



NCAA OFFICIATING BACKGROUND CHECK PROGRAM 2025

Background Check Program Summary

The NCAA conducts background checks on officials for NCAA championships in several different sports with the dual purpose of promoting the student-athlete experience and protecting the integrity of the NCAA championships.

Please note only those officials who consent to and satisfy the background check requirement will be considered for selection to work an NCAA championship. The background check will include:

- National Database Sources including county and state jurisdiction, and
- National and State Sex Offender Registries.

Before a background check can be conducted, an official must consent to the background check by electronically signing the final authorization. This consent must be completed through the NCAA approved background check vendor. Officials who decline to consent to a background check will be ineligible to officiate all NCAA championships. Additionally, the following criteria will be used in the evaluation of an official's background check to determine the official's eligibility to officiate an NCAA championship:

1. An individual will be **automatically ineligible** to officiate in any NCAA championship if a background check search reveals that the individual:
 - i. Has been convicted of a felony within the last seven (7) years; or
 - ii. Is listed on a national or state sex offender registry.
2. An individual **may be ineligible** to officiate in any NCAA championship if a background check search reveals that such individual has been convicted of or has a pending charge for any of the following:
 - a. A non-felony within the last seven (7) years.
 - b. Any felony, regardless of the date.
 - c. A misdemeanor, regardless of the date, which includes any of the following:
 1. Physical contact or attempted physical contact with another person or another person's property (e.g., assault, battery, theft);
 2. An element of deception (e.g., identity theft, fraud, forgery); and/or
 3. Illegal gambling or sports wagering.
 - d. More than one alcohol and/or drug offenses.
 - e. More than one felony and/or misdemeanor offenses.

At the discretion of the NCAA, any other criminal record may be reviewed, and an individual may be ineligible to officiate in any NCAA championship.

Background Check Review Process

- Once an official's background check report is available, if an official is under consideration, a national office staff member will review the results of the background check report.
- Using parameters established by an NCAA internal review team, the staff determines if the background check passes or if a "pre-adverse letter" should be sent to the official.
- The pre-adverse letter notifies the official that the NCAA may make an adverse decision based in whole or in part on the background check report.
- If a pre-adverse letter is sent, the official has no more than two weeks to respond to the pre-adverse letter.
 - If information is inaccurate on the background check report, the official is encouraged in the pre-adverse letter to contact the background check vendor.
 - If the information is accurate, the official has the option to provide information for the internal review team to reconsider. The information will be limited to:
 - A maximum of three (3) letters of recommendation.
 - Information about the basis of the criminal offense.
 - A statement from the official explaining why the official should be considered eligible to officiate NCAA championships.
- The review team will take final action by either considering the official eligible to officiate NCAA championships or sending an "adverse letter" to the official stating the official is not eligible to officiate that year's NCAA championships.