Amateur Status
Do not lose your college eligibility by becoming a professional. You will lose your amateur status and thus become ineligible for intercollegiate competition if you:

1. Use your athletics skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form (e.g., TV commercials, demonstrations) in that sport;
2. Accept a promise of pay even if such pay is to be received following completion of intercollegiate athletics participation;
3. Sign a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any consideration received;
4. Receive, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization based upon athletics skill or participation, except as permitted by NCAA rules and regulations;
5. Enter into an agreement (verbally or in writing) with an agent; and
6. Compete on any professional athletics team (regardless of whether you knew that the team was professional) even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received.

A professional team is any organized team that:

1. Provides any of its players more than actual and necessary expenses for participation on the team, except as otherwise permitted by NCAA legislation. Actual and necessary expenses are limited to the following, provided the value of these items is commensurate with the fair market value in the locality of the player(s) and is not excessive in nature:
   a) Meals directly tied to competition and practice held in preparation for such competition;
   b) Lodging directly tied to competition and practice held in preparation for such competition;
   c) Apparel, equipment and supplies;
   d) Coaching and instruction;
   e) Health/medical insurance;
   f) Transportation (i.e., expenses to and from practice and competition, cost of transportation from home to training/practice site at the beginning of the season and from training/practice site to home at the end of the season);
   g) Medical treatment and physical therapy;
   h) Facility usage;
   i) Entry fees; and
   j) Other reasonable expenses incidental to participation; or
2. Declares itself to be professional.
Reinstatement Policies for Amatuerism Violations

Professional Contract

- Entering into an agreement (oral or written) to participate in professional athletics will result in permanent ineligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics, regardless of whether you accept a salary or compete on the professional team.

Compensation

- Accepting compensation (e.g., salary, benefits) will result in permanent ineligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics.
- Accepting prize money above actual and necessary expenses will result in repayment of all expenses and a withholding condition tied to the amount of inappropriate expenses. A withholding condition refers to the number of contests an individual will be withheld from intercollegiate competition.
- Accepting educational expenses from an impermissible source (i.e., professional team, agent) will result in repayment of all expenses and a withholding condition based on the prospect’s culpability (i.e., did the prospect know or should he or she have known that the expenses were impermissible).

Competition

- A prospect who participates on a professional team after his/her first opportunity to enroll in college becomes permanently ineligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics. First opportunity to enroll is defined as the collegiate institution’s first day of classes.
- An individual who participates on a professional team prior to his/her first opportunity to enroll in college will be withheld from competition on a one-for-one basis, not to exceed the equivalent number of contests in a NCAA season for that sport.

Exceptions to Amateurism Legislation

Prior to full-time collegiate enrollment, you may:

1. Receive educational expenses (i.e., tuition, fees, room and board) from any individual or entity other than an agent, professional sports team/organization or a representative of an institution’s athletics interests, provided such expenses are disbursed directly through the recipient’s educational institution (e.g., high school, preparatory school);
2. Accept prize money based on your finish or performance in an open athletics event (i.e., an event that is not invitation only). Such prize money may not exceed actual and necessary expenses and may be provided only by the sponsor of the open event;
3. Try out with a professional athletics team, provided you do not receive any compensation for participation in the practice sessions, enter into any contract or agreement with a professional team or sports organization or take part in any outside competition (games or scrimmages) as a representative of a professional team;
4. Receive one expense-paid visit from any professional team (or a combine including that team), provided the visit does not exceed 48 hours and any payment or compensation in connection with the visit was not in excess of actual and necessary expenses;
5. Receive free equipment and apparel items for personal use from apparel or equipment manufacturers or distributors under the following circumstances:
   a) The apparel or equipment items are related to the prospect’s sport and are received directly from an apparel or equipment manufacturer or distributor;
   b) The prospect does not enter into an arrangement (e.g., open account) with an apparel or equipment manufacturer or distributor that permits the prospect to select apparel and equipment items from a commercial establishment of the manufacturer or distributor; and
c) A collegiate institution’s coach is not involved in any manner in identifying or assisting an apparel or equipment manufacturer or distributor in determining whether a prospect is to receive any apparel or equipment items; and

6. Receive actual and necessary expenses (i.e., travel, room and board) and apparel and equipment for practice and competition from an outside amateur sports team or organization. Receipt of expenses in excess of actual and necessary travel, room and board expenses is a violation of NCAA legislation.