



January 21, 2005

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www.ncaa.org

Mr. J. Michael Smith
President
Home School Legal Defense Association
P.O. Box 3000
Purcellville, Virginia 20134

Dear Mr. Smith:

This is to inform you about a recent change regarding the NCAA initial-eligibility certification of prospective student-athletes who have been home schooled at any point during their secondary education.

As you know, home-schooled students now may register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse to determine whether they will be eligible for practice, competition and institutional financial aid at an NCAA Division I or Division II institution during their freshman year. This change was implemented in April 2004. There were 287 students from the 2004 graduating class who registered with the clearinghouse and who indicated they had been home schooled at some point in their secondary career. Of those, 148 had their academic information requested by an NCAA institution.

Previously, home-schooled students received only a final certification decision from the clearinghouse. This was due to the newness of the process to the clearinghouse staff and the time of year the change went into effect. Effective immediately, the clearinghouse will perform preliminary certification reports for home-schooled students. This preliminary analysis of a student's academic record will enable the student to become aware of any deficiencies in their academic record and allow the student to rectify those deficiencies prior to high-school graduation.

It is important to note that before a preliminary certification may be performed, the clearinghouse must receive the student release form (or registration form, which may be completed via the Internet), the registration fee, a transcript with at least six semesters represented, and official test scores on the ACT and/or SAT.

If your constituents have any questions about the process, they may log on to the clearinghouse Web site at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net and select "Prospective Student-Athletes." It is at this site that students may register online.

National Collegiate Athletic Association

An association of more than 1,200 members serving the student-athlete
Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Mr. J. Michael Smith
January 21, 2005
Page No. 2

The following contact information may be helpful to your constituents:

NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4043
Iowa City, Iowa 52243-4043

Shipping Address: 301 ACT Drive
Iowa City, Iowa 52243-4044

Toll-free Customer Service Line: 877/262-1492
(Available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central time, Monday through
Friday.)

Web Site: www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

Please feel free to share this letter with your teachers, students, administrators and any other constituents you feel would benefit from the information.

Please contact me if you have questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,

Lisa Roesler
Associate Director of Membership Services

LR:cvs