

## **NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: How has the addition of the amateurism certification process changed the NCAA initial eligibility center?**

A: There are now two components to the eligibility center: the academic certification process and the amateurism certification process. In the past, only the academic certification process existed (i.e., certifying your academic credentials). Now the eligibility center will also certify your amateur status.

**Q: Who will be certified?**

A: Every prospective student-athlete, both domestic and foreign, who attends an NCAA Division I or II institution for the first time must be certified as an amateur by the eligibility center. This includes prospects transferring from any two-year or four-year institutions (including foreign institutions) that are not members of Division I or II. If a prospect wishes to participate in athletics at a Division I or II institution, the prospect must register with the eligibility center and submit the appropriate documentation to receive a certification decision.

**Q: Do I have to register with the NCAA eligibility center?**

A: Yes, if you plan and want to compete in Division I or II athletics in your first year of college, you must register with and be certified academically and as an amateur by the eligibility center.

**Q: When should I register with the NCAA eligibility center?**

A: You may register for the eligibility center as early as your freshman year in high school. The amateurism questions will ask for information dating back to ninth grade. Once you have answered the amateurism questions, the evaluation of your amateur status will begin. Information in the amateurism section should be updated regularly so that institutions recruiting you will have up-to-date information. The process for certifying your academic status will begin once the eligibility center receives your high school transcript and after you have completed at least six semesters of high school coursework. If you do not submit all required documents, your file will be incomplete and it will be discarded after three years. After that time, you will need to re-register and pay your fee again.

**Q: Is there a registration deadline?**

A: No. However, you must be certified both academically and as an amateur before you are eligible to compete at a Division I or II institution during your first year of enrollment.

**Q: How will the eligibility center certify my academic and amateur status?**

A: When you register with the eligibility center and provide basic information regarding your address, high school, year of graduation etc., the process of certifying your academic status will begin. This certification will be based on standardized test scores, your grade-point average and the core courses that you took while in high school. In addition, you will be asked to provide answers to five questions (along with five more sub-questions) relative to your athletics participation and any agreements you may have with an agent or professional team. Based on the information you provide, the eligibility center will determine if you are still an amateur, or if you have violated NCAA amateurism rules.

**Q: Once I complete the amateurism questions, how long will it take to find out if I am certified as an amateur?**

A: After you complete all of the questions, the length of time it will take for you to receive your "preliminary status report" will depend on the answers you provided. If your answers suggest that you have not violated any NCAA amateurism rules, you will receive a "preliminary status report" within a few days listing your status as "preliminarily certified." However, if your answers suggest that you have potential amateurism issues, it might take longer for you to receive a preliminary report. In this case, your report could indicate any one of the following four preliminary certifications: preliminarily certified, preliminarily certified with conditions, preliminarily not certified or under review, which will be your status while your case is being reviewed.

**Q: What do the four different preliminary certifications mean?**

A: The term "preliminary" means that the certification is not final; however, it does give you and the Division I or II institution(s) recruiting you an idea of your amateur status. The actual definitions for each certification type are as follows:

\* Preliminarily certified – means the information you have already provided to the eligibility center has satisfied the NCAA amateurism rules.

\* Preliminarily certified with conditions – means the information you have already provided to the eligibility center or the information the NCAA may have received from other sources (which the NCAA will share with you so you can respond) indicates that you have not satisfied all of the NCAA amateurism rules. In this scenario, you may be charged with penalties. Once these penalties have been satisfied, you would become eligible to compete. An example may be that you will be required to sit out your first three contests at the Division I or II institution you attend as a penalty for the three games you played as a member of a professional sports team. Another example might be that you must pay back the prize money you earned that exceeded your expenses for a tournament that you competed in. Once the "conditions" are met, you will then be able to compete.

\* Preliminarily not certified – means the information you have already provided to the eligibility center indicated that you have violated the NCAA amateurism rules to the extent that you will not be eligible to compete at a Division I or II institution.

\* Under review – means the NCAA staff is reviewing your registration form to determine your preliminary (or final) status

**Q: When will I receive a final certification?**

A: Beginning April 7 of your senior year in high school (or, if you are a transfer student, the April 7 prior to when you enroll in the following fall at a Division I or II institution), you will need to return to the eligibility center website to update and confirm the accuracy of your answers. Once you complete this process, you will receive a "final certification" from the eligibility center. The certification you receive will be similar to the four outlined above; however, this decision will indicate a "final" as opposed to a "preliminary" certification decision. The Division I or II institution where you eventually enroll will be responsible for certifying your amateur status for the timeframe between when you receive your final NCAA certification and when you eventually enroll at that institution and thereafter.

**Q: Is the registration form available in languages other than in English?**

A: At this time, it is only available in English since that is the primary language needed to complete academic work at American colleges and universities.

**Q: Will a paper copy of the amateurism form be available?**

A: No, the registration form will only be available on the eligibility center website and must be completed online.

**Q: Who can help me complete the amateurism registration process?**

A: Anyone can assist you in completing the process. However, when you have completed the registration process, YOU will be the only person allowed to submit the information to the eligibility center.

**Q: What is the cost of the registration fee?**

A: The registration fee is \$65 for domestic prospects and \$95 for international prospects.

**Q: Is there an additional fee to register with the eligibility center because of the additional questions on athletics certification?**

A: No, there is only one fee to register for the eligibility center, which covers both the academic and amateurism certification. In addition, there is no reduction of the fee if the prospect does not need an academic certification (e.g., has already served an academic year in residence at a collegiate institution).

**Q: May I receive a fee waiver?**

A: Yes, you are eligible for a waiver of the registration fee (\$65 for domestic prospects and \$95 for international prospects) if you have already received a fee waiver (not a state voucher) from ACT or SAT. To find out if you are eligible for a fee waiver, you need to speak with your high school counselor.

**Q: I am a transfer student-athlete, do I have to register with the eligibility center?**

A: Every student-athlete who plans to attend a Division I or II institution for the first time must register with the eligibility center and complete the amateurism certification process. This includes student-athletes enrolling in college for the first time as well as student-athletes transferring from any two-year or four-year institutions (including foreign institutions) that are not members of Division I or II.

**Q: If I am transferring from a junior college to either a Division I or II institution, do I have to receive an academic and an amateurism certification?**

A: You will definitely need to receive an amateurism certification. However, you may not need an academic certification. The institution that is recruiting you will be able to advise you on this matter based on your specific academic record.

**Q: If I am transferring from a junior college to either a Division I or II institution and all I need is my amateur certification, do I need to pay the full amount to register?**

A: Yes, the fee is a flat rate: \$65 for domestic prospects and \$95 for international prospects.

**Q: I registered with the eligibility center two years ago and paid the \$65 registration fee at that time. Since then I have attended a junior college for the past two years. Do I have to pay the fee again to receive my certification?**

A: No. You will need to contact the eligibility center to reactivate your registration form; however, you will not be charged an additional fee.

**Q: If I complete the registration process, but don't attend a Division I or II institution immediately following high school, do I need to complete the registration process again if I want to attend a Division I or II institution later?**

A: Before being certified for a Division I or II institution, you will be required to update the information you provided for the amateurism questions. You will not be charged a registration fee to update your file.

**Q: If I have been participating in events related to a sport for a significant period of time, what events should I list on the amateurism registration form?**

A: You should include all events in which you participated beginning with the ninth grade and thereafter.

**Q: How many times can I update my athletics participation information?**

A: The NCAA encourages you to update your athletics participation information often, especially if you participate in events outside your normal high school season.

**Q: When is the last time I can update my athletics participation information?**

A: You should finalize your information three to four months prior to the time you plan to enroll full time at a Division I or II institution. For example, student-athletes planning to enroll in the fall could update their athletics participation for the last time beginning April 7 of their senior year in high school. When you update your athletics participation for the last time, you will sign a statement acknowledging that you have provided the clearinghouse complete and truthful information. Signing this statement will notify the clearinghouse that your file is complete, and as a result a final decision may be rendered concerning your amateur status. [Note: Student-athletes planning to enroll in the winter/spring term should update their athletics participation for the last time beginning October 1.]

**Q: Can I receive a different eligibility certification for Division I and II?**

A: Yes. Division I and II have different rules, both academically and for amateurism status, so it is possible that your certification status could be different in each division.

**Q: Will I become ineligible for competition in a sport if I don't list that sport as one I intend to compete in at the college level?**

A: No. When you fill out the athletics participation section of the registration form, you will have the opportunity to select up to three NCAA-sponsored sports. Once you enroll at a Division I or II institution, and if you decide to play a different sport, the institution will be responsible for reviewing your athletics participation history and certifying your amateur status in the sport.

**Q: Am I automatically ineligible if I have violated the amateurism rules?**

No. The eligibility center will review your athletics participation history. If there are violations of NCAA amateurism rules, the eligibility center may certify you with conditions, which must be fulfilled before you are eligible for competition. Conditions will be established based on which rule was violated, but may include repayment of money (where appropriate) or sitting out competition for a specified number of contests or both. In some instances the eligibility center may determine that violations are such that permanent ineligibility for competition is the appropriate penalty.

**Q: If the certification decision regarding my amateur status includes any penalties, may I appeal the decision?**

A: There are opportunities to appeal your certification decision. You will need to have an NCAA member institution submit the appeal on your behalf.