Intercollegiate competition occurs when a student-athlete:
- Represents MSU in any contest against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified (e.g., scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice session with another institution’s team) or whether the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies;
- Competes in MSU’s uniform, or, during the academic year, uses any apparel (excluding apparel no longer used by the institution) received from MSU that includes institutional identification; or
- Competes and receives expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, room or entry fees) form MSU for the competition. [17.02.8]

In order for a student-athlete to compete unattached without using a season of competition the event must be open to noncollegiate competitors and must be organized, publicized and operated as an event that is open to individuals other than collegiate competitors. [1/3/03 Ed. Column]

To participate in competition while not representing MSU during or between terms of the regular academic year, a student-athlete must obtain prior written approval PRIOR to the competition. [Big Ten 17.02.9]

An ineligible student-athlete, redshirt, or eligible student-athlete who participates as an “unattached” competitor may not compete in:
- An intercollegiate meet;
- A meet that involves individuals or teams from collegiate institutions participating in a competition to score points for the represented institution;
- An event that involves team scoring such that the institution’s varsity team and the outside team are in the same scoring category; and
- A meet in which the institution’s varsity team members directly compete (e.g., in the same heat, flight, pairing) against high school prospects who are representing an outside team. [5/8/95 Official Interp., 1/3/03 Ed. Column]

Important Points to Remember
- A student-athlete may participate in outside competition as an individual during the academic year, as long as the student-athlete represents only himself or herself in the competition and does not engage in such competition as a member of or receive expenses from an outside team.
- Student-athlete’s may not wear MSU issued uniforms or apparel.
- Student-athletes may use equipment received from MSU that includes institutional identification (e.g., golf bag, tennis racquet).
- The student-athlete may not score points for MSU.
- The student-athlete must pay all of his or her own travel and competition expenses.
- Transportation may NOT be provided by MSU.
- MSU is not permitted to provide athletics training support or other medical services to student-athletes who are competing unattached. If the trainer (or other service provider) has been designated by the competition host to provide services to all participants, such services may be provided to the unattached student-athletes.
- Coaching may not be provided to student-athletes competing unattached. [Note: A coaching staff member may engage in coaching activities with a student-athlete during the student-athlete's participation in established national championship events (including junior national championships and Olympic, Pan American, World Championships, World Cup and World University Games qualifying competition.]
- Student-athletes may not accept cash and/or prizes for their athletics performance without jeopardizing their eligibility for intercollegiate competition. [117.02.8, 11/20/98 Staff Interp., 11/17/05 Ed. Col.]