

ELIGIBILITY

EPCC/PCAA ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

1. Each athlete must enroll full-time and remain full-time throughout his/her term of competition. Any student dropping below full-time loses eligibility on the day of the drop and must re-establish eligibility before he or she can compete in future competition.

Exception: After a student/athlete has successfully attended and completed thirty (30) credit hours at the institution in which they want to participate, and all other PCAA eligibility requirements have been met, a student/athlete is eligible to compete in the EPCC/PCAA if he/she is enrolled for a minimum of six (6) credit hours per semester or four (4) credits per quarter-semester. NOTE: No transfer credits may be applied to the 30 credits required. All other exceptions should be submitted to the Eligibility committee.

2. Credits and QPA

<u>Credits</u> must pass	<u>Cumulative</u> <u>QPA</u> using passed credits
9	1.50 1.75 after first semester
20	1.75 1.8 after second semester
30	1.80 2.0 after third semester
40	2.00 after fourth semester

OR:

pass a minimum of 9 semester hours with a ~~1.50~~ 1.75 GPA or higher during the previous semester of full-time enrollment.

- A. SECOND SEASON OF COMPETITION.

Student athletes competing for a second year must have a minimum of 20 credits with a grade point average of ~~1.75~~ 1.8 and must have passed 9 credit hours previous semester with a 1.75 or 10 credits X the number of full time semesters with a ~~1.75~~ 2.0 GPA.

- B. NEW STUDENTS ENTERING JANUARY TERM. Students who enter in January without prior enrollment, *wishing to participate*, and continue into the next fall semester are exempt from the second semester, 20-credit rule. *These students but must pass(accumulate) 12 credits with a 2.0 of non-remedial course work (8-8-2000 PCAA minutes) prior to the Fall semester.*

- C. ~~NJCAA members must use the same minimum accumulated credits of 30 with a 1.80 GPA. Again, if it is in the first season of competition, the students may use the previous semester of 9 credits and a 1.5 or 10 credits times the number of full-time semesters completed with a GPA as indicated above.~~

3. Students may compete for a maximum of two seasons in any one sport. Seasons are cumulative and include all college attendance/participation.

NOTE: Two seasons cannot occur in one year.

4. Eighteen Month Rule: Students who are out of college, no attendance, full- or part-time at any college, for a period of 18 months (3 semesters) or more and have previously played one season are eligible if they have not yet competed for a second season.
5. Transfer students – 4yr & 2yr
Students who transfer from a four year college are immediately eligible if they meet all other EPCC eligibility regulations and either of the following:
 - a. 9 credits completed in the last full time semester of attendance at college from which they are transferring with a GPA of ~~1.50~~ 1.75 **OR**
 - b. 10 credits times the number of full time semesters with the above accumulative GPA (#2)
 - c. Transfers after a fall semester will be permitted to participate provided they meet the academic criteria listed and all other EPCC/PCAA eligibility requirements have been met.

EQUATING CREDITS AND GPA FOR TRI-SEMESTER INSTITUTIONS. These equated credits and GPA should be used for eligibility for students transferring to your institution from a tri-semester institution:

One term completed	6 credits and a 1.50 GPA 1.62
Second term completed	14 credits and a 1.62 GPA 1.75
Third term completed	20 credits and a 1.75 GPA 1.80
Fourth term completed	26 credits and a 1.80 GPA 1.92
Fifth term completed	36 credits and a 1.92 GPA 2.0
Sixth term completed	40 credits and a 2.0 GPA

6. ~~Transfers after a Fall semester will be permitted to participate provided they meet the academic criteria listed and all other EPCC/PCAA eligibility requirements have been met.~~

ADDITIONAL E.P.C.C. ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

1. HARSHIPS

The hardship provision of the EPCC is available to student-athletes, who are unable to complete a season of competition or did not satisfy one of the other eligibility rules as a result of an injury, illness or some type of any emergency beyond their control.

- A. Hardship #1 involves an injury or illness which results in the student-athlete's inability to complete a season. Prior to the injury or illness, a student-athlete must not have participated in more than 20 percent of the college's regular season schedule or have participated in no more than two of the institution's completed events in that sport, whichever number is greater. The injury or illness must also have occurred in the first half of the schedule resulting in the student-athlete being incapacitated for the remainder of the season.

NOTE: In applying the 20 percent limitation, any competition which results in a fractional portion of an event shall be rounded to the next highest whole number, e.g. 20 percent of a 27 game basketball schedule (5.4 games) shall be considered six games.

- B. Hardship #2 involves cases other than those affecting a student-athlete's season of competition as specified in Section 1.A. These cases must show that there are circumstances beyond the student-athlete's control which directly result in their inability to satisfy the Rules of eligibility. The 20 percent limitation still applies to participation. All requests must receive approval from the eligibility committee.

2. **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Any student/athlete that is enrolled for at least six credits or more (or at least four credits or more at ~~Reading Area Community College~~ *Central Penn College* per term) and is part of a certified disability services program is eligible for competition when a letter signed by the director of such a program is attached to the E.P.C.C. Eligibility and forwarded to the eligibility chairperson. The letter must certify that the student/athlete is currently a student receiving disability services, that the student is limited to a specified number of credits but not less than six, and that the student is making satisfactory progress, if applicable, (and in good academic standing according to the Athletic Director), in order to be eligible for E.P.C.C. competition.

3. **STUDENTS OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL).**

A special credit eligibility provision is granted to all students of English as a Second Language (ESL). International students entering colleges, such as members of the EPCC, with limited proficiency in the English language, are restricted to ESL courses. The ESL program director must verify (in writing) for eligibility purposes that students are enrolled in the ESL program and have been restricted to the required number of credits. EPCC members have a diverse population that can reap the benefits of being included in intercollegiate athletics. The same type of credit restrictions apply to students in the Learning Disabled program. The only difference is that the ESL students are able to move to full-time status after successfully completing the ESL courses.

4. **AMATEUR**

An amateur player is one who engages in sports for physical, mental, or social benefits he derives in participation and to who athletics is an avocation and not a cause for personal financial remuneration.

5. **PROFESSIONALISM**

Any athlete who receives or has received pay in any form for participation in athletics or signed a contract with any professional athletic organization does not meet the definition of an amateur and is therefore classified as a professional unless the athlete has legally regained amateur status.

6. **STATUS**

When the amateur status of a student is in question, it is the responsibility of the athletic director of the college in question to clear the status of the student, or report the matter to the Board of Athletic Directors or its designated committee.

7. **FALSIFICATION**

Any student who falsifies his/her academic and/or his/her athletic participation record, shall be ineligible for further competition in all EPCC institutions at any time.

8. INELIGIBLE PLAYER

No ineligible player shall be allowed to be in uniform for any contest sponsored by the association. If a uniformed participant is determined to be ineligible, the game will be forfeited.

- 9. ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION AND PENALTIES.** A properly typed and certified EPCC Eligibility Form and the EPCC Publicity Release Form 91-A must be sent to the First Vice-President. All forms must be typed. If forms are not typed, penalties as stated in Article XI (Eligibility), Section 9.2 will be in effect. All forms are due on or before the following dates:

Eligibility Dates for 2008-2009(need updated)

14th Business Day in September	2007: Friday, September 19
Baseball (Fall)	
Cross Country (Men and Women)	
Golf	
Soccer (Men and Women)	
Volleyball (Women)	
15th Business Day in November	2007: Wednesday, November 21
Basketball (Men and Women) 1 st Half	
Bowling (Men and Women) 1 st Half	
15th Business Day in January	2008: Wednesday, January 23
Basketball (Men and Women) 2 nd Half	
Bowling (Men and Women) 2 nd Half	
5th Business Day in April	2008: Tuesday, April 7
Baseball (Spring)	
Softball (Women)	
Team Tennis (Men and Women)	
Volleyball (Men)	

- 9.1 DEFINITION:** A business day is defined as all working days excluding all weekends and National holidays.
- 9.2 PENALTY:** A Two Hundred and Fifty Dollar (\$250.00) fine will be sent to the Athletic Director of any institution which does not submit properly certified EPCC Eligibility and Form 91-A according to the guidelines above. In addition, institutions which have not filed properly certified EPCC Eligibility and Form 91-A shall forfeit all contests after the deadline until EPCC Eligibility and EPCC Publicity Release Form 91-A is forwarded to the First Vice-President.

10. **NOTIFICATION, COMPLIANCE AND DEFENSE:** Fines will be mailed or faxed the first business day after the deadline. All fines will go to the general fund of the EPCC. Fines not received by the EPCC Treasurer within ten (10) business days prior to the post-season tournament will result in the elimination of post-season play for that institution. In the event of an eligibility infraction the institution's representative must have an opportunity to defend his/her position and express his/her personal feelings through a conference call or face-to-face meeting before the eligibility committee.
11. **TRANSFER STUDENTS:** Athletic Director's must certify that any transfer students meet all EPCC eligibility standards. Transfer students, institutions, and dates of attendance are listed at the bottom of the EPCC Eligibility form in the spaces provided and on the back of the eligibility form as a break in college attendance.
12. **DOCUMENTATION:** Do NOT exchange confidential transcripts or any form that includes an athlete's social security number. Each Athletic Director must maintain all transcripts and pertinent documents within its institution. The First Vice-President may request copies of such documents at any time for purposes of certifying eligibility.
13. **PUBLICITY RELEASE FORM 91-A:** All EPCC coaches and advisors MUST exchange a typed Publicity Release Form 91-A prior to any EPCC contests. Forms MUST include uniform numbers. Sanctions will be enforced.
- 13.1. Failure of coaches and advisors to exchange Form 91-A in proper form as outlined in 15 below shall result in a one hundred dollars (\$100.00) fine per infraction. Failure to pay such fines within ten (10) business days prior to the post-season tournament shall result in elimination from any post-season play. Coaches and advisors are responsible for exchanging and collecting Forms 91-A from all EPCC opponents prior to every game/match. Coaches and advisors must report all failures to exchange Form 91-A to their Athletic Director, who then in turn notifies the First Vice- President.
14. **ITEMS ON THE EPCC ELIGIBILITY FORM:** Items that must be included on the EPCC Eligibility Form are as follows:
- Name and Student I.D. Number of all participants
 - Date of High School Graduation
 - Name of High School, County and State if different than yours
 - Transfer Students (✓)
 - Date of Initial Full-Time Enrollment *at Current Institution*
 - *Date of Initial Full-Time Enrollment at ANY Institution*
 - Number of Full-Time Terms Previously Enrolled in *ANY* College
 - *Number of Full-Time Terms Previously Enrolled in Current College*
 - Number of *Total* Hours Passed
 - *Number of Credit Hours Passed in last Full-Time Semester*
 - *Grade Point Average During Last Full-Time Semester*
 - *Overall* Grade Point Average
 - Hours Registered for Current Term
 - Seasons of Participation (Including Present)
 - Date of Physical Exam
 - ~~Athlete's Signature~~

- Athletic Director's Signature

14.1 **BREAK IN COLLEGE ATTENDANCE:** On the back of the EPCC eligibility form you must account for any student athletes who have had a break in full-time college attendance. You must include dates, places of employment or whereabouts of the student during period of time in question. *The EPCC eligibility form must be typed.*

15. **ITEMS ON THE PUBLICITY RELEASE FORM 91-A**

- Jersey Number – Away and Home (Team Sports)
- Name of all participants
- Position
- Height (Optional)
- Weight (Optional)
- Class
- High School
- Course of Study
- Pertinent Items at Bottom of Form

Note: Form 91-A must be typed and must include jersey numbers when applicable.

16. **ITEMS ON CLUB SPORT ELIGIBILITY FORM #2:** (To be used for all extramural and club sports.)

- Name and Student I.D. Number of Participants
- Date of High School Graduation
- Name of High School include County and State if different than yours
- Participation at Other Institutions
- Number of Years of Athletic Participation in that Sport
- Hours Registered for Current Term
- Seasons of Participation at Present School
- Signature of Athletic Director
- Transfer Information

Club Sport Eligibility Form #2 is submitted for extramural and club sports to the First Vice-President within the deadlines above and in lieu of the EPCC Eligibility Form. Publicity Release Form 91-A must be exchanged at the first contest in bowling (1st and 2nd half) and the first contest of men's volleyball and all other club events. Club sport eligibility is subject to the same penalties as EPCC eligibility.

17. **ADDENDUMS:** Addendums will be accepted by the First Vice-President throughout the season. **Student athletes must appear in at least one league event to be eligible for post-season play.** Addendums MUST be typed and the athletic director's signature and date must be included. *Athletes who are on addendums are not eligible to play until the addendum has been sent to the First Vice-President.*

18. **REMOVAL OF STUDENT/ATHLETES FROM ELIGIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of the athletic director to send out a revised eligibility form for those students who are no longer participating prior to any EPCC or PCAA post season play. The athletic director should note "Deletion No Participation" (**DNP**) or "Deletion

With Participation” (**DWP**). Forms should be forwarded to the First Vice–President and other EPCC. institutions involved.

19. **STUDENTS WHO WITHDRAW**

- A. Students who have participated in intercollegiate athletics and withdraw to less than 12 credits become immediately ineligible and must reestablish their eligibility according to ~~Article X~~ Academic Eligibility Standards prior to future EPCC/PCAA competition.
- B. Students who are not participating in intercollegiate athletics and withdraw from classes to less than 12 credits shall not have that semester count as a full–time semester as long as the withdraw is a “withdraw passing” or “withdraw no grade.” Any “withdraw failing” grade shall count for eligibility purposes.

20. **TRANSFER WITHIN**

No E.P.C.C. student/athlete may transfer into another E.P.C.C. institution and be eligible to participate during that school year in the same sport, regardless of academic standing. *The athlete will be eligible to participate in the following academic year.*

21. **IF A STUDENT HAS SKIPPED A SEMESTER** and/or attended a semester only part–time (for a valid reason), **after a season of participation** and has shown academic capability then the eligibility of that student/athlete may be appealed to the EPCC First Vice President, eligibility chair.

22. **EFFECTIVE DATE OF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.** A student becomes eligible at the routine beginning of any semester OR at the point of any semester in which the student becomes full time and is enrolled with FULL PAID TUITION OR IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE INSTITUTION’S PAYMENT PLAN SYSTEM with the exception of the new athlete coming in between the fall and spring semesters (bowling and men’s and women’s basketball). The appropriate effective semester is the one in which at least one half of the classes are held.

23. **BETWEEN SEMESTER ELIGIBILITY DATES for men's and women's basketball will be as follows:**

Those students who are enrolled in a member institution during the fall semester are eligible until the date of the first Conference game in January and continue to be eligible as long as they meet EPCC academic standards. New students enrolling for the winter or spring term are eligible until the first Conference game in January and thereafter as long as they have registered for the correct number of credits, have paid their tuition or are in compliance with the institution’s payment plan system, and have met all other EPCC eligibility regulations.

24. **CLUB TEAM REQUIREMENTS:**

24.1 Submit letter to all EPCC members, prior to the start of a season, with notification of their intention to participate as a Club Team. Declaration of Club status will not be accepted after the start of a season.

24.2. Participating athletes must:

- A Be currently enrolled in institution with three credits or more.

- B. Be determined by school to be in satisfactory academic standing. ~~It is recommended that individuals on academic probation not be permitted to participate.~~
 - C. Have a current physical.
 - D. Be notified by the athletic director that each year of Intercollegiate Club participation will expire one year of athletic eligibility (Two year maximum).
 - E. Not have expired two years of eligibility in participating sport *at current institution*, except extramural events.
 - F. Be accompanied by a representative of the institution (i.e. coach or advisor).
25. **EXTRAMURAL ATHLETES.** Athletes must have a minimum of three credits to participate in extramural activities. Athletes may participate in extramural activities for *a total of four years at any institution*. Effective with the 2008–09 year, the EPCC extramural events are: men’s volleyball and bowling. All athletes have only two years of eligibility (participation) in PCAA events.