

NCAA Division I Membership – Frequently Asked Questions

This document should be used as a quick reference for NCAA legislation involving reclassification to, or initial application for, NCAA Division I membership. The information below does not capture the full scope of all legislation that may apply to a reclassifying member of Division I. As such, users are encouraged to review the full bylaw in the NCAA Division I Manual. Because of the dynamic nature of the NCAA legislative process, the most current information on these and any new legislation should be obtained through the institution's athletics department compliance staff or by contacting NCAA membership services at 317/917-6003.

RECLASSIFYING QUESTIONS

- Q: When does a reclassifying institution that joins a new conference become eligible for that conference's automatic bid to a particular championship?**
- A:** In all sports, any new member added to a member conference that has been awarded an automatic bid to an NCAA championship shall be immediately eligible to represent the conference as the automatic qualifier. Therefore, a reclassifying institution that joins an established conference (i.e., one that currently qualifies for an AQ bid) is eligible for automatic qualification on completion of the reclassifying process.
- Q: When does a reclassifying institution count as a Division I opponent?**
- A:** Institutions that are reclassifying from NCAA Division II to Division I must comply with the scheduling requirements during the second year of reclassification (excluding the exploratory year). The Division I membership approved legislation to permit Division I members to count reclassifying institutions as Division I opponents, for the purpose of meeting Division I membership requirements, during the year in which the reclassifying opponent is required to meet the scheduling requirements (year two). For Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) purposes, a reclassifying institution could be counted in the Division I RPI in the applicable sport during its first year of reclassification if it can meet the Division I scheduling requirements in that sport. The institution must notify the applicable Division I sports committee that it will be satisfying those requirements prior to the season by sending in a copy of its final schedule by September 15 of the year in which it wishes to be included in the Division I RPI.
- Q: During the second year of reclassification when the Division I scheduling requirements must be met, may reclassifying institutions count each other in meeting the minimum scheduling requirements for Division I membership?**
- A:** Yes, if both reclassifying institutions are in the second year of reclassification, they may count contests against each other in meeting the scheduling requirements for Division I membership.

Q: Are institutions reclassifying from Division II to Division I eligible for championships in either division during the reclassification process?

A: No. Beginning in Year One of the membership process, reclassifying institutions are no longer eligible for Division II championships, and are not eligible for Division I championships until they become active Division I members.

Q: When does the eligibility for a Division II institution to receive NCAA Enhancement Funds terminate if that institution is reclassifying to Division I?

A: A member of Division II that has forwarded to the national office written notice of its intention to change its membership classification to Division I Bylaw 20.5.2.1 no longer shall be eligible to participate in any future Division II NCAA championship and no longer shall be eligible to receive Division II Enhancement Fund proceeds.

Q: May an institution reclassify from NCAA Division III to Division I?

A: No. Current rules would require a Division III institution to initially reclassify to Division II prior to reclassifying to Division I.

Q: May a reclassifying Division II institution move directly to NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision or does that institution need to qualify as a NCAA Football Championship Subdivision member first?

A: Yes. A reclassifying Division II institution may petition for Football Bowl Subdivision membership directly; however, it would need to fulfill all of the Football Bowl Subdivision membership requirements to qualify as an active member of that subdivision.

Q: When does a Division II institution's eligibility for committee service terminate if that institution is reclassifying to Division I?

A: Eligibility for committee service terminates once Year One of the reclassification process has officially begun (i.e., submission of application and Division I skeletal strategic plan).

Q: Do coaches at an institution that is in year one of the reclassification process to Division I need to pass both the Divisions I and II coaches recruiting exams?

A: In this instance, coaches need to be certified using the Division I coaches recruiting exam. Keep in mind that reclassifying institutions are no longer eligible for Division II championships during the four-year. Therefore, coaches should be using the Division I test only (and not both).

Q: Is a reclassifying institution eligible to compete in the National Collegiate Championship in a particular sport?

A: Yes, a reclassifying institution is eligible to compete in the National Collegiate Championship in a particular sport. In year one, reclassifying institutions are required to apply all Division I legislation except scheduling requirements and continuing eligibility requirements for student-athletes completing their final season of competition and were enrolled at the institution at least one year prior to the institution's petition for reclassification. Thereafter, reclassifying institutions must satisfy all Division I legislation. Such an institution normally is required to meet only the institutional and individual eligibility requirements of its division that govern the sport in question. In this example, a reclassifying institution must satisfy all Division I legislation in year two.

Q: During the reclassifying process, to whom does the institution report violations of Division I rules?

A: Reclassifying member institutions must self-report violations of NCAA Division I legislation through the NCAA enforcement and student-athlete reinstatement processes.