Bylaw 14 Eligibility

In order to participate (practice and compete) in athletics, student-athletes must be enrolled in a full-time program (at least 2.4 units) of studies and must meet the same standard as other students at the institution in order to participate in extracurricular activities including athletics. Grades and credit hours must be monitored on a regular basis in order to ensure the eligibility of student-athletes.

A student-athlete may practice or compete while enrolled in less than a minimum full-time program of studies only if the student-athlete is in his or her final semester or quarter of studies.

In addition, student-athletes can engage in no more than four seasons of participation in any one sport. Division III measures seasons by participation, not competition. There is no red-shirting in Division III. A student-athlete who suffers a season-ending injury, occurring during the first half of the season may be eligible, in some cases, to file for a medical hardship waiver which would allow an additional season of participation.

A student-athlete must complete his/her four seasons of participation during the first 10 semesters or first 15 quarters in which the student is enrolled in a full-time program of studies. (Kalamazoo College uses the quarter system.)

A student-athlete becomes ineligible if he/she participates on an outside team during the institution’s intercollegiate season in the sport. The student-athlete can only participate in non-collegiate, amateur competition outside of the regular playing season.

Bylaws

13.9 and 13.10 Letter of Intent and Publicity

Institutions may not use any form of a letter of intent or similar form of commitment in the recruitment of a prospect. An institution may use a non-binding athletics celebratory signing form after the prospective student-athlete has been accepted for enrollment at the institution. The only form that may be used for this purpose is a standard form provided by the NCAA national office. Institutional staff members MAY NOT be present at a public ceremony announcing the prospect’s acceptance of an admissions offer from the institution. An institution cannot provide any gear to the individual for the signing (e.g., shirt, hat).

An institution may not publicize the visit of a prospect on their campus, may not introduce them at a game or other function, and may not discuss the ability of a particular prospective student-athlete or anything related to the recruitment process. An institution may only comment publicly to the extent of confirming it is recruiting that prospective student-athlete. Publicity about a prospect’s commitment by an institution may occur only AFTER the enrollment forms have been signed and the deposit has been paid.
Bylaw 15 Financial Aid

The composition of the financial aid package of student-athletes shall be consistent with the established policy of the institution and financial aid procedures for student-athletes shall be the same as for non-athletes. Institutions may not consider athletics ability, leadership, participation or athletic performance in the financial aid packaging.

The percentage of the total dollar value of aid awarded to student-athletes should be closely equivalent to the percentage of student-athletes within the student body. Institutions must submit an annual report to the NCAA that includes data regarding financial aid packages for student-athletes, as well as for non-athlete students.

Bylaw 17 Playing and Practice Seasons

Institutions shall limit organized practice activities, the length of the playing season, and the number of contests or dates of competition so as to minimize interference with the academic program of student-athletes. Athletically-related activity is only permitted within either an 18-week window (fall sports) or a 19-week window (winter and spring sports). Outside of those designated dates, coaches may not require student-athletes to participate in any team activity. Voluntary strength & conditioning sessions may be conducted outside of those designated dates but only under the supervision of a certified strength coach and within the regular academic year.

Bylaw 16 Awards and Benefits

A student-athlete may not receive an extra benefit unless it can be demonstrated that the same benefit is available to all Kalamazoo College students. There is a limited exception that permits staff members and representatives to provide an occasional meal under the following conditions: the meal must be provided in the individual home (as opposed to a restaurant), or may be catered; it must be infrequent and/or for a special occasion; representatives can only provide transportation if the meal is held at their home.

Bylaw 13.1.1 Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes

An athletics staff member or other representative of athletics interest shall not make contact in any manner with the student-athlete of another NCAA or NAIA four-year institution to encourage or discuss a transfer without first obtaining written permission to do so, regardless of who makes initial contact. There are certain circumstances in which a student-athlete who
transfers may be required to complete a year-in-residence at the new institution before he/she is eligible to participate in athletics.

**Bylaw 13.1.4 Contact Restrictions at Specified Sites**

13.1.4.1 *Prospective Student-Athletes’ Educational Institution.* Any staff member or representative of athletics interest who wishes to contact a prospect at their high school must first obtain permission for the contact from that institution’s executive officer (or designee). Permission for such contact is not needed if the contact with the prospect will be made after official school hours.

13.1.4.2 *Practice or Competition Site.* Recruiting contact may not be made with a prospect before any athletics competition in which the prospect is a participant. Such contact shall be governed by the following:

a) Contact shall not be made with the prospect at any site before the contest on the day of competition,

b) Contact shall not be made with the prospect from the time that he/she reports on call and becomes involved in any competition-related activity (including travelling to an away game) until the prospective student-athlete is released for that day by the appropriate institutional personnel.

13.1.4.2.1 *Contact with Prospect’s Relatives or Guardians at Practice or Competition Site.* Recruiting contact may be made with relatives, guardians, or individuals with comparable relationship at the site of practice or competition, including during the conduct of the competition.

**Bylaws 13.5 and 13.6 Official Visits**

An official visit is one that is financed in whole or in part by the member institution. An institution may only finance one official visit per prospect and the official visit may only be provided after January 1 of the prospect’s junior year of high school.

There are many rules in place governing official visits and the institution must maintain a detailed record of activity related to the visit.

**Bylaws 13.6 and 13.7 Unofficial Visits**

An unofficial visit is one that is made at the expense of the prospect. A prospect may visit the campus an unlimited number of times at his/her own expense and these visits may occur at any time. The institution may provide the following expenses or entertainment on an unofficial visit:
a) The institution may provide complimentary admission to a home athletics event in which the team is practicing or competing. Tickets are only for that game and must be in the general seating area.

b) The institution may provide a meal to the prospect at the on-campus dining facility. An institution may provide a meal off-campus ONLY when all on-campus dining facilities are closed and the institution can certify that it is normal policy to provide such a meal to all prospective students (non-athletes) who visit campus.

c) An institution may provide housing during an unofficial visit provided such housing is generally available to all visiting prospective students.