



Reference

NCAA Twenty-One Year Old Rule

The following is a written clarification of the rule regarding players who turn 21 during their Junior A season and want to maintain NCAA eligibility.

There are two NCAA eligibility “clocks” relevant to Junior “A” hockey players.

The Five (5) Year – Semester Academic Clock

Definition: Each student-athlete has 5 years or 10 semesters to complete their academic requirements of a college scholarship.

The Four (4) Year Athletic Eligibility Clock

Definition: Each student has 4 years of eligibility to participate in NCAA athletics.

With respect to 21 year old players in the MJHL:

Athletes can continue playing in the MJHL after their 21st birthday and not lose any athletic eligibility if they enroll full-time at a college institution with no hockey program. Although their 5-year academic clock begins to count down and they will lose 1 of those 5 years for each year enrolled full time at the institution, they will not lose any of their 4-year athletic eligibility.

In Conclusion:

1. Athletes can play past their 21st birthday.
2. Athletes will lose 1 year of their 5-year academic eligibility.
3. Athletes will retain all 4 years of athletic eligibility.

There is a great deal of confusion around this issue and the MJHL emphasizes that a player must communicate with any interested colleges or universities in the NCAA to ensure that the above understanding is accurate and reliable.

