligible under all institutional and AAU College Hockey requirements.

4. If a player is classified as a returning student-athlete, they are eligible to compete between terms, provided they have been registered for the conclusion of the term immediately before the date of completion or if you are either continuing enrollment or beginning enrollment, provided you have been accepted for enrollment as a regular full-time student for the regular term immediately following the date of completion.

5. Players are eligible to participate in 5 intercollegiate seasons of hockey; Players are entitled to participate in intercollegiate hockey for up to 2 seasons while enrolled as a post-baccalaureate graduate student.

6. An intercollegiate season consists of being rostered in 5 or more games. Less than 5 games qualify the player as a "Redshirt," and the year of eligibility is not counted. The "Redshirt" provision can only be applied to players during the fall semester; any player added to a roster for the second semester will use an entire year of eligibility regardless of games played.

7. Member programs may petition the established appeals committee to request a declaration of a "Medical Redshirt" when a player suffers a season-ending injury during the first semester. Upon a review by the appeals committee, a determination may be made that

the label “Medical Redshirt” is appropriate for the petitioning player, and the year of eligibility will be restored.

8. Players who complete the requirements for their degree at the end of the fall term are eligible to receive permission to finish their seasons and qualify for AAU post-season play (AAU Senior Exemption). Proper requests for the “Senior Exemption” to the Office of the Commissioner must be completed by December 1, 2023.

9. Only an amateur student-athlete is eligible for participation in AAU College Hockey. A student-athlete who has been rostered on a team in any of the following leagues shall be deemed ineligible to compete in any of the AAU College Hockey Divisions:

a) NHL (US), AHL (US), ECHL (US), SPHL (US), FHL (US), LNAH (Canada), KHL (Russia), HHL (Russia), DEL (Germany), SM-Liga (Finland), SHL (Sweden), Eredivisie (Netherlands), Git-Ligaen (Norway), Extraliga (Slovakia), Extraliga (Czech), Any Tier 1 European League

b) Canadian Hockey League: OHL, QMJHL, WHL (Canada)

10. A student-athlete rostered on a team in any of the following organizations shall be eligible to compete in AAU College Hockey; however, teams must notify their divisional commissioner of this player’s intention to play. In addition to notification, such student-athletes shall forfeit their 5th year of eligibility and a year of competitive eligibility in the AAU for each academic year in which the student-athlete was rostered in another intercollegiate hockey association:

a) NCAA DI (US), NAIA (US), CIS/USports (Canada)

APPEAL OF OFFICIAL RULINGS

XXXIII: APPEALS OF STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

1. Member programs wishing to appeal or challenge the eligibility of any player in a regular-season or national tournament shall submit a formal request in writing to their respective Divisional Commissioner, governing Conference Commissioner, and Compliance Officer before their program's next scheduled game or tournament.
2. Member programs understand that ruling on a player's eligibility is a function of the AAU College Hockey Divisional Commissioner, in conjunction with the member program's Conference Commissioner and Compliance Officer.
3. Official decisions shall be rendered, and member teams shall be informed before the start of the game or tournament.
4. Any member program that chooses to appeal the AAU College Hockey Divisional Commissioner's ruling may do so to the Executive Appeals Committee, which consists of the AAU College Hockey Executive Director, Director of Hockey Operations, and AAU Compliance Officer.
5. The Appeals Committee will decide before the start of the next scheduled game. Member programs understand that the Executive Appeals Committee's decision is final.
6. Member programs understand that AAU College Hockey reserves the right to petition the administration of a member's University or College to request a review of a student-athletes academic status if necessary.

XXXIV: APPEALS OF FORFEITURE OF AMATEUR STATUS

This policy establishes a structured process for AAU Member Programs to appeal the eligibility status of a student-athlete who has forfeited amateur status due to participation in specified professional leagues.

1. Eligibility for Appeal: Student-athletes deemed ineligible due to participation in professional leagues, as listed in the AAU College Hockey Operations Manual, are eligible to appeal.
2. Submission of Appeal: The member program must submit a formal written appeal to the Divisional Commissioner, Conference Commissioner, and Compliance Officer before the program's next contest.
3. Required Documentation: The appeal must include a detailed account of the student-athletes' participation in the professional league, verification of their current amateur

status and proof that no professional benefits or compensation for school were received, and evidence of the student-athletes' current academic standing and enrollment at the member institution.

4. Review Process: The Divisional Commissioner, in conjunction with the Conference Commissioner and Compliance Officer, will review the appeal. A decision will be made and communicated to the member program in an appropriate timeframe.

5. Appeals to Executive Committee: If the initial appeal is denied, the member program may appeal to the Executive Appeals Committee, which consists of the AAU College Hockey Executive Director, Director of Hockey Operations, and AAU Compliance Officer. The committee's decision is final.

6. Notification: All decisions will be communicated in writing to the member program, detailing the outcome and any further action required.

7. Compliance: The member program agrees to abide by the final decision of the Executive Appeals Committee and ensure all necessary adjustments are made to comply with AAU regulations.

XXXV: APPEALS OF DISCIPLINE OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

1. Any team that wishes to appeal any decision by a Conference or Divisional Commissioner, excluding academic appeals as defined in these operational guidelines, may do so within one week of the decision's date by submitting an appeal in writing to the Chief Administrative Officer, copying the Director of Hockey Operations.

2. Any appeal for student-athlete discipline must come from a member program's coach or administration on behalf of its student-athlete/s.

3. The Appeals Committee shall consist of the Director of Hockey Operations, the Supervisor of Officials, one Deputy Commissioner from a division not involved in the appeal, and a Governor from a conference not involved.

4. The Director of Hockey Operations shall chair the Appeals Committee. In his or her absence, the Chief Administrative Officer shall serve as chair. The AAU College Hockey Appeals Committee shall hear appeals live, in person, or via video conference. The AAU College Hockey Chief Administrative Officer or a designee shall take a record of the meeting.

5. The Appeals Committee will render a formal decision and notify the appealing party within one week of the hearing. Member programs understand that the Executive Appeals Committee's decision is final and not subject to additional judicious review.