



MEMORANDUM

June 1, 2022

TO: NCAA Division I Track and Field Student-Athletes with Remaining Eligibility.

FROM: NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs and Enforcement Staffs.

SUBJECT: Information Regarding Professional Status, Agents and Tryouts.

We understand that you may have remaining intercollegiate eligibility and are competing at a high level in the sport of track and field. Many of you will compete in several events throughout the course of the summer and beyond in which you may have the ability to earn prize money. Additionally, there will be opportunities for interaction with sports agents, clubs and potential sponsors. Further, you may be deciding whether to pursue the sport professionally instead of returning to intercollegiate competition. The following information is designed to help you navigate some of the issues that you, your parents and your institution may confront and to help protect your eligibility.¹

Key Meets and Dates in 2022:

- NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championships: June 8-11 (Eugene, Oregon).
- USATF Outdoor Track and Field Championships: June 23-26 (Eugene, Oregon).
- World Athletics Championships: July 15-24 (Eugene, Oregon).
- World Athletics U20 Championships: August 1-6 (Santiago de Cali, Columbia).
- Diamond League meets: see <https://www.diamondleague.com/calendar/>.

Frequently Asked Questions (Regarding Jeopardizing Eligibility at an NCAA Institution):

1. Can I participate in events that award prize money?

YES! You may compete in an event where individuals are competing for cash or a comparable prize, provided you pay your own expenses and entry fee to attend the event and you do not receive payment of any kind for such participation. [Note: You may accept prize money not to exceed actual and necessary expenses for participation in the event and such prize money can be provided only by the event sponsor. [See FAQ Nos. 4 and 5 below.]

2. Can I compete in an event against professional track and field athletes?

YES! You may compete as an individual or as a member of an amateur team in an event against professional track and field athletes, provided the competition is otherwise permissible under NCAA legislation.

¹ It should be noted that NCAA bylaws are subject to change. This document is intended for educational purposes only and does not usurp or supersede the current rules of the NCAA. All student-athletes with specific questions relating to their NCAA eligibility should contact the NCAA compliance officer at their respective institution to ensure an accurate interpretation of NCAA bylaws.

3. Can I compete on a relay team that includes professional athletes if I do not receive payment of any kind for my participation?

YES! You may participate on a relay team that includes professional athletes, provided the professional athletes are not being paid by a professional team or organization to participate on the relay team and provided the competition is otherwise permissible under NCAA legislation.

4. Can I accept prize money?

YES! You may accept prize money based on your place finish or performance in an athletics event; however, such prize money shall not exceed your actual and necessary expenses and may be provided only by the sponsor of the event.

5. Can I fundraise or ask for donations to pay my entry fees and expenses to compete in events while not representing my educational institution?

YES! You may receive actual and necessary expenses associated with an athletics event and practice immediately preceding the event, from an outside sponsor (e.g., neighbor, business) other than an agent, booster or a professional sports organization.

6. Can I receive free equipment or apparel, transportation, lodging, or money from nonfamily members?

YES! You may accept competition-related expenses (e.g., apparel, transportation, lodging, etc.) from an outside sponsor, other than an agent, booster or professional sports organization, or from an amateur team when you are representing that team in competition outside of the academic year.

7. May I receive general training expenses (as opposed to competition-related actual and necessary expenses) from a track and field club or professional team?

NO! Actual and necessary expenses for developmental training, coaching, facility usage, equipment, apparel, supplies, comprehensive health insurance, travel, room and board are only permissible when such expenses are approved and provided directly by a governmental entity, the U.S. Olympic Committee, USA Track and Field or for international student-athletes, the equivalent organizations for your nation.

8. Can I participate in workouts/tryouts with a professional track and field club team?

YES! You may tryout with a professional track and field club team at any time, provided you do not miss class. You may receive actual and necessary expenses from the team in conjunction with one 48-hour tryout per team. The 48-hour tryout period begins when you arrive at the tryout location. At the completion of the 48-hour period you must depart the location of the tryout immediately in order to receive return transportation expenses.

9. Can any other individual (e.g., agents, third party influences or advisors) pay for my private workouts/tryouts?

NO! Unless a professional team pays for your expenses in conjunction with the one permissible tryout as described in FAQ No. 8, you and your family are responsible for paying all expense associated with any tryouts as they are incurred.

10. Can I pay for my own private workouts/tryouts with a professional track and field club team?

YES! A tryout may extend beyond 48 hours if the individual self-finances additional expenses, including return transportation. A self-financed tryout may be for any length of time, provided you don't miss class.

11. Am I allowed to have an agreement with an agent to represent my athletics interests?

NO! You are not permitted to have a written or oral agreement with an agent, as defined by the NCAA, to represent your athletics interests.

12. Can my family members or other individuals who are associated with me as a result of participating in track and field have an agreement with an agent interested in representing my athletics interests to perform services on my behalf?

NO! Family members and other individuals are not permitted to enter into any agreements on your behalf with an agent interested in representing your athletics interests.

13. Am I allowed to have an agreement with an agent to represent my athletics interests if it is for future representation?

NO! You are not permitted to form a future representation agreement with an agent to represent your athletics interests.

14. Is an agent interested in representing my athletics interests allowed to provide me any benefits?

NO! You, your family or your friends are not permitted to receive any benefits from an agent interested in representing your athletics interests. Examples of material benefits include money, transportation, dinner, clothes, cellphones, jewelry, etc.

15. Am I permitted to have an advisor during this process?

YES! You are allowed to have an advisor to advise you regarding the process provided the advisor does not market you to any professional teams or clubs. However, an advisor will be considered an agent if they contact teams or clubs on your behalf to arrange private workouts or tryouts. Under NCAA regulations, you and your parents are permitted to receive advice from a lawyer or other individuals concerning a proposed professional sports contract, provided the advisor does not represent you directly in negotiations for the contract. In this regard, it is permissible for an advisor to discuss with you the merits of a proposed contract and give you suggestions about the type of offer you should consider. In order to maintain your eligibility at an NCAA school; however, this advisor may not serve as a link between you and the professional team or club. Rather, you must view the advisor as an extension of your own interests and not as a source to contact a professional team or club. If the advisor has direct contact with a professional team or club regarding you or your status, whether independently or per your request or direction, the advisor shall be considered an agent and you have jeopardized your eligibility at an NCAA school. For example, an advisor may not be present during the discussions of a contract offer with a professional team or club or have any direct contact (including, but not limited to, in person, by telephone, text message, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, email or mail) with the professional team or club on your behalf.

16. What is an "advisor" according to NCAA rules?

The term "advisor" is not defined in the NCAA Manual, but rather is a term that has been adopted by some, in part, to suggest compliance with NCAA agent legislation. You must remember that the label an individual places on himself or herself is not relevant to the NCAA's agent determination. An advisor who engages in activities on your behalf that are not permissible as outlined in this memorandum is an agent under NCAA legislation and your association with that person could jeopardize your eligibility.

17. Am I required to pay for the services that my advisor provides for me?

YES! To maintain your eligibility at an NCAA school, if you receive assistance from an advisor, you are required to pay that advisor at his or her normal rate for such services. You may not receive such services at a free or reduced rate without jeopardizing your eligibility, regardless of whether the advisor typically charges clients for such services.

18. Can an institution cancel my athletics scholarship if I have an agreement with an agent to represent my athletics interests?

YES! An institution is permitted to rescind your athletics scholarship if you have an agreement with an agent to represent your athletics interests.

19. Is there a directory of agents certified by USA Track and Field?

YES! USA Track and Field publishes the names and contact information of agents that meet that organization's criteria for athlete representatives on the USA Track and Field website. For a listing of these individuals, please visit [USA Track and Field Athlete Representatives Directory](#).

Helpful Tips:

- You should keep your head coach and director of compliance informed of all activities during this process.
- Please keep your eligibility in mind when you are making decisions about your track and field career. You may receive the assistance of your family members, provided they are not working with any individual who is marketing your athletic ability (e.g., contacting sponsors).
- If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the NCAA enforcement staff at 317-917-6222.

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