

Amateurism Overview

Amateurism

Amateur competition is a bedrock principle of college athletics and the NCAA. Maintaining amateurism is crucial to preserving an academic environment in which acquiring a quality education is the first priority. In the collegiate model of sports, the young men and women competing on the field or court are students first, athletes second.

The NCAA membership has adopted amateurism rules to ensure the students' priority remains on obtaining a quality educational experience and that all of student-athletes are competing equitably.

All incoming student-athletes must be certified as amateurs. With global recruiting becoming more common, determining the amateur status of prospective student-athletes can be challenging. All student-athletes, including international students, are required to adhere to NCAA amateurism requirements to remain eligible for intercollegiate competition.

In general, amateurism requirements do not allow:

- Contracts with professional teams
- Salary/Pay for participating in athletics
- Prize money above actual and necessary expenses
- Play with professionals
- Tryouts, practice or competition with a professional team (see exceptions)
- Benefits from an agent or prospective agent
- Agreement to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing athletic ability
- Delayed initial full-time collegiate enrollment to participate in organized sports competition

Additional information regarding NCAA amateurism rules is available on the [NCAA Eligibility Center's website](#) by clicking on the "Resources" link at the top of the page. Another resource is the [Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete](#).

(from NCAA.org/June 2016)

Definitions

Agent—an agent is an individual who, directly or indirectly:

- (a) Represents or attempts to represent an individual for the purpose of marketing his or her athletics ability or reputation for financial gain; or
- (b) Seeks to obtain any type of financial gain or benefit from securing a prospective student-athlete's enrollment at an educational institution or from a student-athlete's potential earnings as a professional athlete.

Professional Athletics Team—A professional team is one that:

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- (a) Provides any of its players more than actual and necessary expenses for participation on the team (except as allowed per NCAA legislation)
- (b) Declares itself to be professional

Actual and Necessary Expenses—defined as:

- Meals, lodging and apparel/equipment directly tied to competition or practice directly related to competition
- Transportation, such as to and from practice, competition or training
- Coaching and instruction
- Use of facilities and entry fees
- Health/medical insurance, medical treatment and physical therapy
- Other reasonable expenses

Organized Competition—athletic competition is considered organized if ANY of the following exist:

- Competition is scheduled and publicized in advance
- Official score is kept
- Individual or team standings are maintained
- Officer timer or game officials are used
- Admission is charged
- Teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined
- Team uniforms are used
- A team is privately or commercially sponsored
- The competition is sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, an organization or any other agency

Pay—Pay is the receipt of funds, awards, or benefits not permitted by NCAA legislation for participation in athletics.

Permissible Employment—compensation provided to a SA for work actually performed and commensurate with the going rate in that locale for similar services

Permissible Promotional Activities—activities by the institution, or other educational/nonprofit/charitable organization that use a student-athletes name or picture in promotions considered incidental to the student-athletes participation in athletics and to support their educational/charitable efforts (permission must be given by the institution, see Bylaw 12.5.1 for other restrictions)

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

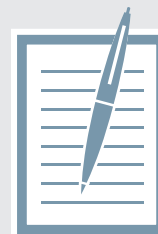
REGISTER



Register with an Eligibility Center Certification Account before your sophomore/10th year at eligibilitycenter.org.



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 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.



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.

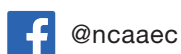
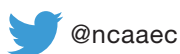
OVERVIEW OF NCAA DIVISIONS I AND II PRE-ENROLLMENT AMATEURISM BYLAWS

Before initial full-time enrollment at a college or university, may a college-bound student-athlete ...	Permissible in Division I?	Permissible in Division II?
Delay enrollment (grace period)?*	Tennis (men and women): Yes, six months. Men's ice hockey and skiing (men and women): Yes, until 21st birthday. All other sports: Yes, 12 months.	Tennis (men and women): Yes, 12 months. Men's ice hockey and skiing (men and women): Yes, two years.** All other sports: Yes, 12 months.
Use a recruiting or scouting service?	Yes. The fee the service charges cannot be based on receipt or the amount of an athletics scholarship.	Yes. The fee the service charges cannot be based on receipt or the amount of an athletics scholarship.
Receive funding from an outside source?	Yes , 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.	Yes.
Receive prize money?	Tennis: 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. All other sports: Yes, if it does not exceed actual and necessary expenses for a calendar year and comes from the sponsor of the event.	Precollegiate enrollment – Yes. Precollegiate enrollment – Yes.
Enter into an agreement (verbal or written) with an agent?	Baseball and men's ice hockey: 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. All other sports: No.	No.
Receive benefits from an agent?	No.	No.
Try out with a professional team?	Men's ice hockey and skiing: 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. All other sports: Yes. May not exceed actual and necessary expenses.	Precollegiate enrollment – Yes. Precollegiate enrollment – Yes.
Be selected in a professional draft?	Yes. Please contact the NCAA or your school's compliance office before entering an opt-in draft.	Yes. 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.



Presbyterian College Agent Information

What is an athlete agent?

An agent is a person authorized by another to act for him or her; one entrusted with another's business. An athlete agent may act on behalf of an athlete in negotiating the athlete's playing contract, as well as financial planning, endorsements, speaking arrangements and other duties the athlete does not wish to do on their own.

What must the athlete agent do?

Under South Carolina state law, an athlete agent who recruits or solicits a student-athlete must be registered with the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA). The state law provides guidelines agents must follow and gives rights to the student-athletes they contact. A list of registered athlete agents is available on SCDCA's website.

Athlete agents must also register with the PC Compliance office in order to communicate with a student-athlete. Agents can contact the Compliance Office to begin the registration process.

What are the NCCA rules?

The applicable NCAA bylaw for Agents is 12.3. Certain exceptions exist in individual sports, however, the general rule prohibits student-athletes from being represented by or accepting anything from an agent for the purpose of marketing their athletic ability.

For student-athletes and their parents/family members:

Agents or their representatives may have contacted you or a family member in an attempt to persuade you to allow them to represent your athletics interests once your collegiate eligibility is exhausted. If you have been contacted by an agent or their representatives, please be aware that NCAA rules provide that prior to the completion of your eligibility (which usually occurs after the last game of your senior year including the post-season tournament, bowl, or all-star games), you (as well as your family members, relatives, or friends):

1. **MAY NOT** agree, either orally or in writing, to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing their athletic ability or reputation in a sport. Furthermore, a student-athlete may not agree that an agent will represent him/her in future negotiations once their collegiate eligibility has expired in that sport.
2. **MAY NOT** accept transportation, gifts, loans or any other benefits from anyone who wishes to represent their athletic interests.
3. **MAY NOT** negotiate or enter into any kind of agreement, either orally or written to compete in professional athletics (even if the agreement is not legally enforceable).
4. **MAY NOT** receive any preferential treatment, benefits or services, including loans that are not obtained according to the established policies and practices of an accredited commercial lending institution.
5. **MAY NOT** retain professional services (legal advice) for personal reasons at less than the normal charge. This includes professional services associated with Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) activities.

What should you do if an agent contacts you?

- Notify the Compliance Office and report the name of the individual representing him/herself as an agent or runner for an agent.
- Tell the individual, "I have to report this contact to my Compliance Office. I appreciate your interest and will get back in touch with you."
- Receive clearance from the Compliance Office before having an extended conversation with the agent or runner.
- Instruct the agent to send copies of any written information he or she has, or will provide to you, to the PC Compliance Office at 105 Ashland Ave, Clinton, SC 29325
- DO NOT take any money, or accept anything of value. Taking money or accepting anything of value will make the student-athlete ineligible to compete.
- Be cautious of agents using "runners" also known as "middlemen" to talk to you or give you anything of value. The same rules apply if you take money, or accept anything of value from a "runner".
- Runners are used by agents to be the "inside track" to signing the student-athlete to a representation contract. Runners are usually individuals who start out trying to "just be your friend." The runner can be anyone, male or female, current or former student, and even an old high school friend. Runners may eventually offer rides, meals, clothing, and seem like a good person. You can also be certain that every dime the runner has spent in "recruiting" you on behalf of the agent has been well documented, and you will likely be required to repay that cost once the student-athlete has signed with the agent. There is "no free lunch," even in the world of professional athletics.

The College is responsible for ensuring that all student-athletes, coaches, staff and representatives of the Presbyterian's athletics interests know and abide by NCAA rules and regulations. As a student-athlete at Presbyterian, you have a great opportunity to enhance your experiences through athletics. With that opportunity comes expectations and responsibilities in a number of areas, compliance included. It is important that you understand and follow the rules. There are instances where you might think a rule is stupid or that it doesn't apply to you. Not following the rules may seem harmless enough and you may even believe that no one will find out if you do something that is against the rules. Sometimes doing it the right way may seem unfair and the rules do not always make sense.

However, please understand that failure to do it the right way can result in a violation of NCAA regulations, places your eligibility for intercollegiate competition in immediate jeopardy, and can result in your team or the College's athletic programs being penalized by the NCAA.

A student-athlete's (or his or her family's) agreeing to be represented by an agent could result in the forfeiture of games and NCAA penalties affecting teammates and coaches. Always call the Compliance Office or the head coach if you have questions. 864-833-7117

Agent Policy Understanding Statement

The following information is presented to every student-athlete in August. The student-athletes are allowed to ask questions and will signify that he/she understands the information that has been set forth and discussed.

NCAA regulations (Bylaw 12.3) specifically prohibit eligible student-athletes from entering into written or oral agreements with agents for the purpose of marketing athletics ability or reputation in that sport.

Exceptions: a) Baseball, prior to initial full-time enrollment (see Bylaw 12.3.1.1) and b) Men's Basketball, subject to NCAA legislation see (Bylaws 12.3.1.2.)

The penalty for not complying with the applicable NCAA legislation is immediate ineligibility and if not reported, possible forfeiture of athletic contests in which the eligible student-athletes performed.

Communication in this area is of the utmost importance. If a student-athlete wishes to explore his/her options in a sports related career, they should set up a meeting with the Compliance Office to discuss the matter. These meetings may also be arranged for groups or teams. No student-athlete should enter into extended conversation or contact with a person representing him/herself as an agent or runner for an agent until reporting the name of the individual to the Compliance Office, not the coach, and receiving clearance to converse with that person.

The student-athlete should ask the agent if he/she has been in contact with the Compliance Office (NOT THE COACH). The student-athlete should tell the individual, "I have to report this contact to my Compliance Office I appreciate your interest and will get back in touch with you." Under no circumstances sign anything or accept anything else from the agent (even a meal, a soda, etc.). The contact should be reported to the Compliance Office immediately (at home if at night or on a weekend).

Student-athletes are solely responsible for abiding by and following NCAA Rules and Regulations concerning agent activity. Specifically, NCAA Bylaw 12.3 must be followed. To that end, the policy that Presbyterian College will adopt is as follows:

1. All Athletics staff and coaches will be briefed on agent activity and the registration process that must first take place prior to communications between the agent/runner and student-athletes.
2. Student-athletes MUST require proof of registration that the agent/runner has identified him/herself with the Compliance Office and is on file as an agent or representative thereof. The agent is also required to provide a copy of his South Carolina agent registration certification (if this situation occurs prior to coming to campus, the agent regulations for the psa's home state apply).
3. The agent/runner must register with the Compliance Office.

*****NOTE*****

- **Registration with the Compliance Office DOES NOT allow any negotiations or contracts either verbally or in written form for the purpose of marketing athletic ability.**

Please review the Presbyterian College Agent Information found on the following pages.

INTERNATIONAL PSA's

International PSA's must be activated upon initial recruitment.

Athletic/Amateurism Eligibility:

It is **extremely important** to determine, early in the recruitment process, if the PSA has ever compromised his or her amateur status by engaging in any of the following activities:

- Delayed enrollment due to athletic participation
- Used his or her athletic skill for pay in any form in his or her sport
- Accepted a promise of pay even if the pay is not realized until after college
- Signed a contract or commitment to play professional athletics
- Received a salary, expense reimbursement or any other financial assistance from a professional organization.
- Competed on any professional sports team even if no pay is received
- Entered a professional draft or made an agreement with an agent to negotiate a professional contract
- Received financial assistance from an amateur sports organization in excess of actual or necessary expenses for practice and competition
- Received educational expenses from an outside sports team or organization based on his or her abilities as an athlete
- Participated on an amateur team that has professional players being paid by a professional team or league to play as a member of that team

The amateur athletics structure in other countries is often different from the system in the United States. For this reason, it is difficult to measure amateur status for some international student-athletes. Also, in some countries, an individual may be defined as a professional under NCAA legislation. The 21-year rule/delayed enrollment also poses a problem in some cases.

Academic Eligibility:

It is extremely important to determine, early in the recruitment process, if an international PSA is in jeopardy of not meeting academic eligibility requirements due to core course issues, test score deficiencies, or non-traditional enrollment schedule. The educational structure in other countries can be significantly different from the system in the United States, which can mean more information needs to be submitted or special requirements are in place depending on the country.

Transfer Eligibility:

Any international transfer must be brought to the attention of the Compliance Office immediately upon initial recruitment. Individual transfers may trigger different NCAA rules, and no two transfers are the same.

Therefore, it is very important that any and all international PSA's be activated and brought to the attention of the Compliance Office upon initial recruitment.