

## NCAA Adopts Early Academic Certification Legislation

April 16, 2008

Last summer, the NCAA conducted a pilot waiver program for high school student-athletes who graduated in 2007. That program permitted those high school student-athletes to meet academic eligibility if they achieved certain test scores and a minimum number of core-courses with at least a 3.000 grade-point average. In January, Division I and II schools adopted similar legislation to permit high school student-athletes who meet certain criteria to be certified as qualifiers by the NCAA Eligibility Center upon submission of official test scores from the testing agency and an official transcript showing six semesters of work.

High school student-athletes can be certified as a Division I qualifier if 1) the student earned a minimum combined score of 1000 on the math and critical reading sections of the SAT or a minimum sum score of 85 on the ACT; and 2) a core-course grade-point average of 3.000 or higher (based on a maximum of 4.000) in a minimum of 13 core courses (including three core-courses in English, two in math, two in natural or physical science and six additional core-courses in any NCAA core area). High school student athletes can be certified as a Division II qualifier if they meet the same criteria; however, a requirement of only 12 core-courses (three core-courses in English, two in math, two in natural or physical science and five additional core-courses in any NCAA core area) shall be met. Please note that high school student-athletes' records will continue to be reviewed for academic irregularities. An early certification waiver may not be granted to a high school student-athlete if there is a finding of an academic irregularity.

Early academic certification legislation was adopted because NCAA Research Department data indicated that high school student-athletes who meet these standards would be deemed qualifiers after eight semesters. Further, sponsors of the legislation state that early academic certification will help alleviate the pressure of certifying tens of thousands of high school student-athletes during the short window between high school graduation and the first day of practice, competition or class at the Division I or Division II institution. High school student-athletes who do not qualify for the early academic certification may be certified as qualifiers by meeting the legislated initial eligibility requirements set forth by Division I and Division II.

This legislation is effective for high school student athletes who seek to enroll for the first time at a collegiate institution after August 1, 2008. Further, this legislation is only applicable to academic eligibility. High school student-athletes still must be certified for amateurism eligibility in accordance with NCAA initial eligibility regulations. *(Source: Source: Division I Proposal 2007-63 Eligibility – Freshman Academic Requirements – Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition – Qualifier – Exception – Early Academic Certification, Ed. Column, January 12, 2008, Item Ref. 19, Division II Proposal 2008-6 Eligibility – Freshman Academic Requirements – Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition – Qualifier – Exception – Early Academic Certification, Ed. Column, January 12, 2008, Item Ref. 8.)*



NOTE: This information may be republished provided appropriate credit to Collegiate Eligibility Initiatives, LLC is noted in the publication.

Telephone: 404-406-0039 Facsimile: 404-344-3039 Website: [www.ceiathletics.com](http://www.ceiathletics.com) E-Mail: [info@ceiathletics.com](mailto:info@ceiathletics.com)