

Preenrollment Involvement With Professional Teams FAQ

The following questions and scenarios are designed to help men's ice hockey prospects understand how their Division I eligibility is affected by participating with a professional team in competition, practice or tryout activities before enrolling full-time at any college or university.

As always, prospects are encouraged to seek assistance from their campus compliance administrator(s) to best understand how these factors would apply to their particular circumstances. Prospects are also encouraged to contact NCAA customer service at 317-917-6008 for general rules education. [Click here](#) for additional information for ice hockey prospects.

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PROFESSIONAL TEAM

Q1: How does Division I define a professional team?

A1: In Division I, any team that considers itself to be professional and/or provides above actual and necessary expenses to any member of the team meets the definition of a professional team.

Q2: Does Division I consider Major Junior (OHL, WHL or QMJHL) teams professional?

A2: The determination of whether any team (including a Major Junior team) is considered professional in Division I is based on whether the team declares itself to be professional and/or provides any of its players more than actual and necessary expenses for participation on the team. Prospects who participate on Major Junior teams should work with their campus compliance office to determine if their team triggers the definition of professional.

ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES

Q3: How does Division I define "actual and necessary expenses"?

A3: "Actual and necessary expenses" refers to any expenses that are necessary or required for an individual's participation in practice or competition, including but not limited to:

- » Apparel, equipment and supplies.
- » Coaching and instruction.
- » Entry fees.
- » Facilities use.
- » Lodging.
- » Meals.
- » Medical/dental treatment and insurance.
- » Transportation.

Q4: May a professional team provide educational expenses to a prospect?

A4: Yes. Prior to initial full-time enrollment at any college or university, a prospect may be provided educational expenses from any team (including a team that meets the definition of a professional team), as long as payments for the educational expenses or services are disbursed directly to the individual, organization or educational institution (e.g., high school, preparatory school) providing the educational expenses or services.

PARTICIPATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL TEAM

Competition, Practice or Tryouts

Q5: May a prospect participate in competition, practice or tryouts with a professional team?

A5: Yes. Prior to initial full-time enrollment at any college or university, a prospect may compete, practice or tryout with a professional team, provided the prospect does not receive more than actual and necessary expenses from the professional team.

Q6: May a prospect receive expenses for participation with a professional team?

A6: Yes. Prior to initial full-time enrollment at any college or university, a prospect may receive expenses to participate with a professional team. (Please see the [Actual and Necessary Expenses](#) section for a list of permissible expenses.)

A7: May a prospect receive transportation expenses from a professional team associated with a professional team tryout?

Q7: Yes. Prior to initial full-time enrollment at any college or university, a prospect may receive transportation expenses from a professional team to arrive in the locale immediately preceding a professional tryout and to return transportation at the conclusion of the event. However, a prospect who remains in the locale for personal reasons after the conclusion of the tryout must self-finance their return transportation.

Q8: How long can a Division I prospect participate in a professional tryout?

A8: Prior to initial full-time enrollment at any college or university, a prospect may participate in a professional tryout for any length of time. Additionally, a prospect may tryout on more than one occasion with any professional team.

Q9: May a prospect participate in an NHL development camp without impacting future Division I eligibility?

A9: Yes. Prior to initial full-time enrollment at any college or university, a prospect may participate in an NHL Development Camp opportunity provided the prospect does not receive more than actual and necessary expenses for participation during the duration of the event and does not sign a contract promising current or future payment above actual and necessary expenses with the professional team.

Q10: Can a prospect participate in competition against an outside team during a professional tryout?

A10: Prior to initial full-time enrollment at any college or university, a prospect may participate in competition against an outside team during a tryout.



Q11: Is a prospect's Division I eligibility impacted by a professional athlete participating in practice and/or competition with the prospect's nonprofessional team?

A11: No. Prior to initial full-time enrollment at any college or university, a prospect's Division I eligibility will not be impacted by a professional athlete's participation on the prospect's nonprofessional team provided the prospect does not receive more than actual and necessary expenses for participation with the team. Specifically, a professional athlete participating on an amateur team will render the amateur team professional if the professional athlete continues to receive payment above actual and necessary expenses due to a professional contract. However, the prospect remains eligible for Division I, so long as they are limited to actual and necessary expenses for participation on the team.

CONTRACTS

Q12: May a prospect sign a contract to participate with a professional team?

A12: Yes. Prior to initial full-time enrollment at any college or university, a prospect may sign a contract with a professional team, provided the contract is limited to actual and necessary expenses and does not promise or guarantee future payments. Further, if a prospect signs a multiyear contract, the contract must be terminated prior to initial full-time enrollment at any college or university.

AGENTS

Q13: How does Division I legislation define an agent?

A13: An agent is any individual who, directly or indirectly, represents or attempts to represent an individual for the purpose of marketing the individual's athletics ability or reputation for financial gain, or seeks to obtain any type of financial gain or benefit from an individual's potential earnings as a professional athlete.

Q14: Is a prospect permitted to have an advisor?

A14: Yes. Provided the advisor does not market the prospect's athletic ability to any teams, the prospect is permitted to have an advisor. However, it is not permissible for the advisor to contact teams on the prospect's behalf (e.g., to arrange a private tryout, negotiate a contract). Additionally, the advisor must be compensated in an amount equal to the value of the services the advisor provides. Furthermore, the prospect may not receive such services at a free or reduced rate without jeopardizing their eligibility, regardless of whether the advisor does not typically charge clients for such services.

Q15: May a prospect have an agent?

A15: Generally, a prospect will lose all eligibility if the prospect has an agent that markets the prospect's athletic ability for the purpose of financial gain. However, in the sport of men's ice hockey, a prospect who has been drafted by a professional team/league prior to initial full-time enrollment at any college or university may obtain the services of an agent for representation during contract negotiations. The prospect may not receive benefits (other than representation) from the agent and must pay the going rate for the representation. If the prospect does not sign a contract with the professional team, the agreement for representation with the agent or attorney must be terminated prior to initial full-time enrollment at any college or university.

