

DI Preenrollment Athletics Eligibility Legislation FAQs

In April 2026, NCAA Division I adopted Proposal [2026-32](#), which amended preenrollment athletics eligibility legislation related to prize money, professional sports agents and opt-in professional drafts. Below are implementation details regarding these legislative changes.

Prize Money

- Q1:** Before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, is it permissible for a prospective student-athlete (PSA) to receive prize money (regardless of the amount) based on place finish or performance in an athletics event without impacting their Division I athletics eligibility?
- A1:** Yes. Before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, PSAs may receive prize money (regardless of the amount) based on place finish or performance in an athletics event without impacting their Division I athletics eligibility. Such prize money may be provided only by the event's sponsor, which cannot include an "associated entity or individual" as defined in Division I Bylaws [22.02.1](#) and [22.02.2](#).
- Q2:** Which PSAs will be reviewed under this legislative change related to prize money?
- A2:** This legislative change will apply to PSAs who initially enroll full time at a Division I school on or after Aug. 1, 2026. PSAs who initially enrolled full time at a Division I school before Aug. 1, 2026, will not be reevaluated.

Professional Sports Agents

- Q3:** Before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, is it permissible for a PSA to be represented by a professional sports agent without impacting their Division I athletics eligibility?
- A3:** Yes. Before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, PSAs may enter into an agreement with or receive benefits from a professional sports agent without impacting their Division I athletics eligibility.
- Q4:** Which PSAs will be reviewed under this legislative change related to professional sports agents?
- A4:** This legislative change will apply to PSAs who initially enroll full time at a Division I school on or after Aug. 1, 2026. PSAs who initially enrolled full time at a Division I school before Aug. 1, 2026, will not be reevaluated.

Opt-in Professional Drafts

- Q5:** Before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, is it permissible for a PSA to opt into a professional league's draft without impacting their Division I athletics eligibility?
- A5:** In men's basketball, a PSA may enter a professional league's draft one time before initial full-time collegiate enrollment without impacting their Division I athletics eligibility, provided the PSA requests to be removed from the draft list by the withdrawal deadline established by the league. Also, the PSA may not be drafted by any team in that league.
- In other sports, a PSA may enter a professional league's draft one time before initial full-time collegiate enrollment without impacting their Division I athletics eligibility, provided the PSA is not drafted by any team in that league.



Q6: If a men's basketball PSA opts into a professional draft that occurs on or after April 15, 2026, remains in the draft beyond the withdrawal deadline and is not drafted, is their Division I athletics eligibility impacted?

A6: Yes. The PSA will be "Final: Not Certified" in the athletics certification process and would need to have their athletics eligibility reinstated before competing for a Division I school.

Q7: Before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, if a men's basketball PSA opts into a professional draft that occurs on or after April 15, 2026, and withdraws by the deadline, is their Division I athletics eligibility impacted?

A7: No.

Q8: Which PSAs will be reviewed under this legislative change related to opt-in professional drafts?

A8: This legislative change will apply to opt-in professional league drafts that occur on or after April 15, 2026. PSAs who opted into a professional league's draft that occurred before April 15, 2026, will not be reevaluated.

Q9: Before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, does it remain permissible for a PSA to be drafted in a non-opt-in professional draft?

A9: Yes. However, existing legislation remains applicable related to contracts, compensation and participation on a professional team.

Professional Team Participation

Q10: During 2026-27, how will professional team participation that occurred before initial full-time collegiate enrollment be evaluated in the athletics certification process?

A10: Existing legislation related to professional team participation remains effective during 2026-27. As a result, Division I PSAs who received more than actual and necessary expenses to participate on a professional team before initial full-time collegiate enrollment will be "Final: Not Certified" and would need to have their athletics eligibility reinstated before competing for a Division I school.

