The NCAA manages a program that conducts background checks on officials. There are two components to the program.

Component 1 -- Division I conference regular season and NCAA Division I championships background check program for selected sports:

This background check program is conducted by Verified Volunteers and includes the following searches:

- Complete criminal history record locator,
- Federal criminal record;
- Federal civil record;
- Government Watch List Search (OFAC);
- Department of Justice Sex Offender;
- Motor vehicle record; and
- Consumer credit check.

Reports include all verified reportable records (which may vary from state to state).

The Division I conference regular season program has been in place since 2013 and includes the following sports: FBS football and Division I men’s and women’s basketball. Although the NCAA pays for the background checks, conferences have access to the background check reports and make their own decisions about hiring an official for the regular season. The NCAA has no role in determining whether or how a conference chooses to use the background check results.

The NCAA Division I championships program was initially implemented in the 1990s for men’s and women’s basketball and currently includes the following sports: men’s and women’s basketball, men’s ice hockey and baseball. The NCAA pays for the background checks and uses the information to determine if an official is eligible to officiate an NCAA championship in any sport.

For the Division I championships program, an official is automatically ineligible if the official:

- Declines to consent to the background check;
- Has been convicted of a felony within the last seven (7) years; or
- Is listed on a national sex offender registry.

In addition, an official may be ineligible to officiate an NCAA championship in any sport if a background check search reveals that the official:

- Has a financial/credit report that includes current and/or previously delinquent accounts; any accounts in collection or charged off; and/or public records (state and/or federal tax liens, civil judgements, etc.).
- Has other findings, which are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
Component 2 -- Divisions I, II and III background check program for all sports with Central Hubs on ArbiterSports:

This background check program is conducted by Peopletrail, LLC and includes the following searches:

- Criminal record database; and
- National sex offender registry search.

Reports include all verified reportable records (which may vary from state to state).

This program is in the fourth year of a pilot program and includes the following sports, which all have an NCAA Central Hub on the ArbiterSports website:

- Baseball
- Men’s Basketball
- Women’s Basketball
- Bowling
- Football
- Ice Hockey (m/w)
- Men’s Lacrosse
- Women’s Lacrosse
- Soccer (m/w)
- Softball
- Women’s Volleyball
- Water Polo (m/w)
- Wrestling

The cost for the background check is included as part of the fee the official pays to register on the Central Hub.

*The Divisions I, II and III conference regular season pilot program* was implemented in the 2018-19 academic year and includes all of the sports listed above. Divisions I, II and III conferences have access to the background check reports for officials who have registered for the Central Hub and have self-selected that they work for a particular conference. The NCAA has no role in determining whether or how the conference chooses to use the background check results.

*The NCAA Divisions I, II and III championships pilot program* was initially implemented during the 2015-16 academic year and now includes all sports listed above. All officials under consideration to officiate in an NCAA championship in these sports must consent to and pass the background check to officiate an NCAA championship in any sport.

For NCAA championship purposes, an official is automatically ineligible if the official:

- Declines to consent to the background check,
- Has been convicted of a felony within the last seven (7) years; or
- Is listed on a national sex offender registry.

In addition, other findings are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may also render an official ineligible to officiate an NCAA championship in any sport.