

Esquire Sports Transfer Portal Playbook

Navigate Change. Own Your Future.

The transfer portal isn't something to take lightly. It's a powerful tool—but only if you know the game, the risks, and your worth. We've stood where you stand: nervous about what's next, worried about eligibility, and hoping the move is more than a headline. You're not alone. This Playbook is your step-by-step guide to making the portal work for you—so you don't just end up on a new roster, but on the right path.

Part 1: Should I Enter the Portal?

- **Gut Check:** Why do I want to transfer: playing time, coaching fit, academics, culture, or NIL opportunities?
- **Talk It Over:** Speak with your family or trusted mentors about this.
- **Check Your Timeline:** Know your sport's transfer windows and deadlines. Missing them can cost you a season.
- **Gather Your Materials:** Make sure you know your reason for entering the transfer portal, as this will be accessible for all coaches to view and think about as they see your profile.

Part 2: Entering the Portal—Step by Step

1. **Meet with Compliance/AD:** You must request to be entered; you can't just log in yourself.
2. **Understand the Rules:** Some scholarships renew, but others don't. You may lose aid once you hit submit.
3. **Start Researching:** Coaches have a database to see everyone who has entered the portal, but an athlete does not see anything. You need to do the heavy lifting to reach out to new coaches and talk with them.

4. **Safety First:** Don't post emotional rants on social. Coaches from everywhere are looking.
5. **Privacy:** Decide if you want schools/public to know right away, or to keep it low profile.



Your Game, Your Potential, Now Your Revenue

For the first time in college sports history, you can claim your share of athletic revenue alongside NIL opportunities.

Part 3: Shop Smart—What to Look for in a New Program

- **Culture Fit:** Don't just go for the offer. Ask who's already on the roster, how they spend time, and how they treat transfer athletes.
- **Coach Conversations:** Ask hard questions - Is the scholarship guaranteed? What's the plan for your role?
- **Academic Support:** Will your credits transfer? What happens if you're benched?
- **NIL Opportunities:** Is there a real plan for you, or just empty promises?
- **Don't Get Rushed:** The first offer isn't always the best. Take your time, ask for everything in writing.

Part 4: Protect Your NIL & Eligibility

- **Compliance Rules:** Some deals/contracts may violate new school or NCAA rules. Know what is allowed before signing.
- **NIL Health Check:** Send your deals to Esquire for review before you finalize anything.
- **Communication:** Keep in touch with both old and new compliance offices—transparency now saves headaches later.
- **Brand Building:** Announce your transfer with intention. Own your story, don't let social gossip beat you to it.

Part 5: Red Flags & Mistakes to Avoid

- Rushing and not reading the fine print.
- Picking a program "just for NIL" and regretting the fit later.

- Ignoring your family or advisor's gut feeling.
- Not asking for everything in writing.
- Assuming your aid or role will stay the same—always confirm.
- Forgetting to update your personal brand/profile/socials after the move.



Part 6: How Esquire Sports Has Your Back

- Free Transfer Risk Consult. Consult us anytime, even if you're just thinking.
- Real contract and scholarship reviews—protect your eligibility and pocket.
- Family and parent support. Your success is their dream, too.
- Workshops, mixers, and Q&As to connect you with athletes who've made the move.



Your story isn't just where you play next. It's how you handle the transition, how you protect your future, and who is in your corner.

Let's do this together.

Quick Reference Checklist

- Have I talked this over with my family and coach?
- Do I know my timeline and scholarship rules?
- Is my NIL deal compliant with the new school/NCAA policy?
- Do I have all offers/commitments in writing?
- Have I checked credit transfer and academic fit?
- Have I sent my deal/contracts to Esquire for review?
- Is my social/brand announcing my move on my terms?

NEED FREE ADVICE OR A FAST ELIGIBILITY/CONTRACT CHECK?

EMAIL INFO@ESQUIRENIL.COM

Download the Esquire Sports Transfer Portal Playbook (PDF)

Your legacy is too important to wing it. We're in your corner.

