



## NCAA OFFICIATING BACKGROUND CHECK PILOT PROGRAM

### OVERVIEW

- During the 2015-16 academic year, the NCAA implemented a three-year pilot program to conduct background checks on officials who are under consideration for being selected to officiate in selected NCAA championships.
- The dual purpose of the pilot program is to promote student-athlete safety and the integrity of the NCAA championships.
- The pilot program will be extended for a fourth year for the 2018-19 academic year.
- Officials who register on the NCAA Central Hubs located on the ArbiterSports website are requested to grant consent for the NCAA to receive background check results.
- Only those officials who consent to, and pass, the background check are eligible to officiate NCAA championships.
- The cost of the background check is included in the registration fee paid by the official to be a registered NCAA official.
- ArbiterSports contracts with a company named Peopletrail to conduct the background checks.
- The pilot program searches national database sources, including county and state jurisdictions for offenses and hits on the National Sex Offender registry.
- Officials convicted of a felony in the last seven years and those who are listed on the National Sex Offender's Registry are ineligible to officiate any of the championships sponsored by the NCAA.
- Note: At the discretion of the NCAA, other findings through a background check may also render an official ineligible to officiate NCAA championships.
- Over the course of the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years, background checks were conducted on officials in the following sports:
  - Divisions I, II and III baseball
  - Divisions II and III men's and women's basketball
  - National Collegiate women's bowling
  - Divisions I, II and III field hockey
  - Divisions I, II and III football
  - Divisions I and III men's ice hockey
  - Divisions I, II and III softball
  - National Collegiate and Division III men's volleyball
  - Divisions I, II and III women's volleyball
  - National Collegiate men's and women's water polo
  - Division I, II and III wrestling
- During this timeframe, background checks were conducted on approximately 15,000 officials.
- Of these 15,000 background checks, less than 1% have been flagged for review.
- During the 2017-18 academic year, Divisions II and III men's and women's basketball officials had the opportunity to consent to allowing the NCAA to share the results of their background check with Divisions II and III conferences designated by the official.
- For the 2018-19 academic year, the sports of men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, men's soccer and women's soccer will be added to the program.
- The NCAA will have no role in determining whether or how the conference chooses to use the background check results.