



NCAA® amateur certification process

What is amateurism certification and why is it so important? The amateurism certification process ensures incoming Divisions I and II student-athletes meet NCAA amateurism principles. Membership established the process to bring about uniformity and fairness. Most prospective student-athletes who fully complete the process are certified.

How long has the amateurism certification process been in place? The NCAA Eligibility Center's amateurism certification staff began certifying amateurism for fall 2007 enrollees. Individual NCAA member schools previously were responsible for determining that prospective student-athletes met NCAA amateurism requirements.

How does amateurism certification work? Once the facts are known and agreed upon, an eligibility decision is made. If the facts indicate a violation has occurred, an eligibility penalty is imposed. Annually, less than one percent of prospective student-athletes seeking their amateur certification receive some sort of penalty. The process is designed to be a collaborative effort among prospective student-athletes, the amateurism certification staff and involved NCAA member schools. There is an appellate process in place for NCAA member schools to appeal amateurism certification decisions.

Is everyone eventually certified as eligible?

Prospective student-athletes may be certified as eligible, or eligible with conditions (for example, a penalty) or as ineligible. Generally speaking, a relatively small number of prospective student-athletes are determined to be ineligible or placed under review. "Ineligible" means the prospective student-athlete cannot play Division I or II sports. "Under review" means further investigation is needed to determine a prospective student-athlete's amateur status. Approximately 97,000 prospective student-athletes are certified each year.

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What is the role of the amateurism certification staff? The amateurism certification staff is the information-gathering body. It does not have the authority to interpret NCAA legislation, to consider mitigation or to impose a penalty for an amateurism violation.

What role does the school play in amateurism certification?

NCAA member school involvement is a must. In fact, the amateurism certification staff and the NCAA member school must agree upon the facts before any interpretive, appeal or reinstatement requests can be made.

What role does the prospective student-athlete play? Divisions I and II prospective student-athletes, including international students, must meet NCAA amateurism principles. Their first step is to go online to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org. During this process, prospective student-athletes must be sure to provide complete and truthful information regarding their past sports participation.

Does the process invade the privacy of prospective student-athletes?

The NCAA Eligibility Center protects student-athlete privacy. Occasionally, additional information is requested. The membership has given the amateurism certification staff the authority to collect this information. The requests are limited in scope and made only when necessary.



For more Behind the Blue Disks, go to www.ncaa.org/bluedisks.