



Recruiting/Scouting Service Approval Quick Guide

NCAA Division I basketball and football programs are only permitted to subscribe to recruiting/scouting services approved by the **NCAA Enforcement Certification and Approvals Group (ECAG)**.

To obtain approval, a service must apply online and provide a sample of what subscribers receive. This sample must be an exemplar/mock-up of the complete product or report that would be provided to an institution with a full cross-section of the product(s) offered by the service. If the service operates on the web, login credentials must be provided to ECAG. Applicants are required to re-apply annually.

The application is completed in the **Recruiting/Scouting Service Portal (RSSP)** and becomes available in January. It remains open until the end of the calendar year, but in March, the approval fees begin to increase monthly.

During ECAG review, if additional information is needed, it will be requested in the RSSP, which will generate an email alert. The service is given 10 days to respond in the RSSP addressing identified issues.

Services are approved based on the information submitted in the application and if details change must be communicated to ECAG in the RSSP within 10 days of the change being made to avoid penalties.

All NCAA-approved services must submit information validating the services during the year including, but not limited to, a list of subscribers; copies of invoices for institutions that subscribe; and reports published or data updated (minimum of 4 – no max). This submission can occur in real time or all at once at the end of the year, but is required before the next year's application will be processed.

NCAA institutional staff with a MyApps login can access the approval list by navigating to the **RSSP** and selecting the **Approved Services** link at the top. All information about the recruiting/scouting service approval process including application requirements, ECAG policies and procedures and fee structure are included on www.ncaa.org/scoutingservice.

Membership Responsibilities

A Division I institution that subscribes to an NCAA-approved service has an expectation of shared responsibility to monitor that the service is compliant with NCAA requirements notably the approved fee rate, receipt of required reports and that product is like the provided sample posted on the NCAA approval list. The institution should notify ECAG of any insufficiencies, noncompliance, concerns or inadequacies.

DEFINITION OF A RECRUITING OR SCOUTING SERVICE

A recruiting or scouting service includes any individual, organization, entity or segment of an entity that primarily provides information about prospective student-athletes. This definition does not include any individual, organization, entity or segment of an entity that primarily provides information about prospective student-athletes incidental to its primary purpose and is generally available to the public (e.g., news media).

DEFINITION OF A SUBSCRIPTION

An institution subscribes to a recruiting or scouting service when a staff member registers to access information provided by the service only to paid subscribers or registers to access information available only to a select group of individuals (e.g., coaches), regardless of whether a charge is associated with accessing the information. However, an institution is not considered to have subscribed to a recruiting or scouting service if a staff member registers to access information about prospective student-athletes from a service that provides the same information to the general public at no cost.





NCAA Photos Archive

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When can I apply?

A: The application is made available in January and remains open, but approval fees increase each month of the calendar year. For more information about the fee structure and apply, visit scouting.ncaa.org.

Q: What if my service covers sports other than basketball and/or football?

A: There are separate legislative requirements for other sports. The compliance office at each institution is responsible for independently evaluating the service before approving a subscription.

Q: Can my service offer tiered subscription prices to NCAA institutions?

A: It is permissible to include multiple pricing options provided those fees are not based on the division in which the institution competes and are identified and approved as part of the application process.

Q: How many prospective student-athletes need to be included in the sample?

A: There is not a specific number required, but the sample should include enough information to provide NCAA member institutions with a fair representation of a typical scouting report.

Q: What does “individual analysis” mean?

A: Individual analysis includes personal evaluation of performance athletics assessments (i.e., comparisons of statistical data or a 40-yard dash), and academic assessments (i.e., grade-point average and standardized test scores).

Q: Can my service include video?

A: Scouting services may include scholastic and/or nonscholastic video, but are still required to include individual analysis for each prospect unless the service is video only.

Q: If my service is video only, what kind of data can I provide before it appears to be a traditional scouting service?

A: Video-only services are permitted to include data merely for identifying the prospects in the video for subscribers. Information is limited to the prospect’s name, jersey number, position, school name and graduation year.

Q: Can I access the list of approved scouting services?

A: The approval list is only accessible by NCAA institutional staff with a MyApps login.

Q: Can I sell my service to Division II or III programs?

A: ECAG approval is not required for Divisions II or III; there are separate legislative requirements for these divisions. The compliance office at each institution is re-sponsible for independently evaluating the service before approving a subscription.

Q: Are NCAA schools permitted to subscribe to services that provide information on transferring student-athletes?

A: Yes. Transfer services are subject to the same legislative requirements identified in bylaws 13.14.3.1 and 13.14.3.1.1 and must be approved by the NCAA.

Q: What information does the NCAA consider to be individual analysis for transfers?

A: In addition to academic and athletic evaluations, categories such as remaining years of eligibility and whether the student-athlete has previously transferred will qualify as individual analysis.

Q: Can I use the NCAA logo or trademarks?

A: No. It is not permissible to use the NCAA logo, brand or trademarks when promoting your service.

Q: What can I do to promote that my service is NCAA approved since I cannot use the logo or trademarks?

A: Approved scouting services may use the following language: “NCAA Division I football and/or basketball coaches are permitted to subscribe to this recruiting/scouting service. For more information, visit www.ncaa.org/scouting-service.”

Q: When does an approval expire?

A: Approval begins once posted in RSSP and expires on May 31 at 11:59 pm Eastern. The application cycle begins again in January.

Q: What should I retain records/copies of as I provide my service to NCAA coaches to remain eligible for approval the next year?

A: A list of subscribers; copies of invoices for institutions that subscribe; and either copies of the recruiting/scouting service reports published or the data that was updated online for coach access (a minimum of 4 – no maximum).

PROTECT THE GAME

If you have additional questions, please contact ECAG at 844-562-6201 or ecag@ncaa.org.