



Eligibility  
Center

**Amateurism**  
**Guidelines for**  
**College-Bound**  
**Student-Athletes**

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An informational packet provided by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

## **Division I**

### **NCAA Division I Bylaw 12.1 (Amateur Status).**

**Amateur Status:** An individual will lose amateur status, will not be eligible for intercollegiate competition in a particular sport if the individual:

1. Uses his or her athletics skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport;
2. Accepts a promise of pay, even if such pay is to be received following completion of intercollegiate athletics participation;
3. Signs a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any consideration received;
4. Receives, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization based on athletics skill or participation, except as permitted by NCAA rules and regulations;
5. Competes on any professional athletics team (per Division I Bylaw 12.02.4), even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received;
6. Subsequent to initial full-time collegiate enrollment, enters into a professional draft (see also Division I Bylaw 12.2.3.2.1); or
7. Enters into an agreement with an agent.

**Professional Team:** A professional team is an organized team that provides *any* of its players more than actual and necessary expenses, as specified, or declares itself to be a professional team.

### **Specified Actual and Necessary Expenses:**

1. Meals and lodging directly tied to competition or practice held in preparation for competition.
2. Apparel, equipment and supplies.
3. Coaching and instruction.
4. Health and medical insurance.

5. Transportation.
6. Medical treatment and physical therapy.
7. Facility usage.
8. Entry fees.
9. Other reasonable expenses incidental to participation.

### **Competition with Professionals.**

#### **Professional Team Analysis:**

1. Did the team market itself as a professional team?
2. Did *any* individual on the team receive payment above actual and necessary expenses?
3. Did the individual sign a commitment (contract or other agreement) to play as a professional?
  - If yes, and it is a team sport, did the team meet the definition of a professional team?
4. Does the commitment clearly indicate that it is to play professionally?
5. Do other members of the team sign commitments?
  - If yes, do their commitments provide any indication of whether the team is professional?

### **NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.2.3.2 (Tennis and Swimming and Diving).**

1. The student-athlete will be charged with a season of eligibility for each year after the one-year time period following high school graduation date of the student's class and prior to full-time collegiate enrollment in which the student-athlete engages in organized competition.

2. The student-athlete must also fulfill an academic year in residence before being eligible to compete in intercollegiate tennis competition.

**NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 (Matriculation After 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday - Tennis).**

1. The student-athlete will be charged with one season of eligibility for each calendar year after his or her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and prior to full-time enrollment.
  - This includes participation while enrolled full-time at another two or four-year institution; however, this provision replaces the season of competition counted in Bylaw 14.2 (only one season used in any one year).
2. The student-athlete must also fulfill an academic year in residence before being eligible to compete in intercollegiate tennis competition.
  - If the student-athlete transfers with a minimum of 24 transferable credit hours, the student-athlete does not have to serve an academic year in residence.

**Division II**

**Amateur Status:** An individual retains amateur status prior to enrollment:

1. Accepts unlimited prize money;
2. Agrees to a professional contract;
3. Enters into a professional draft;
4. Receives a salary for participation in athletics;
5. Receives expenses from a professional team; and
6. Participates in tryouts and competes with professionals.
  - It is impermissible for an individual to enter into an agreement with or receive benefits from an agent.

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.2.4.2 (Delayed Enrollment/Organized Competition).** An individual who does not enroll in college at his or her first opportunity shall use a season of intercollegiate competition for each year in which the individual participates in organized competition. Once the rule is triggered for a particular sport, the prospective student-athlete must also fulfill an academic year in residence at the time of enrollment before being able to compete in that particular sport at a Division II institution.

**Division II Bylaw 14.2.4.2.3.** What is "organized competition" and use of a season?

1. Any competition;
  - a. After signing a contract;
  - b. After involvement in a professional draft;
  - c. Funded by a professional sports organization; or
  - d. Funded by a booster and not an "open" event.
2. Any practice with a professional team (excluding 48-hour tryout);
3. Any competition or training with a team that declares itself to be professional; or
4. Any compensation (including actual and necessary expenses) received by *any* of the participants.

**Division II Bylaw 14.2.4.2.3.1.** Any compensation received by any of the participants (*including actual and necessary expenses*) for training and competition.

- Actual and necessary expenses include:
  - a. Meals;
  - b. Transportation;
  - c. Lodging;
  - d. Medical insurance;

- e. Stipend (gas and food money); and
- f. Medical expenses (except on-site treatment of injury).

Reasonable expenses (e.g., the value of coaching, instruction and facility usage) are not considered compensation.

If an individual pays a fee to participate on a team, the individual uses a season of competition only if the amount of actual and necessary expenses or other compensation received exceeds the amount of the fee.

**Exceptions to Bylaw 14.2.4.2 (Delayed Enrollment/Organized Competition).**

1. United States Armed Services;
2. National and international competition;
3. Postgraduate college preparatory school; and
4. Skiing exception.
  - If yes, how long did the individual participate in such competition?
    - Which exception is being used and which events are being included?

**Analysis:**

1. Determine the individual's high school graduation date (date that the individual's high school class graduates or the international equivalent).
2. Determine the individual's first opportunity to enroll in college.
3. Was there a time lapse between high school graduation and college enrollment?
4. Did the prospective student-athlete participate in organized competition in a chosen sport during the lapse of time?

### **Additional Information**

**Rules on Accepting Prize Money Prior to Enrolling in an NCAA Division I or II Institution.** In Division I, prior to collegiate enrollment, an individual (e.g., high school prospective student-athlete) may accept prize money based on his or her place finish or performance in an open athletics event (i.e., an event that is not invitation only). Such prize money may not exceed actual and necessary expenses for participating in the event and may be provided only by the sponsor of the open event. For example, an individual competing on a three-person basketball team as part of a three-on-three tournament, may accept prize money up to the value of actual and necessary expenses that he or she incurred. However, if the team pays the actual and necessary expenses of its members, individual team members may not accept prize money.

In Division II, the rule is different. Specifically, prior to initial full-time enrollment, an individual (e.g., high school prospective student-athlete) may accept an unlimited amount of prize money if he or she intends to pursue enrollment at a Division II institution.

**Rules on Recruiting and Scouting Services.** A prospective student-athlete may allow a scouting service or agent to distribute personal information (high school academic and athletics records or personal statistics) to collegiate institutions without jeopardizing his or her eligibility. However, the fee paid by the prospective student-athlete for the service *cannot* be based on placing him or her in a collegiate institution as a recipient of institutional financial aid.

**Expenses for Participation on National or Olympic Teams.** NCAA amateurism regulations allow for individuals to receive actual and necessary expenses to cover developmental training, coaching, facility usage, equipment, apparel, supplies, comprehensive health insurance, travel and room and board without jeopardizing the individual's eligibility for intercollegiate athletics. However, such expenses must be approved and provided directly by the U.S. Olympic Committee or the appropriate national governing body in the sport (or, for foreign student-athletes, the equivalent organization of that nation).

### **Web Site Information.**

- Please visit our Web site to access additional information regarding NCAA amateurism legislation.
  - a. Log on to [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org).
  - b. Select "Information for College-Bound Student-Athletes" in the "My Links" section on the right-hand side of the screen.
  - c. Select "Amateurism Certification Information" at the center of the screen.

On that particular page, you will be able to access information concerning international student-athletes.

1. To view information the NCAA has obtained regarding teams in your federation:
  - a. Log on to [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org).
  - b. Select "Enforcement & Reinstatement."
  - c. Select "International Student-Athletes."
  - d. Select "Search for Information on a Specific Country" (listed by sports).
  - e. Select "Tennis."
  - f. Select your country.