

PROPOSAL NO: 2013-01

ELIGIBILITY – COLLEGIATE CLUB TRANSFERS

Intent: To treat transfers from collegiate club programs in the same way as a regular non student athlete transfer student.

Bylaws: Amend Article III of the Eligibility Regulations and Operating Bylaws as follows:

Article III: ELIGIBILITY, ACADEMIC AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

D. Transfer Students (NCAA Ref: BYLAW 14.5)

1. Competition at the First Varsity Level: Standard Waivers regarding transfer students, as permitted under NCAA Regulations, are applicable, and may be processed through the ECAC or other NCAA affiliated conference office (Big East, Pac-12, Ivy League, etc.). Notice of any such waiver that is granted must be reported to the IRA Commissioner. Any such competition that occurs under the benefit of such waiver must be counted as one of the student's four years of eligibility in the sport of crew.

~~a. A student transferring from a collegiate "club crew" program shall also be subject to these provisions.~~

G. Seasons of Competitions (NCAA Ref BYLAW 14.2)

1. An IRA student-athlete shall not engage in more than one season of Intercollegiate competition at the freshman level.

~~a. Participation by a student in rowing competition at the collegiate club level, during the freshman year or subsequently during any upper class year, at any collegiate institution, shall be counted the same as a season of competition at the intercollegiate freshman/varsity level.~~

a. Standard waivers regarding seasons of competition, as permitted under NCAA Regulations, may be processed through the ECAC or other NCAA affiliated conference office (Ivy League, Pac-12, Big East, etc.). Notice of any such waiver that is granted must be reported to the IRA Commissioner.

Effective Date: July 1, 2013

Rationale: The purpose of this change is to eliminate the special treatment of collegiate club programs in the IRA Rules. Originally, when clubs raced in the IRA this rule prevented poaching of club athletes by varsity teams by treating a club transfer in the same way as a varsity transfer. The need for this rule has been eliminated with the exclusion of clubs from the IRA.

The rule as it exists favors foreign transfer students over American athletes in the club system. Few foreign transfer students participate in university sponsored rowing teams, allowing a foreign sophomore transfer who participated in rowing 4 years of varsity eligibility. A sophomore transfer from a collegiate club program in the United States should have the same 4 years of varsity eligibility.

This change simplifies the IRA rules by bringing them closer in line with the NCAA rules governing transfers.