## MSU OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE SERVICES

### REDSHIRT VS. MEDICAL HARDSHIP WAIVERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>REDSHIRT</th>
<th>MEDICAL HARDSHIP</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The term “redshirt” is used to describe a student-athlete who does not participate in competition in a sport for an entire academic year. If the student-athlete does not compete during the academic year, he/she has not used a season of competition.</td>
<td>A medical hardship is for those student-athletes who have sustained an incapacitating injury or illness which prevented them from competing in the remainder of the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Form</td>
<td>There is no official form to complete regarding a redshirt student-athlete. A student-athlete’s participation in competition is recorded on the “dates of competition form” which is submitted to the OCS at the completion of a team’s season.</td>
<td>MSU needs to complete a medical hardship waiver. MSU files medical hardship waivers with the Big Ten conference office. The Big Ten determines whether the student-athlete should be granted an additional year of competition as a result of his/her incapacitating injury or illness.</td>
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### Seasons of Eligibility

- Any competition, regardless of time, during a season in an intercollegiate sport shall be counted as a season of competition in that sport except as provided below. This provision is applicable to intercollegiate athletics competition conducted by a two-year or four-year collegiate institution at the varsity or subvarsity level.
  - Women’s Volleyball, Soccer and Field Hockey: A student-athlete may engage in outside competition during the segment of the playing season that does not conclude with the NCAA championship without using a season of competition, provided the student-athlete was academically eligible during the segment that concludes with the NCAA Championship.
  - Preseason Exhibitions/Preseason Practice Scrimmages During Initial Year: During a student-athlete's initial year of enrollment at the certifying institution, he or she may compete in preseason exhibition contests and preseason practice scrimmages (as permitted in the particular sport per Bylaw 17) without counting such competition as a season of competition. [14.2.3.1, 14.2.3.1.2, 14.2.3.1.3]

### Medical Hardship Waiver

- Hardship is defined as an incapacity resulting from an injury or illness that has occurred under all of the following conditions:
The incapacitating injury or illness occurs in one of the four seasons of intercollegiate competition at any two-year or four-year collegiate institution or occurs subsequent to the first day of classes in the student-athlete’s senior year in high school;

The injury or illness occurs prior to the first competition of the second half of the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship in that sport (see Bylaw 14.2.4.3.4) and results in incapacity to compete for the remainder of that playing season;

In team sports, the injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete has not participated in more than three contests or dates of competition (whichever is applicable to that sport) or 30 percent (whichever number is greater) of the institution's scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition in his or her sport.

Only scheduled or completed competition (including exempted events but excluding scrimmages and exhibition contests identified as such in the legislation) against outside participants during the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship, or, if so designated, during the official NCAA championship playing season in that sport (e.g., spring baseball, fall soccer), shall be countable under this limitation in calculating both the number of contests or dates of competition in which the student-athlete has participated and the number of scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition during that season in the sport.

Dates of competition that are exempted (e.g., alumni contests, foreign team in U.S.) from the maximum permissible number of contests or dates of competition shall count toward the number of contests or dates in which the student-athlete has participated and the number of scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition in the season, except for scrimmages and exhibition contests that are specifically identified as such in the sport's Bylaw 17 playing and practice season regulations.

Scrimmages and exhibition contests that are not exempted from the maximum permissible number of contests or dates of competition may be excluded from the calculation only if they are identified as such by in the sport's Bylaw 17 playing and practice season regulations; and

In individual sports, the injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete has not participated in more than three dates of competition or 30 percent (whichever number is greater) of the maximum permissible number of dates of competition as set forth in Bylaw 17 plus one date for a conference championship (e.g., gymnastics: 13+1=14, wrestling: 16+1=17), regardless of whether the team participates in the conference championship, provided the institution is a member of a conference and the conference holds a championship event in the applicable sport. Dates of competition that are exempted per Bylaw 17 (e.g., alumni contests, foreign team in U.S.) from the maximum permissible number of dates of competition do not count toward the number of dates in which the student-athlete has participated. [New Legislation]

The injury or illness does not have to be the direct result of the student-athlete’s participation in organized practice or game competition. [14.2.4.3.2]
• A student-athlete who suffers an injury in the first half of the season that concludes with the NCAA championship or who suffers an injury subsequent to the first day of classes in his or her senior year of high school attempts to return to competition during the second half of that season and then is unable to participate further as a result of aggravating the original injury does not qualify for the hardship waiver. [14.2.4.3.5]
  o A student-athlete does not qualify for a hardship waiver if he/she engages in any outside competition during the second half of the playing season including competition not representing MSU. [4/13/94 Staff Interp.]
• All hardship waivers must be supported by contemporaneous or other appropriate medical documentation from a physician (i.e., a medical doctor) who provided care at the time of the injury or illness. [14.2.4.3.3]
  o Medical documentation for hardship waiver cases involving psychological or mental illnesses may be provided by an individual who is qualified and licensed to diagnose and treat the particular illness (e.g., psychiatrist, psychologist). [2/25/04 Staff Interp.]
  o Documentation from an individual other than a physician (e.g., chiropractor, physical therapist, athletic trainer) may only be used to support the medical doctor’s documentation. [11/15/00 Official Interp.]
• A hardship waiver may be based on pregnancy, or drug or alcohol abuse when proper medical documentation is presented that the student-athlete was unable to compete for the remainder of the traditional playing season. [11/29/89 Staff Interp., 1/18/89 Staff Interp.]