

# **DETERMINATION OF A SCHOLASTIC TEAM**



# Objectives

- By the end of this video, NCAA Division I compliance administrators should be able to:
  - Explain changes to the application of the scholastic team interpretation;
  - Identify the rationale for developing the new scholastic definition;
  - Specify the steps high schools must take to verify formal affiliation with a team in the High School Portal on the NCAA Eligibility Center website; and
  - Determine whether a team is scholastic and how to confirm that status on the Eligibility Center website.

# Overview

- PJ Hubert, NCAA academic and membership affairs:
  - Background;
  - Scholastic team definition; and
  - Scholastic definition resources.
- Jeremy McCool, NCAA enforcement:
  - Educational Column key take-a-ways; and
  - Case studies.
- Christa Palmer, Eligibility Center:
  - Eligibility Center logistics.

# Background

- ▶ During its January 2020 meeting, MBOC confirmed the current distinction between scholastic and nonscholastic recruiting periods should be maintained.
- ▶ Due to membership confusion and burden associated with application of the current scholastic team interpretation, MBOC charged staff to develop a clear and simple way to define a scholastic team.
- ▶ Staff's analysis is that the same definition for a scholastic team will apply to sports with designated scholastic and nonscholastic evaluation periods, including men's and women's basketball, football, softball and women's lacrosse.

# Background

- ▶ Group of staff members representing AMA, Enforcement, NCAA Eligibility Center and Office of Legal Affairs collaborated to develop the interpretation and educational column.
- ▶ Staff received membership feedback from the National Association of Athletics Compliance (NAAC) advisory group and a group of representatives from the Autonomy Five conferences.
- ▶ The compliance community was provided examples of nonscholastic programs where coaches attended practices and workouts, which resulted in Level III violations for numerous NCAA member institutions.

# Background

- ▶ Interpretations Committee reviewed and approved during its May 20, 2020 meeting.
- ▶ Legislative Committee reviewed and approved during its June 15, 2020 meeting.
- ▶ IC charged the staff with developing an educational plan for ensuring the membership understands the application of the new definition.
- ▶ Timeline for implementation: Interpretation will be published and effective by August 1, 2020.

# Scholastic Team Interpretation

- ▶ The NCAA academic and membership affairs staff determined that a team of prospective student-athletes is scholastic if:
  - Its secondary institution has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of “cleared” or “extended evaluation”; or
  - It is identified on the NCAA Eligibility Center website as having a formal affiliation with a secondary institution that has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of “cleared” or “extended evaluation”.

# Scholastic Definition Resources

- ▶ Staff developed questions and answers to assist the Division I membership in applying the scholastic team interpretation.
- ▶ Assist institutions in determining when a coaching staff member may evaluate scholastic and nonscholastic teams.
- ▶ Official interpretation and educational column posted on LSDBi and on [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org) Legislative Issues & Actions website.



# Educational Column – Key Takeaways

- ▶ A secondary institution may have more than one team with which it is formally affiliated provided the secondary institution takes affirmative action within its NCAA Eligibility Center account to verify the formal affiliation with the team.
- ▶ A team with a different name than the name of the secondary institution may be considered a “scholastic team” provided the team is listed in the secondary institution's NCAA Eligibility Center account and the secondary institution has an NCAA Eligibility Center status of “cleared” or “extended evaluation”.

# Educational Column – Key Takeaways

- ▶ Basketball coaches are permitted to evaluate competition between a scholastic and nonscholastic team during the academic year.
- ▶ However, basketball coaches may not evaluate a prospective student-athlete that is on a nonscholastic team during a competition against another nonscholastic team during the academic year, unless such competition occurs during a certified event.
- ▶ Basketball coaches are not permitted to evaluate practices or workouts of nonscholastic teams during the academic year.

# Case Study No. 1

- ▶ McCool High School has a varsity men's basketball team. Thornton Preparatory men's basketball team is formally affiliated with McCool High School.
- ▶ Is Thornton Preparatory men's basketball team considered a "scholastic" team?

# Case Study No. 1

- ▶ Thornton Preparatory men's basketball team may be considered a scholastic team provided the team is listed on McCool High School's NCAA Eligibility Center account and McCool High School has an NCAA Eligibility center status of "cleared" or "extended evaluation".

# Case Study No. 2

- ▶ McCool High School has a varsity men's basketball team. Thornton Preparatory men's basketball team has an agreement with McCool High School to provide academic coursework and support to Thornton Preparatory men's basketball team members.
- ▶ Thornton Preparatory men's basketball team is not listed on McCool High School's NCAA Eligibility Center account.
- ▶ Is Thornton Preparatory men's basketball team considered a "scholastic" team?

# Case Study No. 2

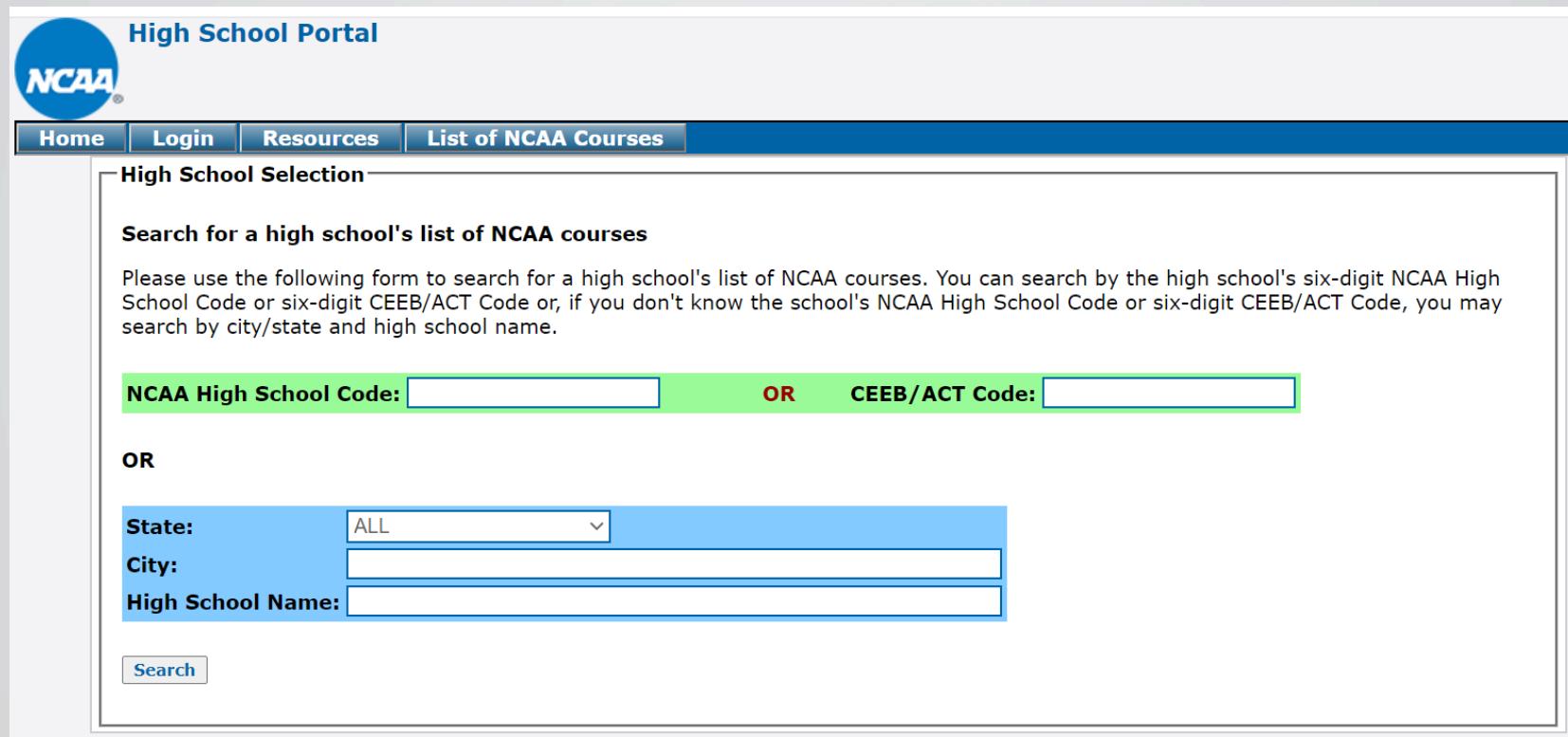
- ▶ No. Thornton Preparatory men's basketball team is considered a nonscholastic team as the team is not listed on McCool High School's NCAA Eligibility Center account.

# Eligibility Center Logistics

- ▶ High schools will need to verify formal affiliation with a team via the High School Portal on the Eligibility Center website.
- ▶ Verification of formal affiliation includes acknowledgement by the high school that athlete participants are students of the high school, and actions and activities of any coach, player, manager or person associated with team may be considered in the high school account status and review with the Eligibility Center.

# Eligibility Center Logistics

- To determine if a team is scholastic, search the name of the high school on the [Eligibility Center website](#).



The screenshot shows the "High School Portal" interface. At the top, there is a blue header bar with the "NCAA" logo and navigation links: "Home", "Login", "Resources", and "List of NCAA Courses". Below the header, a section titled "High School Selection" contains instructions for searching high school courses. It provides two main search options: "NCAA High School Code" and "CEEB/ACT Code", separated by the word "OR". Below these, there are three dropdown fields: "State" (set to "ALL"), "City" (empty), and "High School Name" (empty). A "Search" button is located at the bottom left of the search area.

**High School Portal**

**NCAA**

**Home** **Login** **Resources** **List of NCAA Courses**

**High School Selection**

**Search for a high school's list of NCAA courses**

Please use the following form to search for a high school's list of NCAA courses. You can search by the high school's six-digit NCAA High School Code or six-digit CEEB/ACT Code or, if you don't know the school's NCAA High School Code or six-digit CEEB/ACT Code, you may search by city/state and high school name.

**NCAA High School Code:**  **OR** **CEEB/ACT Code:**

**OR**

**State:**  **City:**   
**High School Name:**

**Search**

# Eligibility Center Logistics

► Be sure the account status of the high school is Cleared or Extended Evaluation.

High School Account Status				
Account Status*	Account Status Type	May approved core courses be used?	May proof of graduation be used?	Description (Please review the Additional Information box below as it may contain other important information about this account.)
✓ (01/06/2020)	Cleared	Yes	Yes	Courses and proof of graduation may be used in the initial-eligibility certification process. Some CLEARED accounts may have coursework that does not meet NCAA core-course legislation.
	Extended Evaluation	Pending Individual Review	Yes	The use of courses in the initial-eligibility certification process is pending individual review. Proof of graduation may be used in the initial-eligibility certification process.
	Not Cleared	No	No	Courses and proof of graduation may not be used in the initial-eligibility certification process.
	In Review	No	No	Courses and proof of graduation may not be used in the initial-eligibility certification process at this time. Upon rendering of a decision, courses and proof of graduation may or may not be used in the initial-eligibility certification process, depending on account status.
	Suspended	No	No	This account did not complete the review process. To determine if courses and proof of graduation may be used in the initial-eligibility certification process, this account must complete the review process. This account may resume its review by contacting the NCAA Eligibility Center.
	Closed	No	No	This account is no longer in operation. Please review the Additional Information and List of NCAA Courses for details regarding use of courses and proof of graduation in the initial-eligibility certification process.
	None	No	No	This account has not been reviewed. To determine if courses and proof of graduation may be used in the initial-eligibility certification process, this account must complete the review process.
	Not Applicable	No	No	An account status is not applicable for this account. Courses and proof of graduation may not be used in the initial-eligibility certification process.
	Withdrawn	No	No	This account has opted out of the review process. Courses and proof of graduation may not be used in the initial-eligibility certification process. This account may resume its review by contacting the NCAA Eligibility Center.

# Eligibility Center Logistics

- The team name will be displayed in the high school's account on the Eligibility Center website.

High School Summary	
NCAA High School Code	852156
CEEB Code	852156
High School Name	FIVE STAR ACADEMY
Address	123 ABC ST INDIANAPOLIS IN - 12345
Primary Contact Name	JANE SMITH
Primary Contact Phone	123-456-7890
Primary Contact Fax	Not Available
Primary Contact Email	jsmith@test.com
Secondary Contact Name	JOHN SMITH
Secondary Contact Phone	1234567890
Secondary Contact Fax	Not Available
Secondary Contact Email	jsmith2@test.com
School Website	<a href="http://test123456.com">http://test123456.com</a>
Link to Online Course Catalog/Program of Studies	Not Available
Last Update of List of NCAA Courses	13-Jan-20
Other Teams Formerly Affiliated	 All Star Prep



# Contacts for More Information/Questions

- PJ Hubert, academic and membership affairs:
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  - [cpalmer@ncaa.org](mailto:cpalmer@ncaa.org)