



To whom it may concern

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Scholarship and NCAA

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It has been brought to our attention that Danish students with a 4 year high school diploma (General Upper Secondary School Leaving Certificate) are having problems getting approved by the NCAA to participate in the athletic activities without serving a year of residence. The Danish Ministry of Education hope that we can find a solution to this problem based on the information this letter provides.

From our understanding the problem is that the students' graduation date is not identical with the expected graduation date. The expected graduation date is determined by you and based on your knowledge of the Danish educational system.

Having read the "Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility" posted on the NCAA website (version dated 08/28/2009) the Danish Ministry of Education is uncertain as to whether the NCAA is fully updated on the Danish educational system as new legislation has been implemented in the period 2005–09 and the latest reference in the guide is October 2004.

This letter offers a brief overview of the alterations that we expect are important for the NCAA when assessing Danish student athletes' eligibility.

1.

Primary and lower secondary education: New legislation was implemented in August 2009. As a result grade 0 has become compulsory which means that ten years of schooling is now mandatory (grade 0 – 9). Grade 10 (the 11th school year) is still optional.

2.

Upper secondary education: New legislation was implemented in 2005. According to the “Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility” two types of upper secondary education are listed in category 1:

- a) Bevis for studentereksamen (certificate of student examination)
- b) Bevis for Hojere Forberedelseseksamen/HF (higher preparatory examination)

and two types of upper secondary education are listed in category 2:

- a) Hojere Handelseksamen/HHX (higher commercial examination)
- b) Hojere Teknisk Eksamen/HTX (higher technical examination)

What the NCAA Guide and the Unesco database (referred to in NCAA’s guide) does not state, is that the Studentereksamen (**certificate of student examination**), Hojere Handelseksamen/HHX (**higher commercial examination**) and Hojere Teknisk Eksamen/HTX (**higher technical examination**) are 3 or 4 year programmes. The 4 year programmes are available for musicians, athletes, disabled and students with severe/long term illness. For musicians and athletes the purpose is to secure a balanced lifestyle (music/sport, studies and social life).

Similarly the Hojere Forberedelseseksamen/HF (higher preparatory examination) is a 2 or a 3 year programme. The 3 year programme is available for musicians, athletes, disabled and students with severe/long term illness. For musicians and athletes the purpose is to secure a balanced lifestyle (music/sport, studies and social life). In order to get accepted into Hojere Forberedelseseksamen/HF you have to pass the 10th grade in the lower secondary educational system or have at least a one year break after finishing the 9th grade.

A student admitted to the extended high school programme – eg. the 4 year studentereksamen (**certificate of student examination**) - may be allowed to return to the standard programme. Please note that returning to the standard programme is only an option in some schools and only if you switch to the standard programme within the first year of your studies. After this point the athletes are not able to graduate after 3 years as they do not have a complete high school education at this point.

Please note that the extended high school programmes meet exactly the same core curriculum, standards and requirements for admission to further and higher education as does the standard programmes.

As a consequence of the structure of upper secondary education a template for “dates for expected high school graduation” in regards to Denmark should – in our opinion - read:

The expected high school graduation date for student-athletes shall be the date of qualifying the Bevis for studentereksamen (certificate of student examination) within 3 or 4 years of the onset of the Gymnasieskole (Upper Secondary Education).

The expected high school graduation date for student-athletes shall be the date of qualifying the Bevis for Hojere Forberedelseseksamen/HF within 2 or 3 years of the onset of the Gymnasieskole (Upper Secondary Education).

If the NCAA finds it necessary and relevant the student-athletes could be provided with a documents that verifies their approval for an “extended” high school programme whereby you can exclude others reasons for a 4 year studentereksamen (certificate of student examination) or a 3 year Hojere Forberedelseseksamen (higher preparatory examination). The Ministry of Education is willing to provide such a document for the NCAA and/or the student-athletes.

3.

Another consequence of the new legislation is that all four types of upper secondary education now meet the requirements for admission to further and higher education. In our opinion all four types should therefore be categorized in category 1 in the “Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility”.

4.

As mentioned in the Guide we are now using a seven-point grading scale in the Danish educational system. The new legislation contains a description of the guidelines for conversion from the old 13-scale to the new seven point scale. Unfortunately the conversion does not correspond with the conversion listed in the Guide – please see table below.

Old 13-scale	New seven point scale
13	12
11	12
10	10
9	7
8	7
7	4
6	02
5	00
03	00
00	-3

This means for instance that a “new” grade 10 equals the “old” grade 10 and therefore the two 10’s should be converted to the same US-grade in your Guide.

Please feel free to contact us if you need further information or have any questions you need answered.

Mr. Nicolaj Holmboe (nhl@teamdanmar.dk /+45 4326 2583) from Team Danmark (The Danish Elite Sports Institution) whom are responsible for handling Danish student athletes, are at your disposal.

Finally we hope that this letter has provided you with sufficient information in regards to the 4 year programmes for you to alter your evaluation of expected graduation date for Danish student athletes so that they are able to compete without serving a year of residence.

Yours sincerely

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