



International Ice Hockey Pilot

During its April meeting, the Division III Management Council approved extending the international ice hockey pilot for a second year based on survey results from this year's pilot participants. With close to 80% satisfaction with this year's pilot and the membership's continued interest in having the Eligibility Center provide the participation review of Division III international student-athletes, a second year of the pilot will be conducted.

To enhance the pilot and better inform the membership of the benefits and drawbacks of certification through the Eligibility Center, the council determined that certification should align more closely with the current Eligibility Center review for international student-athletes. Therefore the 2019-20 pilot will include several important changes, incorporating feedback from the first year of the pilot and reflecting more closely the actual experience of working with the Eligibility Center for amateurism certifications.

Specifically, the Eligibility Center will conduct the second year of the pilot through the Eligibility Center membership portal that is used for amateurism certifications in Divisions I and II. In addition, prospective student-athletes will contribute toward the cost of Eligibility Center certification.

The key differences are noted below, and a complete list of changes can be found via this [link](#).

- On or after August 1, institutions will activate students onto their Institutional Request List using the Eligibility Center membership portal. The institution may only include prospective student-athletes on this list that have been accepted and deposited to the institution and have registered for a paid DI or DII certification account with the Eligibility Center. Once a prospective student-athlete is activated to the Institutional Request List, the Eligibility Center can begin the certification process. **Because the prospective student-athlete is required to have a DI or DII Certification Account this year (as opposed to a free profile page) much of the documentation should already be in the portal and ready for review. However, additional questions may be asked during the review process.**
- Prospective student-athletes will need to register a DI or DII certification account with the Eligibility Center and pay the certification fee (\$150). They can register with the Eligibility Center at any time at www.eligibilitycenter.org. Division III governance will reimburse prospective student-athletes, (through their institution) half of the \$150 registration fee (\$75) no later than November 1. While partial reimbursement is not reflective of the current Eligibility Center process, Management Council concluded that registration cost sharing is appropriate as part of the second-year pilot.
- There will be a defined service standard. Specifically, an initial review of the student's account will be completed within 10 business days from receipt of all requested information AND activated Institutional Request List. If no further information is needed, a certification decision will be issued.
- Institutions may access updates regarding the certification of any prospective student-athlete activated to their Institutional Request List at any time.

- The Eligibility Center will provide an amateurism certification via posting of a review summary to the student's account upon completion of the review.

The following parameters are the same as last year.

- This pilot is for all Division III first-year international, men's and women's ice hockey student-athletes.
- An international student is defined as any student who attended a secondary or post-secondary school outside the United States, participated in athletics outside the United States or whose permanent residence is outside the United States. Further, a student-athlete who is on a US team that travels internationally (e.g., Canada) for a weekend amateur tournament is not considered an international student-athlete.
- A first-year student is defined as a student-athlete's first year at a Division III institution; transfer students with no prior Division III enrollment are included in the pilot.

Webinars.

- The Eligibility Center will conduct two webinars on the following dates to instruct institutions in the use of the Eligibility Center portal and activating an Institutional Request List.
 - 2-4 p.m. Eastern time, Wednesday, May 29.
 - 10 a.m.-noon Eastern time, Thursday, June 13.

Next steps.

- Instruct your first-year international men's and women's ice hockey players that have been accepted and deposited to your institution to create a DI/DII certification account with the Eligibility Center. (www.eligibilitycenter.org) Remind them that official academic records will need to be submitted as part of their review, but no SAT or ACT score will be needed for their Amateurism review.
- Sign-up for and attend one of the webinars referenced above.

If you have any questions, please correspond to the dedicated Division III Eligibility Center email address D3_hockey@ncaa.org