



CHAMPIONSHIPS ELIGIBILITY FOR 2026-27 NCAA DIVISION II PRINCIPLES OF NULLIFICATION

PRINCIPLES AND PENALTIES OF NULLIFICATION BEGIN AT THE TIME OF SELECTIONS.

1. Opponents of an ineligible individual or team that competes with an ineligible player should not be adversely affected.
2. The ineligible student-athlete and the institution he or she represents will be penalized, even if the team has won the conference AQ (6/24). As it relates to access to NCAA championships, a penalty will be assessed to the selection criteria, which may impact the individual's and/or team's opportunity for selection to postseason competition.
3. All contests used for selection criteria (i.e., Division II contests) in which an ineligible student-athlete competes will be nullified (win, loss or tie). The nullification of a contest will penalize only the individual and/or institution using an ineligible student-athlete.
 - In addition to secondary violations (as noted in the decision language), nullification will be applied in soccer in the event a coach or student-athlete fails to serve a game suspension for receiving a red card or through card accumulation. This penalty is in addition to the upgraded suspension penalties outlined in the playing rules (7/26).
4. The number of nullified contests is identified and a two-for-one penalty is assessed for each nullified contest (6/20). If a student-athlete was deemed ineligible and then reinstated through the NCAA reinstatement process, only those contests in which the student-athlete competed while ineligible will be nullified. The competition prior to or after that time will not be nullified.
5. A penalty will be applied to the team's NPI value at the time of selection.
6. The penalty assessed will vary from sport to sport. It will be a mathematical calculation that is relevant to each sport and reduces the NPI value. The calculation will be determined in conjunction with the NCAA statistics department.
7. The calculation of the nullification data will be consistent across sports and based on the prior year's data; however, the actual penalty could be different because of factors such as number of games played and institutions sponsoring the sport.
8. Information regarding the penalties for nullification will be part of the selection criteria for each sport.
9. If nullification impacts a team's seed or inclusion in the field, a general statement will be included in the bracket release indicating that nullification impacted selections. The institution will not be specifically mentioned (6/23).
10. For individual sports (e.g., qualifying standards in swimming and diving), if a student-athlete achieved the qualifying standard while ineligible, the qualifying standard would not be recognized as eligible for selection to the championship. If the student-athlete

achieved the qualifying standard while eligible, became ineligible and was reinstated, the qualifying standard would be eligible for selection to the championship.

11. For individual/team sports (e.g., golf), if the student-athlete competed while ineligible, the score achieved by the student-athlete would be deleted from the team score. In the case of golf (play 5 count 4), the fifth score would be calculated into the team score.
12. Nullifications do not carry over to the next academic year for eligibility violations detected after the season is complete. However, if an institution fails to report an ineligible player before being selected to participate in the championship, the governing sports committee may declare the institution ineligible to participate in the tournament for one or two years (see Division II Championships Committee Policies and Operating Procedures Manual).
13. Appeals of nullification decisions must be submitted as soon as possible, but not more than 72 business hours after electronic notification of the decision from enforcement (e.g., a decision received at 3 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday must be appealed by 3 p.m. Eastern time on Tuesday). Appeals made within 48 hours of selections will not be heard prior to selections.

The penalties for using an ineligible student-athlete during the 2026-27 season are as follows. Each statistic will be doubled during the selections process for a two-for-one penalty per nullified contest (see #4 above).

2026-27 Division II Nullification Chart
(data from 2025-26 season)

SPORT	NPI
FALL SPORTS	
Field Hockey	1.239
Football	0.264
Men's Soccer	0.156
Women's Soccer	0.153
Volleyball	0.174
WINTER SPORTS	
Men's Basketball	0.131
Women's Basketball	0.160
SPRING SPORTS	
Baseball	0.214
Men's Lacrosse	0.563
Women's Lacrosse	0.463
Softball	0.141
Men's Tennis	0.396
Women's Tennis	0.337