UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICY ON ELIGIBILITY

I.  GRADE POINT AVERAGE STANDARDS FOR CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY

A. Beginning with their second year of collegiate enrollment, a University of Minnesota (U of M) undergraduate student-athlete who is otherwise eligible under NCAA and Big Ten rules must present a minimum U of M/Big Ten cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 to be eligible for intercollegiate competition. (NCAA rules require minimum GPA of: sophomore status = 1.8; junior status = 1.9; senior status = 2.0)

A graduate student-athlete with eligibility remaining who is otherwise eligible under NCAA and Big Ten rules must present a minimum U of M /Big Ten GPA of 2.0 to be eligible for intercollegiate competition. (NCAA rules require graduate students to complete 6 credit hours, but has no GPA requirement for these students.)

A graduate student-athlete who has exhausted eligibility (i.e., final semester of competition) is not subject to the U of M 2.0 Policy, but is subject to all other NCAA/Big Ten rules. (NCAA rules require graduate students to complete 6 credit hours to receive the academic progress rate (APR) point, but has no GPA requirement for these students.)

B. If the student-athlete is eligible under NCAA and Big Ten rules on the first day of the term, but does not meet the requirement in part (A) above, the student-athlete shall become eligible for intercollegiate competition and/or earn the academic progress rate (APR) eligibility point once the student-athlete achieves the 2.0 GPA standard for that term. (For example, an incomplete is completed during the summer term after the spring term in which the student-athlete’s Big Ten cumulative GPA was below the 2.0 GPA requirement. The student-athlete would only earn the APR point.)

REPORTING:

Each academic term the director of the McNamara Academic Center for athletics (hereafter MAC) will provide the Faculty Academic Oversight Committee On Intercollegiate Athletics (FAOCIA) a grade report that includes the number of student-athletes per team whose U of M/Big Ten GPA falls below the 2.00 standard and an academic plan for each student-athlete included on that list.

WAIVERS:

The faculty members of the FAOCIA, by majority vote upon appeal from the athletics director, may waive the 2.00 standard for an individual student-athlete. Waivers may be granted on the basis of improved academic performance and not on the basis of athletic skill. Waivers may also be considered for APR reasons especially when there is no impact on the student-athlete.
PROCESS FOR REQUESTING A WAIVER

- The athletics director must make a written request to the chair of FAOCIA to waive the 2.00 standard.
  - If warranted, the chair of FAOCIA will schedule a meeting at which the student-athlete and coach will be asked to present the mitigating circumstances. In a case in which the student-athlete is leaving the university, their presence shall be strongly encouraged but not required.
- The athletics director, MAC director, and academic counselor should also be present at this meeting.
- After the case has been presented, the voting members of FAOCIA will go into closed session and vote on the request.
- The committee’s decision to approve or deny the request will be communicated in writing to the athletics director, coach, student, academic counselor, the director of MAC, and the Director of Compliance.
- The committee administrator will also communicate the committee’s written decision to the registrar’s office.
- Any student-athlete who has been suspended for academic reasons will not be considered for a waiver.
- In certain cases for example, if the student-athlete is enrolled in a 9-month IDL course and the grade is not available and therefore the student-athlete receives an “I” (which could drop his/her GPA below a 2.0) or if the waiver request is for APR reasons and there is no impact on the student-athlete, the athletics director and/or the director of the MAC may consult the chair of FAOCIA to determine if it is necessary to have the student-athlete attend the hearings or if a hearing is necessary. The decision will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The FAOCIA will consider the following factors in its deliberations:

- Student-athletes cumulative U of M/Big Ten GPA
- Reasons for leaving the University
- Student-athlete’s overall academic record

INDIVIDUAL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

The FAOCIA’s decision to restore the eligibility to a student-athlete whose GPA has dropped below the 2.0 standard required by the U of M but remains above the NCAA minimum GPA standard for intercollegiate competition may include an individual academic performance contract. If a contract is warranted, the following steps will be taken:

- The chair of FAOCIA and the MAC staff will design an academic performance contract for the student-athlete. A majority of the members of the FAOCIA must review and approve the initial contract.
The chair of FAOCIA will schedule a meeting to review the contract with the student-athlete, coach, academic counselor and athletics director. The contract is to be signed by the student-athlete, coach, academic counselor, athletics director, and chair of FAOCIA.

The academic performance contract will be specific in listing tasks, deadlines, and methods of reporting efforts and/or progress. While the ultimate responsibility is with the student-athlete, specific monitoring responsibilities may be assigned to the coach, the academic counselors, and others. For example, the student-athlete may be required to meet with the FAOCIA to review progress.

If deemed necessary, the chair of FAOCIA and/or the faculty representative may consult with present or past faculty of the student-athlete and other academic counselors.

The chair of FAOCIA shall distribute copies of the contract to the student-athlete, the coach, the academic counselor, the athletics director, and the director of the MAC. A copy of the contract will be kept on file in the office of the staff of the FAOCIA.

The effective date of this regulation is July 1, 1987.

Approved by the FAOCIA fall semester 2001 and 2002; approved by the Assembly Steering Committee, spring 2003

Revised and approved by the FAOCIA and the Twin Cities members of the Faculty Consultative Committee, spring 2006

Approved by the FAOCIA and the Faculty Consultative Committee, spring 2012

Approved by the FAOCIA and the Faculty Consultative Committee, spring 2014