

# International Ice Hockey Participation History Pilot Program Survey: Institutions Report

March 2020

## INTRODUCTION

During the 2019-20 academic year, Division III extended the international ice hockey pilot for a second year based on survey results from last year's pilot participants. The pilot parameters included the NCAA Eligibility Center (EC) reviewing the sports participation history of all international first-year ice hockey players as part of their amateurism review process.

To enhance the pilot and better inform the membership of the benefits and drawbacks of certification through the EC, the Division III Management Council determined that certification should align more closely with the current EC review process for international student-athletes in Divisions I and II. Therefore, the 2019-20 pilot included several important changes, incorporating feedback from the first year of the pilot and reflecting more closely the actual experience of working with the EC for amateurism certifications. Specifically, the EC conducted the second year of the pilot through the EC membership portal that is used for amateurism certifications in Divisions I and II. In addition, prospective student-athletes paid half the cost of their EC certification and Division III refunded the other half of the registration fee.

- On August 1, 2019 or later, the 93 institutions that sponsor men's and/or women's ice hockey had the option to submit names of international first year student-athletes to the EC for amateurism certification.
- 51 institutions submitted names. The 42 other institutions did not have first-year international ice hockey student-athletes or chose not to participate.
- 159 names were submitted for amateurism certification which included an assessment of the teams and leagues with which the prospective student-athlete participated, evaluation of any compensation or other benefits associated with athletics participation and evaluation of possible agent involvement.
- 156 student-athletes were certified and three were not certified.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The survey was sent to a total of 93 institutions. Responses were received from 43 (46 percent).

Forty-three respondents indicated they sponsor men’s ice hockey and 33 sponsor women’s ice hockey.

<b>Number of participation reviews conducted in a typical year</b>			
<b>Men’s Ice Hockey</b>		<b>Women’s Ice Hockey</b>	
<b>Number of Names Submitted</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>	<b>Number of Names Submitted</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>
0	3	0	12
1	10	1	10
2	10	2	6
3	8	3	2
4	5	4	1
5	3	5	2
6	2	6	0
7	0	7	0
8	1	8	0
9	0	9	0
10	1	10	0

<b>Number of names submitted to the EC for a participation review</b>			
<b>Men’s Ice Hockey</b>		<b>Women’s Ice Hockey</b>	
<b>Number of Names Submitted</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>	<b>Number of Names Submitted</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>
0	6	0	23
1	11	1	3
2	9	2	4
3	4	3	3
4	4	4	1
5	5	5	2
6	1	6	0
7	1	7	0
8	0	8	0
9	1	9	0
10	1	10	0

In a typical year, most Division III institutions conduct four or fewer participation reviews for men’s ice hockey and three or fewer for women’s ice hockey. The pilot program fit with this pattern of participation reviews.

## POST-PILOT PROGRAM REVIEW

Institutions were asked to indicate how satisfied they were with the communication efforts prior to submission of names and during the review process, using a Scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being communication was inadequate to 5 being communication was excellent.

<b>Average Level of Satisfaction</b>	
Prior to submission of names	3.31
During the review process	3.25

Respondents indicated an above average level of communication prior to and during the review process.

<b>Level of Understanding of Pilot Parameters</b>	
<b>Level</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>
Complete Understanding	32
Some Understanding	61
No Understanding	7

Nearly all institutions indicated at least some understanding of the pilot parameters prior to submitting a roster of names for review.

<b>Reduction of Burden</b>	
<b>Level</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>
Increased Burden	25
No Impact	17
Reduced Burden	58

The pilot program reduced the burden associated with conducting participation reviews for the majority of survey respondents.

Institutions were asked to indicate how satisfied they were with the EC Portal and the review summary decision document, using a Scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being highly dissatisfied and 5 being highly satisfied.

<b>Average Level of Satisfaction</b>	
EC Portal	3.47
Review summary decision document	3.51

Respondents indicated an above average level of satisfaction with the EC Portal and the review summary decision document.

<b>Benefits of the EC Conducting Participation Reviews</b>	
<b>Benefit</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>
Assurance of the consistent application of Bylaw 12 (Amateurism)	77
Establishes a “level playing field”	63
Confidence in the final decision	63
Reduces the compliance administrative burden	44
Reduces the timeline for certification	21

The most significant benefit noted by the survey respondents was the assurance of the consistent application of Bylaw 12 (77 percent). Nearly two-thirds indicated that participation reviews conducted by the EC establishes a “level playing field” and provided confidence in the final decision.

Institutions were asked to indicate the level of burden on their student-athletes to pay for EC certification, using a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being extremely burdensome and 5 being not burdensome at all.

<b>Burden on Student-Athletes to Pay for EC Certification</b>	
<b>Level</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>
Extremely Burdensome	34
Burdensome	29
Some Burden	17
Minimal Burden	17
Not Burdensome at All	3

Nearly two-thirds of respondents indicated burden or extreme burden for student-athletes to pay for EC certification.

## **POTENTIAL NEXT STEPS**

Respondents were asked to provide their input in determining what this program could look like moving forward.

If the EC was to continue with amateurism certifications, 63 percent of institutions reported they would like the EC to conduct amateurism certifications for all international student-athletes. Two-thirds of institutions indicated sports in addition to men’s and women’s ice hockey should be included. The sports receiving the most support were men’s and women’s soccer and men’s and women’s tennis.

Two-thirds of respondents indicated they are NOT comfortable with Division III student-athletes paying the registration fee should the EC conduct amateurism certifications. Rationale for this included:

- “I believe it is the responsibility of the NCAA to determine eligibility for these matters. They are executing the judgement. Therefore, why should PSA's need to pay to prove their eligibility?”
- “With the rising cost of tuition, room and board for our students, there should not be a cost for them to be certified.”
- “Our student athletes do not have a chance at athletic scholarship and sometimes it takes everything they have in order to pay.”
- “It seems like a small pool of candidates and the NCAA could cover the cost.”