Prize Money

Generally, prospective student-athletes in high school may accept prize money based on their place finish at a competition, provided the money does not exceed their expenses in those events during a calendar year or sport season.

For Division II prospective student-athletes who are still in high/secondary school, there are no restrictions on the amount of prize money that may be accepted. Generally, once prospective student-athletes enroll full time at a college or university, they may not accept more prize money than expenses for each competition.

While in high school, Division I tennis prospective student-athletes may accept up to $10,000 in a calendar year, regardless of the value of expenses. Once PSAs accept more than $10,000 in a calendar year, they may not accept more than expenses in any subsequent event.

Best Practices Regarding Prize Money

- Keep a spreadsheet of all tournaments in which you accepted prize money based on your finish. Track how much prize money you accepted (in the currency in which it was received) and the value of all competition-related expenses tied to that event.
- Save documentation (e.g., receipts, credit card statements) of your expenses.

Certifying Prize Money Legislation Compliance

The Eligibility Center requires the following to certify compliance of prize money legislation:

- The name and date of each event/tournament in which you accepted prize money;
- The amount of prize money you received; and
- The value of all your expenses related to each event in which you accepted prize money.

NCAA rules may be different based on division, sport and/or timing (pre- or post-enrollment). If you have questions regarding your amateur status or NCAA legislation, contact the athletics compliance office at the NCAA institution recruiting you or the NCAA’s public and legislative line at 877-262-1492.

Need more information? Click here for additional amateurism-related resources.