

## *Preparing the path for tomorrow's student-athletes*

**“The will to succeed is important, but what's more important is the will to prepare.” - Bobby Knight**

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### Clearinghouse to become Eligibility Center

**I**n January, the NCAA created the NCAA Eligibility Center to replace the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. It will commence operation on October 29.



The NCAA's current contract with the entity that manages the Clearinghouse, ACT, expires October 31. ACT has managed the Clearinghouse since its inception in 1994. The NCAA decided to create the Eligibility Center to replace the Clearinghouse to consolidate and manage the academic and amateurism aspects of the initial-eligibility process. Its objective is to provide prospective student-athletes with greater resources and tools to manage his or her eligibility status in high school. Its responsibilities include the review of Division I and II prospective student-athletes' academic and amateurism records, the review of core-courses submitted by high schools and the review of non-traditional secondary schools with questionable academic profiles. It also will process all initial eligibility waivers.

During the transition, prospective student-athletes who graduated in 2007 should continue to submit transcripts and official test scores to the Clearinghouse (see page 3). Prospective student-athletes who will graduate in 2008 also should submit transcripts and official test scores to the Clearinghouse until October when the transition takes place. Finally, if prospective student-athletes know that specific colleges are interested in them or if they are interested in specific colleges, they should ask the college coach or recruiting coordinator to place their names on those colleges' respective Institution Request List (IRL). Academic records of prospective student-athletes who are on a college's IRL are reviewed prior to the academic records of prospective student-athletes who are not listed on any college's IRL.

The NCAA will make available the new mailing address for the Eligibility Center in September or October.

## Pilot Waiver Program

On June 1, the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse began evaluating prospective student-athletes who graduated high school in 2007, to determine if they qualify for a new initial eligibility waiver. This program was established based on criteria developed from information on prospective student-athlete data in the Clearinghouse database. Prospective student-athletes who have achieved 1) a combined SAT score of 1100 (on the critical reading and math sections) or a sum score of 95 on the ACT or 2) have 12 core courses with a minimum grade-point average of 3.000 and at least a combined SAT score of 1000 (on the critical reading and math sections) or 85 ACT sum score. According to the research conducted by the NCAA, students who meet these standards were determined to clearly predict to be qualifiers. However, prospective student-athlete records will continue to be reviewed for academic irregularities.

program will be evaluated by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and Division II Presidents' Council in the fall.

Finally, this pilot waiver program is only applicable to academic eligibility. Students must also be certified for amateurism eligibility. Please see Page 3 to learn about amateurism eligibility.

## Official Test Score Reporting — “9999”

During the 2006-07 academic year, the NCAA changed its policy on receiving official test scores. It is now necessary for all official SAT and ACT test scores to be reported to the Clearinghouse (and after October 29, to the Eligibility Center) directly from the respective testing agency.

Some prospective student-athletes and guidance counselors were unaware of the change and have been reporting the test scores on the high school transcript. Inasmuch as test scores will not be accepted if reported on a high school transcript, many prospective student-athletes who have registered with the Clearinghouse do not have official test scores on file with the Clearinghouse. For prospective student-athletes who have taken either the SAT or ACT, it will be necessary for them to go to the SAT website ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)) or the ACT website ([www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)) and request that the test scores be submitted to the Clearinghouse. The code for the Clearinghouse is “9999”. There may be a fee for this request. For prospective student-athletes who plan to take the SAT or ACT this fall, upon registering for the test, when asked if the scores are to be reported, enter the code of “9999” to make certain the scores are reported directly to the Clearinghouse. There should be no additional fee for the reporting of test scores if submitted at the time of registration.

### Students can receive academic initial eligibility waiver if they achieve:

- A minimum 1100 SAT or 95 ACT sum score; or
- A minimum of 12 core courses with a 3.000 core-course GPA and a minimum test score of 1000 SAT or 85 ACT sum score.



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If this waiver is applicable, the prospective student-athletes will know if they are considered a final academic qualifier through the notification on their certification report with the annotation “Waiver Approved.”

The NCAA anticipates that approximately 25 percent of the prospective student-athletes will be certified as qualifiers under this early certification waiver program. Prospective student-athletes who do not meet the above-referenced criteria may be certified as qualifiers by meeting initial eligibility requirements as legislated by Division I or Division II.

Inasmuch as this is a pilot program, the NCAA has not said whether this program will be applicable to classes beyond those graduating after 2007. The pilot waiver



To Do:

Select “9999” when registering for the SAT or ACT to report scores to the Clearinghouse or Eligibility Center.

Information for this newsletter was taken from the 2006-07 NCAA Manual, the 2006-07 NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete, the NCAA Legislative Services Database, the NCAA Educational Columns dated May 21 and May 23 and the web link [www1.ncaa.org/membership/ach/sample\\_amateurism\\_questions/](http://www1.ncaa.org/membership/ach/sample_amateurism_questions/).

### Amateurism Certification

In November, the NCAA began requiring prospective student-athletes to complete a questionnaire regarding their amateurism status. This additional layer was incorporated into the certification process in response to the concerns expressed by administrators at NCAA member schools. All prospective student-athletes who plan to attend an NCAA Division I or II school must complete the questionnaire and be certified as an amateur prior to participation in NCAA Division I or II intercollegiate athletics. Some of the types of questions that prospective student-athletes must answer include:



**Prospective student-athletes must be certified for academic eligibility and amateurism eligibility.**

- In any sport, have you ever authorized anyone (other than your parent, legal guardian or coach) to market your athletics skill or reputation?
- In any sport, have you ever accepted any benefits from an agent (or other individual who has marketed any individual's athletics skill)?
- Before ever attending classes full time at any college, in the sport(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ have you ever competed in an event and accepted prize money?
- Was the prize money you received more than the amount you spent to participate in the event?
- Before ever attending classes full time at any college, in the sport(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ have you ever competed in an event where any part of your expenses were paid for by anyone other than your family, your team or the sponsor of the event?
- Before ever attending classes full time at any college, in the sport(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ have you ever been paid to compete?

Prospective student athletes can begin completing the questionnaire at the beginning of their junior year in high school when they register with the Clearinghouse (or the Eligibility Center). Answers to the questions will determine one's amateurism eligibility status. The questionnaire can be updated until the prospective student-athlete submits his or her final authorization signature.

### Core-Curriculum Time Limitation

In April, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors adopted a proposal that requires prospective student-athletes to complete his or her graduation and core-curriculum requirements within four years after initial enrollment in the ninth grade. Further, if the prospective student-athlete graduates within this required time frame, he or she may use one core-course completed within the year after graduation to count toward academic eligibility. This proposal becomes effective on August 1, 2007 and affects those who were expected to graduate in 2007.

This legislation, which is applicable to prospective student-athletes who want to participate in Division I intercollegiate athletics, was adopted because NCAA Division I administrators believed that earlier legislation permitted students to purposely delay high school graduation to meet NCAA requirements which they felt was not an appropriate academic practice.

This legislation adversely affects prospective student-athletes who after four year in high school, don't graduate with their classes, prospective student-athletes who after four years in high school don't graduate and plan to attend a prep school for a "13<sup>th</sup> year" and prospective student-athletes who repeat a year of high school for medical or academic reasons. Prospective student-athletes with these circumstances may not use core-courses completed after the high school graduation date of their respective classes.

It should be noted that prospective student-athletes with a documented learning disability and whose documentation is on file with NCAA Disability Services are not impacted by this legislation and as such will be able to use all core-courses taken prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment.



**Remind Seniors to Register with the Clearinghouse**

**Effective August 1, in order for seniors to go on an official visit or receive a scholarship offer from an NCAA Division I or II school, they must be registered with the Clearinghouse (or Eligibility Center). Prospective student-athletes may register at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net).**



## 16 Core-Courses are Now Required!

For students who desire to participate in NCAA Division I athletics, 16 core-courses are now required for those entering college after August 1, 2008.



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