NCAA OFFICIATING BACKGROUND CHECK PILOT PROGRAM - OVERVIEW

Updated November 2018

- During the 2015-16 academic year, the NCAA implemented a three-year pilot program to conduct background checks on officials under consideration to officiate in NCAA championships.
- The dual purpose of the pilot program was to promote student-athlete safety and the integrity of NCAA championships.
- The pilot program was extended for a fourth year for the 2018-19 academic year.
- Officials who register on the NCAA Central Hubs located on the ArbiterSports website are requested to grant consent for the NCAA to conduct a background check.
- Officials who register and grant consent for the NCAA to conduct background checks are also provided the opportunity to designate one or more NCAA Division I, II or III conferences that the NCAA is authorized to share the background check report with.
- Only those officials who consent to and pass the background check are eligible to officiate NCAA championships.
- The NCAA has no role in determining whether or how a conference chooses to use the background check results.
- The cost of the background check is included in the official's registration fee paid to be a registered NCAA official.
- ArbiterSports contracts with a company named Peopletrail to conduct the background checks.
- The pilot program searches national database sources, including county and state jurisdictions for offenses and hits on the National or State Sex Offender registry.
- Officials convicted of a felony in the last seven years and those who are listed on the National or State Sex Offender's Registry are ineligible to officiate any of the championships sponsored by the NCAA.
- At the discretion of the NCAA, other findings through a background check may also render an official ineligible to officiate NCAA championships.
- If an official's background check report has one or more "hits" that might result in the NCAA making an adverse decision, the official will receive a pre-adverse letter providing the official the opportunity to correct information in the report.
- Over the course of the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years, background checks were conducted on officials in the following sports:

  - Divisions I, II and III baseball
  - Divisions I, II III men's and women's basketball
  - National Collegiate women's bowling
  - Divisions I, II and III field hockey
  - Divisions I, II and III football
  - Divisions I and III men's ice hockey
  - Divisions I, II and III softball
  - National Collegiate and Division III men's volleyball
  - Divisions I, II and III women's volleyball
  - National Collegiate men's and women's water polo
  - Division I, II and III wrestling

- During this timeframe, background checks have been conducted on approximately 18,000 officials, of which approximately 2% have been flagged for review.
- For the 2018-19 academic year, the sports of men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, men's soccer and women's soccer were added to the program.
  [Note: The NCAA also has a Division I conference specific regular-season background check program for FBS, Division I men's basketball and Division I women's basketball officials as well as a separate NCAA postseason background check program for Division I men's basketball, women's basketball, men's ice hockey and baseball that is conducted by Verified Volunteers. Both programs include a credit report.]