

## **An important information about the new NCAA rule for prospective Division I tennis players.**

The NCAA Eligibility Center certifies the academic and amateur credentials of all students who want to play sports at an NCAA Division I as freshmen. In order to practice, play and receive an athletic scholarship, students must meet certain academic and amateur benchmarks. In addition, a high school graduate must enrol in US Division I school in a designated time period. For a prospective international high school student-athlete, it is imperative to be informed of any new NCAA rules that may impact player's eligibility to practise, compete and receive an athletic scholarship.

In the past, high school graduates had one year grace period to enrol into Division I school. The new delayed enrolment rule for NCAA Division I tennis, is reducing grace period to only 6 months after high school graduation. The new rule will come into effect for any tennis player who enrolls in US Division I school - on or after August 1, 2012.

A student-athlete who does not enrol in a collegiate Division I institution as a fulltime student in a regular academic term within six months (or the first opportunity to enrol after six months have elapsed) after his or her high school graduation date, shall be subject to the following:

(a) The student-athlete shall be charged with a season of intercollegiate eligibility for each calendar year after the six-month period has elapsed (or the next opportunity to enrol) and prior to full-time collegiate enrolment during which the student-athlete has participated in organized competition per NCAA Division I Manual Bylaw 14.02.9.

(b) After the six-month period, if the student-athlete has engaged in organized competition per Bylaw 14.02.9, on matriculation at the certifying institution, the student-athlete must fulfill an academic year in residence for each calendar year after the six-month period has elapsed (or the next opportunity to enrol) and prior to full-time collegiate enrolment during which the student-athlete has participated in such competition before being eligible to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition.

**The new rule is applicable to student-athletes who initially enrol full time in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2012.** *(NCAA Division I, 2011 Manual)*

The new rule is applicable to 2011 high school graduate, who plans a one year delayed enrolment in September of 2012 - past August 1, 2012 new deadline.

To avoid losing one year of eligibility, a 2011 graduate student-athlete must enrol by January of 2012.

Earning an athletic scholarship in US College system is increasable more complex one time shot process. Be prepared.

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(The info sources are: 2010-2011 NCAA Division I Manual, confirmed by NCAA Eligibility Center specialist – Jamie, January 26, 2011).