

Type: Educational Column

Title: Proposal No. 2022-2 (2-3) Amateurism -- Amateur Status -- Requiring Eligibility Center Certify Amateur Status of International Student-Athletes

Division: III

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Text:

Effective Date: For student-athletes enrolling on or after August 1, 2023.

Source: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletics Conference; and Little East Conference.

Intent: To utilize the NCAA Eligibility Center in certifying the amateur status of international student-athletes to provide more consistency and efficiency to the certification process.

General application.

Question No. 1: How is the amateur status and pre-enrollment participation for international student-athletes enrolling in a Division III institution currently determined?

Answer: Division III institutions are responsible for determining the amateur and pre-enrollment participation eligibility for all student-athletes enrolling in a Division III institution.

Question No. 2: What would change if this proposal is adopted?

Answer: The determination of an international student-athlete's amateurism and pre-enrollment participation status would be conducted by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Question No. 3: Who is considered an international student-athlete for purpose of this proposal?

Answer: An international student is defined as any student who attended a secondary or post-secondary school outside the United States, participated in athletics outside the United States or whose permanent residence is outside the United States.

A student-athlete who is on a U.S. team that travels internationally (e.g., Canada) for an amateur tournament is not considered an international student-athlete.

Question No. 4: When will this proposal become effective?

Answer: If adopted, this proposal would become effective for international prospective student-athletes enrolling in a Division III institution on or after August 1, 2023.

Question No. 5: Would this proposal apply to only first year students?

Answer: No. This proposal would apply to any international prospective student-athlete initially enrolling at a Division III institution on or after August 1, 2023. This would include both first year students and students transferring to a Division III institution for the first time.

Students transferring from Division I and II institutions and enrolling in a Division III institution on or after August 1, 2023, will need to be reviewed under Division III legislation if they do not have a Division III

amateurism certification decision issued by the NCAA Eligibility Center. This is consistent with inter-divisional transfers between Divisions I and II.

An international student-athlete who enrolled full-time prior to August 1, 2023, at a Division III institution will not need to have their amateur and pre-enrollment participation status determined by the Eligibility Center.

Question No. 6: Will the Eligibility Center charge a fee to review and determine the amateur and pre-enrollment status of an international prospective student-athlete?

Answer: Yes. The Eligibility Center will charge an international prospective student-athletes a fee to provide an amateurism certification. That fee is still being determined by the Eligibility Center.

If an international prospective student-athlete has a full certification account from Divisions I or II, the student will not have to pay any additional fees. That fee is a one-time only fee.

Question No. 7: Does the Eligibility Center offer any waiver of the fee?

Answer: An international prospective student-athlete who has only attended international secondary school(s) is not eligible for a waiver of the fee charged by the Eligibility Center.

Question No. 8: May an institution pay the fee for a prospective student athlete?

Answer: No. The fee charged by the Eligibility Center may only be paid by the international prospective student-athlete, the student's family, or legal guardian.

Question No. 9: What is the process for the Eligibility Center to render an amateurism certification?

Answer: The international prospective student-athlete will register with the Eligibility Center by creating an amateurism only account or a full certification account. After registering, the international prospective student-athlete will receive a 10-digit NCAA ID number. The international prospective student-athlete will then submit all required information and documentation. Once all required information and documentation has been submitted, the NCAA Eligibility Center will certify the amateur and pre-enrollment participation status to the date of the international prospective student-athlete's request for final amateurism certification or until initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA school, whichever occurs earlier.

As coaches start the recruiting process, your institution enters the international prospective student-athlete's 10-digit NCAA ID number to your institution's institutional request list (IRL). By adding the prospective student-athlete to the IRL, your institution is requesting the NCAA Eligibility Center start the amateurism review. Please note that a student can be on multiple IRLs but needs a minimum of one to be put in line for review.

Question No. 10: How long does the amateurism review take?

Answer: After the student's file is complete and ready to process, the NCAA Eligibility Center conducts amateurism reviews within 10 business days. Processing times are shorter than this for most of the year. Additionally, any file that is ready to process may receive an urgent review request. With the urgent tag, the review occurs within 1-2 business days.

Question No. 11: Is this process different for an international prospective student athlete who is considering enrolling as a Division I or II institution?

Answer: The amateurism certification process is the same regardless of division, but each division's amateurism review will be based on division-specific legislation. International students attending a Division I or II institution may also be required to have an academic certification, which is not needed for Division III.

Question No. 12: What is the process to appeal any determination made by the Eligibility Center?

Answer: Like Division I and II amateurism certifications, the NCAA Eligibility Center has processes in place to reconsider and resolve factual discrepancies. Additionally, the current legislative relief waiver and student-athlete reinstatement processes can still be utilized by an institution, if applicable.

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Legislative References

Legislative Cite	Title
12.1	Amateur Status.
12.1.1	International Students.
12.1.1.1	International Student Defined.
12.1.1.2	Amateurism Certification Process.
12.1.1.3	Institutional Responsibilities.
12.1.1.4	Eligibility for Practice and Competition.
12.1.1.2.1	Scope.
12.1.1.3.1	Amateur Status After Certification.
12.1.1.3.2	Sharing Information and Reporting Discrepancies.
12.1.1.4.1	Temporary Certification.
12.1.1.4.1.1	Effect of Violation.
14.1.5	Student-Athlete Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Authorization/Buckley Amendment Consent Form -- Disclosure of Protected Health Information.
14.1.5.1	Content and Purpose.
