

# Your Amateurism and You

If you want to participate in NCAA Division I or II athletics, you must also be certified as an amateur student-athlete. The Eligibility Center will determine the amateurism eligibility of all freshman and transfer college-bound student-athletes for initial participation at an NCAA Division I or II member institution. In Division III, certification of an individual's amateurism status is completed by each institution, not the Eligibility Center.

When you register with the Eligibility Center, you will be asked questions about your athletics participation. The information you will provide will be reviewed and a determination will be made as to whether your amateurism status should be certified or if a penalty should be assessed before certification. If a penalty is assessed, you will have an opportunity to appeal the decision.

The following precollegiate enrollment activities will be reviewed:

1. Contracts with a professional team.
2. Salary for participating in athletics.
3. Prize money.
4. Play with professionals.
5. Tryouts, practice or competition with a professional team.
6. Benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
7. Agreement to be represented by an agent.
8. Delayed initial full-time collegiate enrollment to participate in organized sports competition.

Additional information regarding NCAA amateurism rules is available on the Eligibility Center's Web site by logging on to [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org), then clicking on the "Resources" link at the top of the page.



## Definition of a Professional Team.

In Divisions I and II, a team is considered professional if it declares itself to be professional or provides any player more than actual and necessary expenses for participation on the team.

### Actual and necessary expenses are limited to the following:

- (a) Meals and lodging directly tied to competition and practice held in preparation for competition;
- (b) Transportation (i.e., expenses to and from practice and competition, cost of transportation between home and the training/practice site at the beginning and end of the season);
- (c) Apparel, equipment and supplies related to participation on the team;
- (d) Coaching and instruction, use of facilities and entry fees;
- (e) Health insurance, medical treatment and physical therapy; and
- (f) Other reasonable expenses (e.g., laundry money).

## Definition of Organized Competition.

In Division I, athletics competition is considered organized if any one of the following conditions exists:

- (a) Competition is scheduled and publicized in advance;
- (b) Official score is kept;
- (c) Individual or team standings are maintained;
- (d) Official timer or game officials are used;
- (e) Admission is charged;
- (f) Teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined;
- (g) Team uniforms are used;
- (h) A team is privately or commercially sponsored; or
- (i) The competition is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, an organization or any other agency.

In Division II, athletics competition is considered organized if any one of the following criteria is met:

- (a) Any team or individual competition or training in which payment (including expenses) is provided to any participant;
- (b) Any competition as a result of signing a contract for athletics participation;
- (c) Any competition as a result of involvement in a professional draft;
- (d) Any competition funded by a professional sports organization;
- (e) Any competition funded by a representative of an institution's athletics interest that is not an open event;
- (f) Any practice with a professional athletics team (excluding a 48-hour tryout);
- (g) Any competition or training with a team that declares itself to be professional; or
- (h) Any competition or training with a team that provides compensation to any of the participants (including actual and necessary expenses).



## OVERVIEW OF NCAA DIVISIONS I AND II PRE-ENROLLMENT AMATEURISM BYLAWS

|  | <b>Permissible in Division I?<br/>(Student-athletes first enrolling<br/>on or after August 1, 2002)</b>  | <b>Permissible in Division II?<br/>(Student-athletes first enrolling<br/>on or after August 1, 2001)</b>  |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Enters into a Contract with a Professional Team</b>   | No   | Yes   |
| <b>Accepts Prize Money</b>   | Yes. If it is an open event, and does not exceed actual and necessary expenses.  | Yes   |
| <b>Enters Draft</b>  | Yes  | Yes   |
| <b>Accepts Salary</b>  | No   | Yes   |
| <b>Receives Expenses from a Professional Team</b>  | No   | Yes   |
| <b>Competes on a Team with Professionals</b>   | No   | Yes   |
| <b>Tryouts with a Professional Team Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment</b>   | Yes. May receive actual and necessary expenses for one visit (up to 48 hours) from each professional team. Self-financed tryouts may be for more than 48 hours.  | Yes   |
| <b>Receives Benefits from an Agent</b>   | No   | No  |
| <b>Enters into Agreement with an Agent (oral or written)</b>   | No   | No  |
| <p><b>Delays Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment and Participates in Organized Competition</b></p> <p>[If you are charged with season(s) of competition under this rule, you will also have to serve an academic year in residence at the NCAA institution.]</p> | <p><b>Tennis and Swimming &amp; Diving:</b> Have one year after high school graduation to enroll full time in a collegiate institution or will lose one season of intercollegiate competition for each calendar year during which you continue to participate in organized competition.</p> <p><b>All Other Sports:</b> Any participation in organized sports competition during each 12-month period after your 21st birthday and before initial full-time enrollment in a collegiate institution shall count as one year of varsity competition.</p> | <p><b>All Sports:</b> Must enroll at the next opportunity (excluding summer) immediately after the date that your high school class normally graduates (or the international equivalent) or you will use a season of intercollegiate competition for each calendar year or sports season (subsequent to that date) in which you have participated in organized competition.</p> |

The chart above summarizes the Divisions I and II pre-enrollment amateurism rules.