

# Amateurism Certification Basics

## AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION

Prospective student-athletes must receive a final amateurism certification before being eligible to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school. This includes transfer student-athletes from two-year colleges, NAIA schools, foreign institutions or Division III schools. The Eligibility Center will review your sports participation history to determine your amateurism status.



## THE REVIEW PROCESS

### REGISTER



Register with an Eligibility Center Certification Account before your sophomore/10th year at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).



Select each sport you plan to play at an NCAA school.



Complete and update the sports participation section annually.

Before starting at an NCAA Division I or II college or university, request final amateurism certification and confirm you have provided complete and accurate information to the Eligibility Center.



Fall enrollees can request starting **April 1** before their DI or DII enrollment.

January/midyear enrollees can request **Oct. 1** before their DI or DII enrollment.

Visit [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org) to learn how to request final amateurism certification.



Check the task list in your Eligibility Center account to see if additional information is requested. You may complete tasks in any order.



If additional information is requested regarding your amateurism certification (through a task in your account), copy and paste the request into an email and reply to [acp-processing@ncaa.org](mailto:acp-processing@ncaa.org).



# AMATEURISM BYLAWS

Divisions I and II schools have different amateurism rules, so certification decisions could be different for each division. It's important to understand the differences between divisions.

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

Before initial full-time enrollment at a college or university, may a college-bound student-athlete ...	Permissible in Division I?	Permissible in Division II?
<b>Delay enrollment (grace period)?*</b>	<b>Tennis (men and women):</b> Yes, six months. <b>Men's ice hockey and skiing (men and women):</b> Yes, until 21st birthday. <b>All other sports:</b> Yes, 12 months.	<b>Tennis (men and women):</b> Yes, 12 months. <b>Men's ice hockey and skiing (men and women):</b> Yes, two years.** <b>All other sports:</b> Yes, 12 months.
<b>Use a recruiting or scouting service?</b>	<b>Yes.</b> The fee the service charges cannot be based on receipt or the amount of an athletics scholarship.	<b>Yes.</b> The fee the service charges cannot be based on receipt or the amount of an athletics scholarship.
<b>Receive funding from an outside source?</b>	<b>Yes,</b> if the funding is less than or equal to the student-athlete's actual and necessary expenses related to competition and practice directly associated with competition. Training expenses may only be provided by the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), appropriate national governing body (or international equivalent organization for international students) or a governmental entity.	<b>Yes.</b>
<b>Receive prize money?</b>	<b>Tennis:</b> Yes, if it does not exceed \$10,000 per calendar year and comes from the sponsor of the event. Once the \$10,000 limit is reached, additional prize money may not exceed actual and necessary expenses for each subsequent event in the calendar year. <b>All other sports:</b> Yes, if it does not exceed actual and necessary expenses for a calendar year and comes from the sponsor of the event.	<b>Precollegiate enrollment – Yes.</b>  <b>Precollegiate enrollment – Yes.</b>
<b>Enter into an agreement (verbal or written) with an agent?</b>	<b>Baseball and men's ice hockey:</b> Yes, provided it is prior to collegiate enrollment AND the student-athlete has already been drafted. The agent may then negotiate with the professional team, provided the student-athlete is not provided any benefits, pays the going rate for the representation and the agreement is discontinued before enrolling in college. <b>All other sports:</b> No.	<b>No.</b>
<b>Receive benefits from an agent?</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b>Try out with a professional team?</b>	<b>Men's ice hockey and skiing:</b> Yes. May receive actual and necessary expenses for one tryout (up to 48 hours) from each professional team. Self-financed tryouts may exceed 48 hours. <b>All other sports:</b> Yes. May not exceed actual and necessary expenses.	<b>Precollegiate enrollment – Yes.</b>  <b>Precollegiate enrollment – Yes.</b>
<b>Be selected in a professional draft?</b>	<b>Yes.</b> Please contact the NCAA or your school's compliance office before entering an opt-in draft.	<b>Yes.</b> Please contact the NCAA or your school's compliance office before entering an opt-in draft.

\*A college-bound student-athlete's grace period is the period between their expected date of high school graduation and initial full-time collegiate enrollment.

\*\*Competition must be sanctioned by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association or its international counterparts.

For more information on the amateurism certification, visit [ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/amateurism](https://ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/amateurism).

