

# Division III: First Certification Season Guidance

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Coordinator of Communications, Eligibility Center

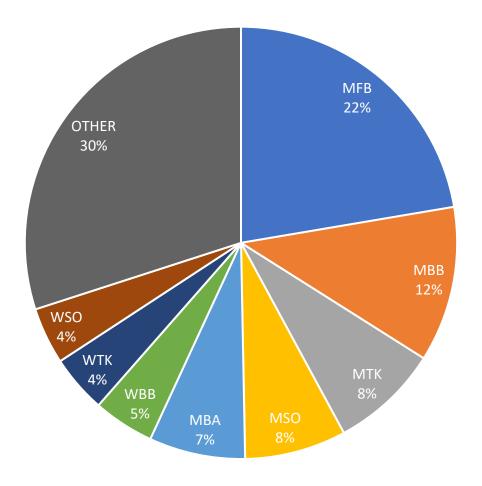


Associate Director of Athletics/NCAA Compliance and SWA, Rochester Institute of Technology

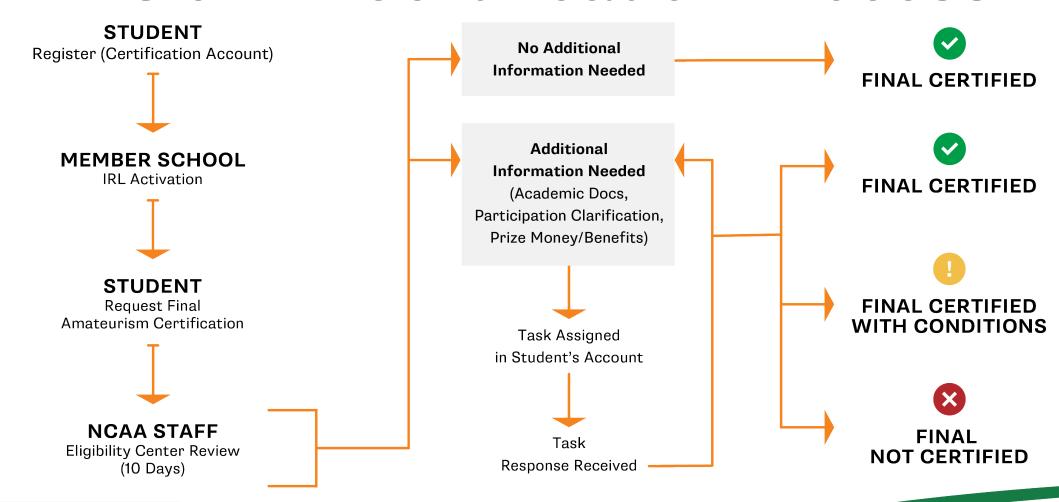
# Agenda

- Division III Certification Process.
- Certification Decisions:
  - Final Not Certified.
  - Final Certified with Conditions.
- Amateurism Review Summary.
- Reconsideration Options.
- Resources.

### 5,888 Total Amateurism-Only Accounts



\*Data valid as of May 2023.



#### **STUDENT**

Register (Certification Account)



#### MEMBER SCHOOL

**IRL** Activation



#### **STUDENT**

Request Final
Amateurism Certification



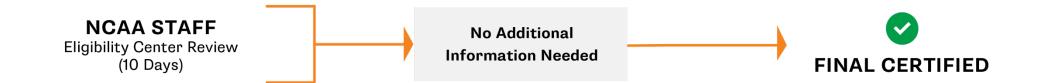
#### **NCAA STAFF**

Eligibility Center Review (10 Days)



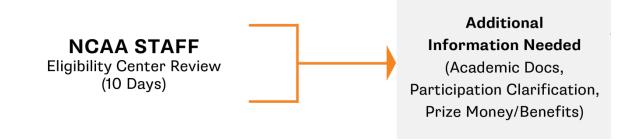
### Ready to Process

- Registration is complete.
- Fee is paid or fee waiver is complete.
- Active Division III IRL.
- PSA has requested final amateurism certification.
- May require submission of academic documents.
  - Academic Records Submission Form.
- o Urgent Request Program.





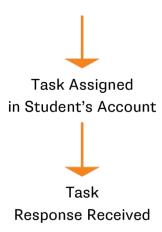
If no issues identified: Final Certified.





### EC reviews registration information.

- If issues or gaps are identified in registration or research:
   Fact gathering.
  - Assign task(s).
    - Visible to the PSA through the Eligibility Center account.
    - · Visible to the member school through the EC Membership Portal.
  - > PSA, member school or third party responds to the task(s).





Additional
Information Needed
(Academic Docs,
Participation Clarification,
Prize Money/Benefits)



If no issues identified: Final Certified.

# Additional Information Needed (Academic Docs, Participation Clarification, Prize Money/Benefits) Task Assigned in Student's Account Task Response Received Task Response Received Task Response Received WITH CONDITIONS



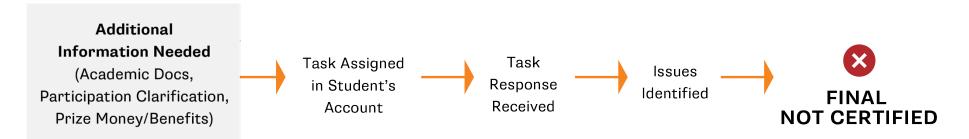
### EC receives complete submission.

- If issues confirmed: Review Summary and final decision posted.
  - Final Certified with Conditions.
    - Delayed enrollment conditions (Bylaw 14.2.4.4).

# Final Certified with Conditions



- Participation in organized competition after the end of their grace period and before full-time enrollment:
  - Competed or trained with a professional team.
  - Competed pursuant to a contract with a professional team.
  - Received prize money above expenses at an event.
  - Competed in any competition funded by an institution's booster that is not open to all participants.





### EC receives complete submission.

If issues confirmed: Review Summary and final decision posted.

# Final Not Certified (FNC)



- A PSA may be FNC for any of the following reasons:
  - o Agents.
  - Professional team participation after full-time enrollment.
  - Funding from an outside sponsor.
  - Training or educational expenses.
  - Sponsorship (pre-July 1, 2021).
  - Preferential treatment, benefits or services.
  - Prize money exceeding actual and necessary expenses.

# Final Not Certified (FNC)



Submit Student-Athlete
 Reinstatement request to
 Academic and Membership
 Affairs through RSRO.



#### **AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION**

**Review Summary** 

NCAA ID: 1234567890 Sport: Women's Soccer

PSA Name: Sample Student Division: III

Country: Spain

HS Grad Date: June 2023

Initial Collegiate Enrollment: Fall 2023

#### Issue(s)

The PSA entered into an agreement to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing their athletics ability or reputation. Additionally, the PSA accepted benefits from the agent.

#### NCAA Bylaw(s)

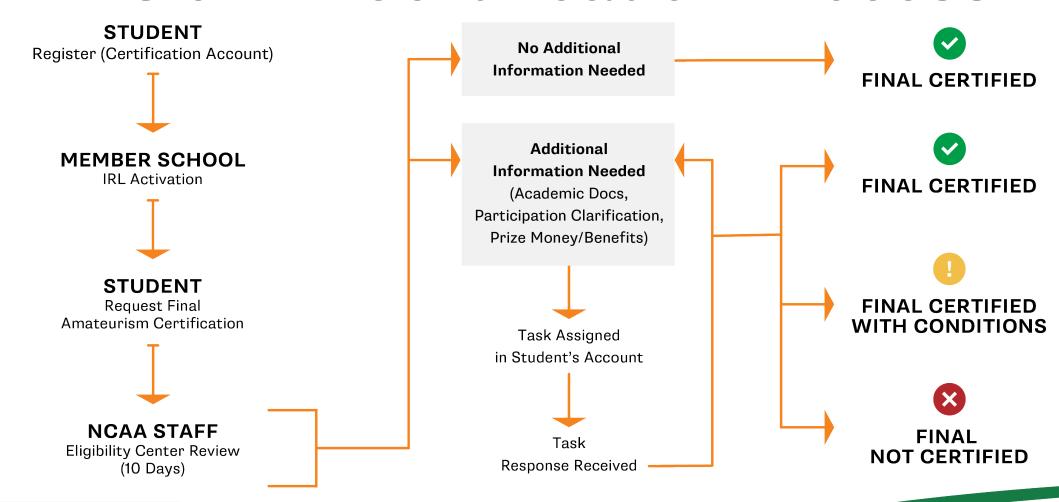
NCAA Division III Bylaw(s) 12.3.1 (general rules) and 12.3.1.2 (benefits from prospective agents).

#### Staff Determinations

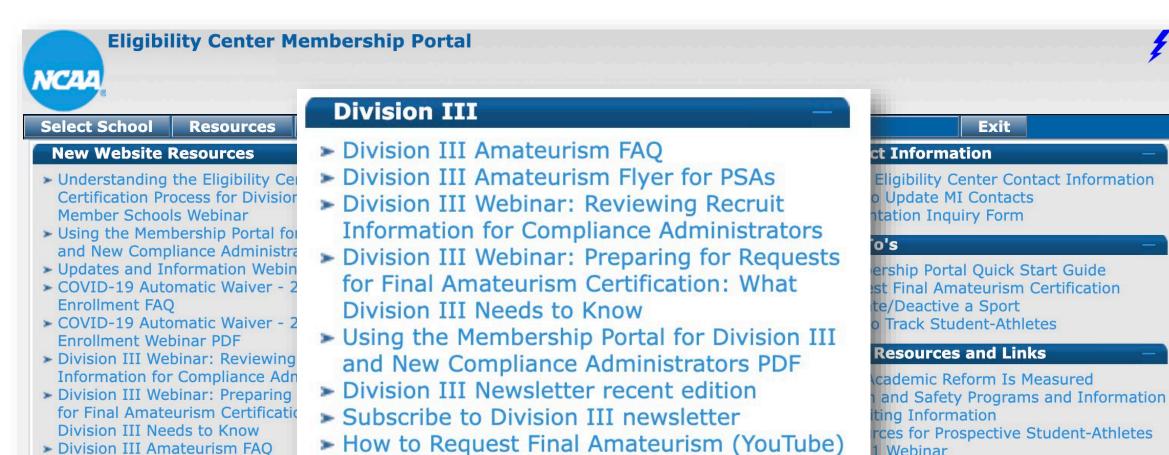
- Sample Student ("PSA") is a women's soccer prospective student-athlete who will initially enroll full-time at a Division III institution in Fall 2023.
- Bob Smith is a registered intermediary for The Football Association.
- On August 18, 2022, the PSA entered into a written Representation Contract with Smith. The contract expires on August 18, 2024.







# Certification Process Resources



➤ Division III Amateurism Flyer fo

nal Rules: Life Cycle of an Academic

### Certification Process Resources

 Member school should review the PSA's account in the Membership Portal:



- Demographic information.
  - NCAA ID and sport.
  - Graduation date.
  - Initial full-time enrollment.
  - Initial NCAA enrollment, if different.
- Issues.
- Bylaws.



#### **AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION**

**Sample Review Summary** 

NCAA ID: 1234567890 Sport: Women's Tennis

PSA Name: Sample Student Division: III

Country: Germany

HS Grad Date: June 2020

Initial Full-time Collegiate Enrollment: Fall 2022

Initial NCAA Enrollment (if different from initial collegiate enrollment): Fall 2023

#### Issue(s)

The prospective student-athlete delayed initial full-time collegiate enrollment and participated in organized competition during one 12-month period(s) following the legislated grace period and prior to initial full-time enrollment.

#### NCAA Bylaw(s)

NCAA Division III Bylaw(s) 14.2.4.4 (participation in organized competition before initial collegiate enrollment).

- Staff Determinations.
  - Summary of the facts.

#### **Staff Determinations**

- 1. During the first 12-month period following the legislated grace period and prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment, PSA received payment based on performance that exceeded their actual and necessary expenses in the following specific competitions:
  - a. Example: June 1, 2022 W15 Monastir, Tunisia.
    - (1) Payment received: €500 EUR.
    - (2) Actual and necessary expenses: €300 EUR.
  - b. Example: July 31, 2022 W60 Cordenons, Italy.
    - (1) Payment received: €750 EUR.
    - (2) Actual and necessary expenses: €525 EUR.
- The competition described in item no(s). one above meets the legislated definition of organized competition.

- Certification Conditions.
  - Final Not Certified.
  - Final Certified with Conditions.
- Other Relevant Information.
  - Relevant documents used in certification.
  - Currency conversion rates.

#### **Certification Conditions**

Prospective student-athlete has used one season(s) of competition in women's tennis and must serve an academic year of residence at the certifying NCAA Division III institution upon enrollment before being eligible to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition. [References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 14.2.4.4 (participation in organized competition before initial collegiate enrollment); 14.2.4.4.1 (Academic Year of Residence) and 14.2.4.4.2 (activities constituting use of season).]

#### **Other Relevant Information**

- » Please review the following items within the amateurism documents of the Membership Portal's Student Details section for additional review of the information summarized above in the Staff Determinations:
  - Incoming Email April 25, 2023.
  - o Research April 23, 2023.

- Next Steps.
  - o Interpretation.
  - Reconsideration options.
  - LRW and/or SAR.
- Review Summary:
  - Available on Membership Portal.

#### **Next Steps**

If the institution does not accept these facts and/or the legislative application, below are available options:

- » Interpretation: The institution may submit an "Interpretation Request" (via Requests/Self-Reports Online) to Academic and Membership Affairs regarding the legislative application.
- » Reconsideration: The institution may request reconsideration of a final amateurism certification decision (via the Decision Inquiry Process) based on new relevant information (supported by contemporaneous documentation) that was not reasonably available to any involved individual at the time of the previous decision. Contact customer service to request a Decision Inquiry Form.
- » Fact-Finding: The institution may request a factual determination by the applicable fact-finding committee for the division. The fact-finding request must be submitted within 30 calendar days after a final certification decision or written review summary (whichever occurs later) has been posted to the student-athlete's account. Contact the amateurism review team regarding the fact-finding process, which provides an avenue to resolve factual disagreements.
- » Legislative Relief Waiver: The institution may submit a Legislative Relief Waiver (via RSRO) to Academic and Membership Affairs seeking relief of a season(s) of competition condition.

### **Best Practices**

- Review the account for registration responses, research, incoming email(s) and the Review Summary.
- Submit an "Interpretation Request" via RSRO regarding legislative application.
- Submit via RSRO:
  - Student-Athlete Reinstatement Request.
    - > For Bylaw 12 violations.
  - Legislative Relief Waiver.
    - > For delayed enrollment conditions.



### • Reconsideration Options.

- Decision Inquiry Process:
  - A member school may request reconsideration of a final amateurism certification where it is seeking a more favorable outcome.
  - Only used to resolve <u>factual</u> discrepancies.
  - Form must be requested from Customer Service Center staff and uploaded via the Membership Portal.
  - Submission must include supporting contemporaneous documentation.



### Reconsideration Options.

- Amateurism Inconsistency Form:
  - > Generally, form is used to report information that could negatively impact a certification.
  - Member school may submit at any time after the final certification decision.
  - Form is not visible to IRL schools.
  - Form can be found on and uploaded through the Membership Portal.
  - Member schools are required to share and report discrepancies Bylaw 12.1.1.3.2.

# The Eligibility Center Experience

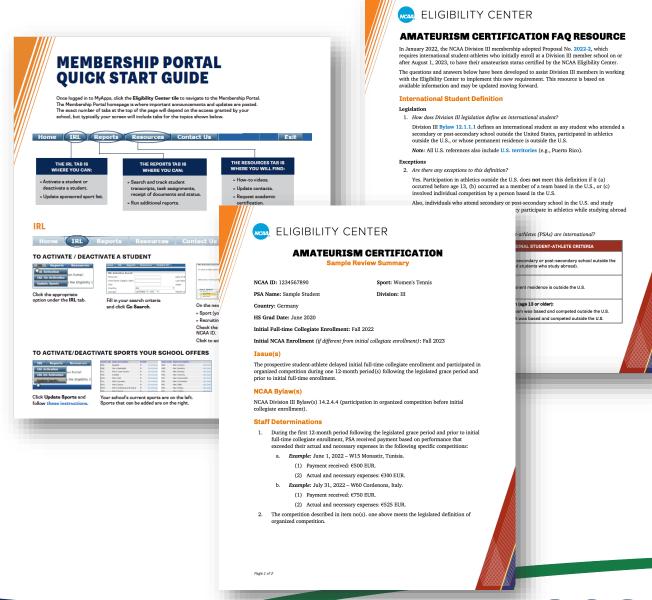
# Bethany Marren Rochester Institute of Technology

- Use the EC's expertise and Customer Service Center!
- Get started early.
- Reserve urgent requests for urgent deadlines.
- Look for relief where available (LRW/SAR).



### Resources

- <u>Division III Amateurism</u>
   <u>Certification FAQ</u>
- Amateurism Certification Review Summary
- Membership Portal Quick Start Guide



### Resources

- Past webinars and newsletters.
  - Currently listed in the "New Website Resources" section.
    - > Webinar recordings.
    - > FAQ and student PDF.
  - NEW: Division III section Membership Portal.
    - > Recordings to all Division III webinars.
    - > Division III-specific documents.
    - > Most recent DIII newsletter.
    - > Link to subscribe to DIII newsletter.
    - > EC's first YouTube video on RFA.



### Resources

- Next educational opportunities:
   Watch the newsletter!
  - Sign up for Eligibility Center's Division III newsletters for updates and upcoming education and support opportunities.
- What would you want to see included in upcoming Eligibility Center educational opportunities?
  - o Email <u>ecupdate@ncaa.org</u>.
- Contact Customer Service:
  - 877-544-2950 Monday-Friday,
     8:30 a.m. 5 p.m. Eastern time.



Sign Up for the EC's Division III Newsletter

# Questions?

- Recommended Next Steps:
  - Ensure incoming international student-athletes register for the right Eligibility Center <u>Certification account</u>.
  - Activate incoming international student-athletes on your school's IRL.
  - Recommend fall 2023 enrollees <u>request final amateurism</u> <u>certification</u> as soon as possible.
  - Monitor students via the <u>Track PSA feature</u> on the Membership Portal.

# We Want Your Feedback

Your input is important.

Rate this session using the survey on the Regional Rules Seminar app.

Thank you for joining us today!

# Download the Event App



# Stay Connected



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# Thank You For Joining

- Membership support line.
  - o 877-544-2950.
  - Monday-Friday.
  - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time.
  - o ecinfo@ncaa.org.

