



2023 NCVF Governance Rule 4.5 Update

Following research and presentation from NCVF student athletes and a recommendation from the NCVF Advisory Council, the NCVF Board of Directors has voted to approve the following test rule for the 2023 NCVF Regular Season and 2023 NCVF Championships.

NCVF Governance Rule 4.5 – 2023 Test Rule

The following rule shall be tested during the 2023 NCVF Regular Season and 2023 NCVF Championships. Review and further adjustments (as needed) will be completed following the completion of the NCVF Championships each season so long as the rule is being tested.

Former Varsity Players – A student who is a Former Varsity Player is eligible to participate on an otherwise NCVF Eligible Team so long as the student meets all NCVF Governance Rules. Provided however, NCVF Eligible Teams may only include a maximum of 2 Former Varsity Players **from NCAA or NAIA programs** on their NCVF Eligible Team during the current NCVF Competitive Season, including the NCVF Championships. **Players from Varsity programs other than NCAA or NAIA programs will not count toward the 2 Former Varsity Player limitation.**

Process

Research was completed and presented by NCVF student athletes with the following conclusions:

- Former community college varsity athletes have a negligible impact on the competitive balance of NCVF teams.
- Community/junior college players are significantly more likely to be minorities or come from low socioeconomic status backgrounds.
- As such, the inclusion of community college athletes in the two Former Varsity Player limitation has a disproportionate adverse impact on minority students and those from low socioeconomic status backgrounds with little-to-no benefit on NCVF competitive balance.

After receiving the presentation and having the opportunity to review information and methodology, the NCVF Advisory Council comprised of league and independent team

representatives made a formal recommendation to the NCVF Board of Directors to amend the 2 Former Varsity Player limitation.

Clarifications

- Test rule only applies to NCVF Governance Rule 4.5 – Former Varsity Players.
- NCVF Governance Rule 4.3 has not amended Varsity definition. Therefore, beginning play at any collegiate varsity program will still begin a player's 6 consecutive years of eligibility under NCVF Governance Rule 4.7.
- NCVF Governance Rule 4.4 has not amended Current Year Varsity Player definition. Therefore, playing the fall season for any collegiate varsity program will preclude that player's participation in the spring NCVF season.
- The NCVF Board of Directors has adopted NCVF Governance Rule 4.5-2023 Test Rule as a test rule. Impact of the rule will be tracked and the test rule will be revisited annually at the end of each NCVF Championships until the rule is reverted to the original, amended again, or permanently adopted.