

Type: Educational Column

Title: Determination of a Scholastic Team (I)

Division: I

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Text:

The following questions and answers are designed to assist the Division I membership with the application of the legislation related to scholastic teams and determining when a coaching staff member may evaluate scholastic and nonscholastic teams.

Per the revised August 1, 2020 NCAA Official Interpretation, a team of prospective student-athletes is scholastic if:

- a. Its secondary institution has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation"; or
- b. It is identified on the NCAA Eligibility Center website as having a formal affiliation with a secondary institution that has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation."

Pursuant to the basketball evaluations legislation, evaluations of live athletics activities are limited to regularly scheduled high school, preparatory-school and two-year college contests/tournaments and practices, and regular scholastic activities involving prospective student-athletes enrolled only at the institution where the regular scholastic activities occur. Additionally, at specified times (e.g., April), evaluations may also occur at certified events that may include nonscholastic teams.

Pursuant to the Football Bowl Subdivision scholastic and nonscholastic activities legislation, all live athletics evaluations are limited to regularly scheduled high school, preparatory-school and two-year college contests and practices, regular scholastic activities involving prospective student-athletes enrolled only at the institution where the regular scholastic activities occur and events that are organized and conducted solely by the applicable state high school athletics association, state preparatory school association or state or national junior college athletics association.

Pursuant to the Football Championship Subdivision scholastic and nonscholastic activities legislation, all live athletics evaluations may be conducted at scholastic and nonscholastic athletic activities, except for all-star contests and association activities other than practice (e.g., banquets, coaches clinics, etc.), provided there is no institutional involvement in arranging or directing such activities.

Pursuant to the women's lacrosse evaluations during a contact period legislation, all live evaluations are limited to regularly scheduled high school, preparatory-school, and two-year college contests/tournaments and practices and regular scholastic activities involving prospective student-athletes enrolled only at the institution where the regular scholastic activities occur.

Pursuant to the softball recruiting calendar legislation specific evaluation periods do not permit evaluations at nonscholastic practice and competition.

This information is not intended to endorse a particular educational program or indicate that a prospective student-athlete may or may not meet NCAA initial-eligibility requirements. Institutions should conduct an initial eligibility analysis/evaluation for each prospective student-athlete to determine a prospective student-athlete's eligibility for participation in Division I athletics.

NCAA Eligibility Center Status.

Question No. 1: How does an NCAA Division I institution verify whether a team is scholastic?

Answer: An NCAA Division I institution is responsible for reviewing the NCAA Eligibility Center website to verify whether a team is scholastic. A team is only considered scholastic if the team's secondary institution has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation" or the team is identified on the NCAA Eligibility Center website as having a formal affiliation with a secondary institution that has an NCAA Eligibility center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation."

Question No. 2: Where does an institution find a secondary institution's account status within the NCAA Eligibility Center website?

Answer: A secondary institution's account status can be found by accessing the NCAA Eligibility Center website by clicking [here](#) and searching the name of the secondary institution.

A check mark will appear next to the corresponding account status. An institution should check the "additional information" section for additional details regarding the secondary institution's account status.

Question No. 3: May a team be considered "scholastic" if its secondary institution does not have an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation" or if the team is not formally affiliated with a secondary institution that has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation"?

Answer: No. A team that does not have a secondary institution that has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation" or a team that is not formally affiliated with a secondary institution that has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation" is considered a nonscholastic team.

Question No. 4: What does it mean for a team to be "formally affiliated" with a secondary institution.

Answer: In order for a team to be formally affiliated with a secondary institution, the secondary institution must take affirmative action within its NCAA Eligibility Center account to verify the formal affiliation with the team.

Question No. 5: What does it mean for a secondary institution to have an NCAA Eligibility Center account status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation"?

Answer: Please see the [High School Review Committee Policies and Procedures](#) for more information on account statuses. A description of a secondary institution's account status can be found by accessing the NCAA Eligibility Center website and searching the name of the secondary institution.

Secondary Institution With Multiple Teams.

Question No. 6: Can a secondary institution have more than one team with which it is formally affiliated?

Answer: Yes. A secondary institution may have more than one team with which it is formally affiliated provided the secondary institution takes affirmative action within its NCAA Eligibility Center account to verify the formal affiliation with the team.

Question No. 7: Can a team with a different name than the name of the secondary institution be considered a "scholastic team"?

Answer: Yes. A team with a different name than the name of the secondary institution may be considered a scholastic team provided the team is listed in the secondary institution's NCAA Eligibility Center account and the secondary institution has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation."

Example A: Smith High School has a varsity men's basketball team. Lewis Preparatory men's basketball team is formally affiliated with Smith High School.

Question No. 8: Is Lewis Preparatory men's basketball team considered a "scholastic" team?

Answer: Lewis Preparatory men's basketball team may be considered a scholastic team provided the team is listed on Smith High School's NCAA Eligibility Center account and Smith High School has an NCAA Eligibility center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation."

Example B: Smith High School has a varsity men's basketball team. Lewis Preparatory men's basketball team has an agreement with Smith High School to provide academic coursework and support to the Lewis Preparatory men's basketball team members. However, the Lewis Preparatory men's basketball team is not listed on Smith High School's NCAA Eligibility Center account.

Question No. 9: Is Lewis Preparatory men's basketball team considered a "scholastic" team?

Answer: Lewis Preparatory men's basketball team is considered a nonscholastic team as the team is not listed on Smith High School's NCAA Eligibility Center account.

International Recruiting.

Question No. 10: Can a team of prospective student-athletes representing an international secondary institution be considered "scholastic"?

Answer: An international team may be considered a scholastic team provided the team is listed on the secondary institution's NCAA Eligibility Center account and the secondary institution has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation." In order for a secondary institution to have an NCAA Eligibility Center account the secondary institution must offer an American or United States-style curriculum or diploma.

Example C: Team America is team of prospective student-athletes that attend the American School of Barcelona in Spain. The American School of Barcelona has an NCAA Eligibility Center account status of "cleared."

Question No. 11: Is Team America considered a "scholastic" team?

Answer: Team America may be considered a "scholastic" team provided the team is listed on the American School of Barcelona's NCAA Eligibility Center account.

Domestic and International Teams Affiliated With an Online Educational Curriculum Provider.

Example D: Jackson Virtual is a nontraditional (e.g., online, distance learning) secondary institution. Jackson Virtual has an NCAA Eligibility Center account status of "extended evaluation."

Question No. 12: Is Jackson Virtual considered a "scholastic" team?

Answer: Jackson Virtual may be considered a "scholastic" team provided Jackson Virtual has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation."

Example E: Jackson Virtual is nontraditional (e.g., online, distance learning) secondary institution. Jackson Virtual provides online education to multiple teams of prospective student-athletes. Jackson Virtual has an NCAA Eligibility Center account status of "extended evaluation."

Question No. 13: Can Jackson Virtual have more than one team with which it is formally affiliated?

Answer: Yes. Jackson Virtual may have more than one team with which it is formally affiliated provided the secondary institution takes affirmative action within its NCAA Eligibility Center account to verify the formal affiliation with the team.

Homeschool Teams.

Question No. 14: Can a team of prospective student-athletes who are homeschooled be considered scholastic?

Answer: A homeschool team may be considered a scholastic team provided the team is listed on the secondary institution's NCAA Eligibility Center account and the secondary school has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation."

Post-Graduate Teams.

Question No. 15: Can a team of prospective student-athletes who represent a post-graduate institution be considered a "scholastic" team?

Answer: A team of prospective student-athletes representing a post-graduate institution may be considered a scholastic team provided the secondary institution has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation" or the team is listed on the secondary institution's NCAA Eligibility Center account and the secondary institution has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation."

Recruiting Situations.

Question No. 16: If a team is considered nonscholastic, may a coach evaluate the team during practice activities?

Answer: Generally, a coach may not evaluate a nonscholastic team participating in practice activities unless expressly permitted by NCAA legislation. Please see additional sport specific rules in NCAA Bylaws 13.1.7.5.1, 13.1.7.5.2, 13.1.7.4.5, 13.1.7.4.6, 13.1.7.6.1, 13.1.7.3.1 and 13.1.7.93.

Question No. 17: In basketball, is it permissible for coaches to evaluate at an event that includes a nonscholastic team competing against a scholastic team?

Answer: Yes. Coaches are permitted to evaluate competition between a scholastic and nonscholastic team during the academic year. However, it is not permissible for coaches to evaluate a prospective student-athlete that is on a nonscholastic team during a competition against another nonscholastic team during the academic year, unless such competition occurs during a certified event.

Question No. 18: In bowl subdivision football, is it permissible for coaches to evaluate at an event that includes a nonscholastic team competing against a scholastic team?

Answer: Yes. Coaches are permitted to evaluate competition between a scholastic and nonscholastic team. However, it is not permissible for coaches to evaluate a prospective student-athlete that is on a nonscholastic team during a competition against another nonscholastic team.

Question No. 19: In championship subdivision football, is it permissible for coaches to evaluate at an event that includes a nonscholastic team competing against a scholastic team?

Answer: Yes. Coaches are permitted to evaluate competition between a scholastic and nonscholastic team at any time provided there is no institutional involvement in arranging or directing such activities.

Question No. 20: In women's lacrosse, is it permissible for coaches to evaluate at an event that includes a nonscholastic team competing against a scholastic team?

Answer: Yes. Coaches are permitted to evaluate competition between a scholastic and nonscholastic team. However, it is not permissible for coaches to evaluate a prospective student-athlete that is on a nonscholastic team during a competition against another nonscholastic team during a recruiting contact period.

Question No. 21: In softball, is it permissible for coaches to evaluate at an event that includes a nonscholastic team competing against a scholastic team?

Answer: Yes. Coaches are permitted to evaluate competition between a scholastic and nonscholastic team. However, it is only permissible for coaches to evaluate a prospective student-athlete that is on a nonscholastic team during a competition against another nonscholastic team during an evaluation period permits evaluations at nonscholastic practice and competition.

Question No. 22: Does the location of the team's practice impact the determination of whether a team may be considered scholastic?

Answer: No. The location of a where a team practices does not impact the determination of whether a team may be considered scholastic.

Timing of Verification.

Question No. 23: When should an institution verify the scholastic status of a team?

Answer: It is the responsibility of the institution to verify that the team's secondary institution has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation" or the team is listed on the secondary institution's NCAA Eligibility Center account and the secondary school has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation" prior to a coaching staff member engaging in an evaluation of the team.

Question No. 24: Can a secondary institution's NCAA Eligibility Center account status change throughout the year?

Answer: Yes. A secondary institution's NCAA Eligibility Center account status may change throughout the year. It is the responsibility of the institution to verify that the team's secondary institution has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation" or the team is listed on the secondary institution's NCAA Eligibility Center account and the secondary school has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation" prior to a coaching staff member engaging in an evaluation of the team.

Question No. 25: Should a team's scholastic status change throughout the year, does the institution have to report a violation of an impermissible evaluation of a "nonscholastic" team.

Answer: No. An institution is only held to the scholastic status of the team as identified on the secondary institution's NCAA Eligibility Center account on the date that the coaching staff member engaged in an evaluation of the team.

[References: NCAA Division I Bylaws 13.1.7.3.1 (evaluations during contact periods – women's lacrosse), 13.1.7.4.4 (evaluation days), 13.1.7.4.5 (scholastic and nonscholastic activities – bowl subdivision football), 13.1.7.4.6 (scholastic and nonscholastic activities – championship subdivision football), 13.1.7.5 (evaluations – men's basketball), 13.1.7.5.1 (academic year recruiting periods), 13.1.7.5.2 (April evaluation periods), 13.1.7.5.3 (June evaluation periods), 13.1.7.5.4 (July evaluation periods), 13.1.7.5.4.1 (practice in preparation for a certified event), 13.1.7.6 (evaluations – women's basketball), 13.1.7.6.1 (evaluation periods other than July), 13.1.7.6.1.1 (national standardized testing weekends), 13.1.7.6.2 (July evaluation period), 13.1.7.6.3 (on-campus events), 13.1.7.6.4 (practice in preparation for a certified event), 13.11.1.8 (nonscholastic practice or competition – men's basketball), 13.11.1.9 (nonscholastic practice or competition – women's basketball), 13.11.1.10 (nonscholastic practice or competition -- bowl subdivision football), 13.17.9 (softball), official interpretation (8/1/20, Item No. 1), and an official interpretation (4/16/14, Item No. 1) which has been archived]

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Legislative References

Legislative Cite	Title
13.11.1.8	Nonscholastic Practice or Competition -- Men's Basketball.
13.11.1.10	Nonscholastic Practice or Competition -- Bowl Subdivision Football.
13.11.1.9	Nonscholastic Practice or Competition -- Women's Basketball.
13.1.7.4.4	Evaluation Days.
13.1.7.4.5	Scholastic and Nonscholastic Activities -- Bowl Subdivision Football.
13.1.7.5.1	Academic Year Recruiting Periods.
13.1.7.5.2	April Evaluation Periods.
13.1.7.6.3	On-Campus Events.
13.1.7.3.1	Evaluations During Contact Periods -- Women's Lacrosse.
13.1.7.6.1.1	National Standardized Testing Weekends.
13.1.7.9	Softball.
13.1.7.6.1	Evaluation Periods Other Than July.
13.1.7.6.2	July Evaluation Period.
13.1.7.5.4	July Evaluation Periods.
13.1.7.5.4.1	Practice in Preparation for a Certified Event.
13.1.7.5.3	June Evaluation Periods.
13.1.7.6	Evaluations -- Women's Basketball.
13.1.7.5	Evaluations -- Men's Basketball.
