

# NCAA-Certified Event Residency Requirements

Current NCAA legislation requires teams participating in NCAA-certified events to only include participants who reside:

1. within the same state as the team's official address; or
2. within a geographically adjoining state to the team's official address, with not more than three prospects from adjoining states participating on any one team.

This standard was established to deter nonscholastic teams from "renting" elite prospective student-athletes (PSAs) from around the country for brief periods of time to compete in NCAA-certified basketball events and to promote/encourage PSAs to play for nonscholastic teams in the same local area in which they reside and has remained for a variety of other reasons.

The NCAA residency requirements should be applied using the official mailing address of the nonscholastic team compared to the primary address of residence for the prospect or a permissible secondary address of residence.

## **Isolated States**

Although the states of Alaska and Hawaii are not geographically adjoined by any other state, no states have been "designated" as adjoining states for Alaska and Hawaii and athletes from those states are required to play on a team from that state.

Similarly, prospects whose primary address of residence is in US territory that is not an actual state would be required to participate on a team whose official address is in that same territory and there are not any other states or territories "designated" as adjoining those territories. (EX: Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, US Virgin Islands American Samoa, etc.)

Very extenuating circumstances may be eligible for an Exception/Waiver, but would be required to submit an Exception Request to ECAG. Follow the directions outlined in the [Instructions for Completing the ECAG Waiver Exception Form](#) section.

## **Non-US Athletes/Teams**

Teams participating in NCAA-certified events cannot include prospects whose primary address of residence is in a different country from the team's official address. Example: Australian team should have ALL Australian athletes and an athlete from New Zealand would not be permitted to play with that team.

Prospects from Canada and Mexico must comply with the same guidelines as all other prospects outside the US. Therefore, athletes from Mexico or Canada CANNOT cross the border and play with a U.S. team (or vice versa) for participation at an NCAA-certified event even though the team may be geographically located within the same locale of their residence.

It is not necessary to apply the adjoining state rule outside the US utilizing the provinces within a country. Example: A prospect from Alberta, Canada, would be permitted to participate on an Ontario team even though Alberta and Ontario are not adjoining provinces. As long as all of the athletes on the team are Canadian, an event operator can allow the team to participate in NCAA-certified events.

## **Exceptions to the Adjoining-State Rule**

1. Metro-Area Exception. If the team's official address is in a city that is divided by the state line of multiple states, the team may include more than three team members from adjoining states as long as each additional participant resides within the same metropolitan area as the team. See the guideline for the [Metro Area Exception](#) and the provided [Metro Area Maps](#) document for additional information on how the NCAA determines compliance.
2. Native American Exception. It has been determined that because the intent of the adjoining-state legislation would not be violated, and that based on the restrictions imposed by the tribal membership itself, it is permissible to view a Native American tribe in its entirety as analogous to a state, regardless of the fact that its geographic location may encompass several states. Therefore, Native American athletes can participate on their tribal team regardless of their state of residence.
3. Other Exceptions. Additional legislated exceptions are outlined here: [13.18.1 Adjoining State Exceptions](#)

### **Operator Responsibilities**

As a condition of the certification, event operators are required to verify **prior to participation** that all teams are compliant with the NCAA residency requirements. If a prospect is utilizing a secondary address (i.e., noncustodial parent, legal guardian, host family or boarding school), the event operator should collect documentation that validates that the prospect is compliant PRIOR TO his/her participation in the event. This documentation should be submitted with the post-event review form. ECAG may also request such documentation from the event operator, but this information is expected to have been collected before the NCAA makes a request of the information .

Participation of a team in violation of the NCAA residency requirements may result in the denial of future certification of that event. If an activity receives both event and league certification; all participants must comply with both the league 100-mile rule and the event adjoining-state rule in order to fulfill the NCAA residency requirements. Operators are also subject to penalties outlined in the [Adverse Actions](#) document.

### **Coach Responsibilities**

As a condition of participating in an NCAA-certified event, coaches are responsible for ensuring that the team he/she is coaching is compliant with NCAA requirements. In that regard, coaches need to be aware of the circumstances involved with each athlete on his/her team.

If a prospect has the ability to utilize more than one address (i.e., noncustodial parent, legal guardian, host family or boarding school) or if the prospect recently had a change of address, the coach should obtain documentation that validates that the prospect is compliant PRIOR TO his/her participation with the team. This documentation should be submitted to the event operator when the team registers or checks in to an event. ECAG may also request such documentation from the coach(s).

Participation of a prospect in violation of the NCAA residency requirements may result in the withdraw of current or denial of future NCAA Participant Approvals issued to all coaches associated with the violating team or organization for a period of up to five years. Coaches are also subject to penalties outlined in the [Adverse Actions](#) document.

### **Permissible Address of Residence Requirements**

For the purpose of being compliant with the adjoining-state rule and NCAA residency requirements, the address utilized for a prospective student-athlete (PSA) to participate with a nonscholastic team at NCAA-certified events must fulfill the requirements outlined below for the primary address of residence or a permissible secondary address of residence.

#### **Primary Address of Residence - US**

The primary address of residence is defined as the permanent fixed place of habitation where they live, work, eat, sleep, study, socialize, etc. indefinitely; the place of habitation which one returns despite temporary absences or residence elsewhere. The primary address of residence for a PSA would be the same address as their biological parent(s), custodial parent(s) or court-appointed legal guardian(s). The address being utilized must have been established and maintained for a **minimum of three months** prior to utilizing the address for participation with a nonscholastic team in that location at an NCAA-certified event. EXAMPLE: If a PSA's guardian has a driver's license and lease agreement in State A, but the PSA and the guardian are actively living in State B, the PSA would **NOT** meet the requirements to participate with a team from State A.

#### 1. Biological Parents Reside in Different States

If the biological parents equally share custody of the prospect, the address of either parent could be utilized even though the prospect may have attended school in a different state while living with the other parent regardless of the state of the relationship between the parents (married, separated, divorced, etc.). The prospect should meet the requirements for that individual to claim them as a dependent for federal income tax purposes at least 50% of the time.

If the biological parents DO NOT equally share custody of the prospect, the primary address of residence is based on the residency status of the custodial parent. The prospect should meet the requirements for that individual to claim them as a dependent for federal tax purposes. [See SECONDARY RESIDENCE section for the use of the noncustodial parent's address.]

2. Legal Guardian

If using the address of a legal guardian, the guardianship must be established in a court of law, cannot be temporary (parents' rights are permanently severed) and cannot be done for the purposes of attending school or in order to play basketball. It is not permissible for a coach, family member or other individual to obtain guardianship of an athlete in order for the athlete to participate on a team in a different state in an effort to circumvent the intent of the NCAA residency requirements.

NOTE: In cases where custody is legally granted to someone other than the parent, the residence of that person may be utilized, provided that such custody is court-ordered and was not ordered during or within **three months** before participation and was not granted for the purpose of participation with a nonscholastic team.

3. Other Biological Family

The address of a relative that is not a biological parent that does not meet the above standard to be a legal guardian **CANNOT be utilized** for any reason as a Primary or Secondary address of residence.

4. Single Country Teams

Teams participating in NCAA-certified events cannot include prospects whose primary address of residence is in a different country from the team's official address unless they have met the requirements to utilize the address of a secondary residence of been granted a waiver/exception to do so.

### **Secondary Address of Residence - US**

1. Noncustodial Parent

A PSA whose noncustodial biological parent lives in a different state from the custodial parent may use the noncustodial parent's PRIMARY RESIDENCE to meet the NCAA residency requirements provided that the noncustodial parent has lived at that location for a **minimum of three months** prior to the prospect's participation.

2. Prospect's Use of Scholastic Address

If a prospect (both US and non-US) attends a "scholastic" institution (school, academy, etc.) in a location other than that of their PRIMARY RESIDENCE, the prospect may utilize their "scholastic" address to meet the NCAA residency requirements provided that:

- a. The institution (school, academy, etc.) must meet the requirements to be determined "scholastic" in terms of being permissible for Division I coaches to be in attendance per NCAA Bylaws 13.1.7.8 (basketball evaluations), 13.1.7.8.1 (men's basketball), 13.1.7.8.2 (women's basketball), 13.1.7.8.3 (coaches' attendance at basketball events), 13.11.1.8 (nonscholastic practice or competition – men's basketball), 13.11.1.9 (nonscholastic practice or competition – women's basketball).
  - A team comprised of prospective student-athletes that is formally affiliated with a specific secondary institution and includes only students who are enrolled full time at the specific secondary institution with which the team is formally affiliated is considered a scholastic team. (This means that all of the athletes are completing the same academic curriculum at the same academic institution.)
  - A team that does not meet the abovementioned criteria may be considered scholastic only if the team is organized or administered under the auspices of a scholastic governing body and is eligible for events that are conducted by the governing body, including championship events.
- b. The address of the actual scholastic institution can only be used if the institution is a "true" boarding school, meaning that the school is responsible for lodging, meals and general oversight/welfare of the prospect AND the prospect lives on the campus of the institution.
- c. If the scholastic institution is NOT a "true" boarding school, the noncampus address of residence (i.e., host family, etc.) can only be used if the prospect has resided at that location and attended high school in the same locale for the required minimum amount of time.
- d. The prospective student-athlete has attended this "scholastic" institution for a **minimum of one academic year**.

**April Exception – Minimum of One Academic Year Exception –**

A prospect attending a scholastic institution in a location other than that of their PRIMARY RESIDENCE who has NOT completed a full academic year may utilize their “scholastic” address to meet the NCAA residency requirements provided that:

- 1) The prospect was present on the first day of the fall semester;
- 2) The prospect has maintained enrollment at the same school the entire academic year; and
- 3) The prospect anticipates completing the academic year at the same school.

3. **Prospects in US Military Families or Similar Government Employees**

If the PSA's biological parent(s), custodial parent(s) or court-appointed legal guardian(s) are serving in the US military and stationed outside the US, the PSA would be permitted to utilize any of the following:

- a. The address in the US where they own property and will return when no longer on active duty;
- b. If property was not owned, the address of the last US military base where the family was in residence;
- c. The address (country) of the US military base where they are currently stationed;

If none of these apply, prospects of US military families may be eligible for an Exception/Waiver, but would be required to submit an Exception Request to ECAG. Follow the directions outlined in the [Instructions for Completing the ECAG Waiver Exception Form](#) section.

4. **Native American Tribes**

The PSA is a Native American participating with a tribal team. It has been determined that because the intent of the adjoining-state legislation would not be violated, and that based on the restrictions imposed by the tribal membership itself, it is permissible to view a Native American tribe in its entirety as analogous to a state, regardless of the fact that its geographic location may encompass several states. Therefore, Native American athletes can participate on their tribal team regardless of their state of residence.

**Non US Athletes/Teams**

1. **Primary Address of Residence**

Teams participating in NCAA-certified events cannot include prospects whose primary address of residence is in a different country from the team's official address unless they have met the requirements to utilize the address of a secondary residence of been granted a waiver/exception to do so. Example: Australian team should have ALL Australian athletes and an athlete from New Zealand would not be permitted to play with that team.

Prospects from Canada and Mexico must comply with the same guidelines as all other prospects outside the US. Therefore, athletes from Mexico or Canada CANNOT cross the border and play with a U.S. team (or vice versa) for participation at an NCAA-certified event even though the team may be geographically located within the same locale of their residence.

It is not necessary to apply the adjoining state rule outside the US utilizing the provinces within a country. Example: A prospect from Alberta, Canada, would be permitted to participate on an Ontario team even though Alberta and Ontario are not adjoining provinces. As long as all of the athletes on the team are Canadian, an event operator can allow the team to participate in NCAA-certified events.

2. **Secondary Address of Residence**

A prospective student-athlete who is not from the US may utilize his or her host family's address to meet the NCAA residency requirements ONLY if the prospective student-athlete:

- a. Is a participant in an official educational exchange program;
- b. Resides with the host family/temporary guardian;
- c. AND attends high school in the locale of the host family's residence for a minimum of one academic year.

If the non-US prospective student-athlete attends a boarding school, the prospect may utilize his/her school residence address to meet the NCAA residency requirements ONLY if the prospective student-athlete:

- a. Lives at the boarding school or two-year college;
- b. AND has completed a minimum of one academic year.

3. Already Fulfilled Year in Residence

Once a prospective student-athlete who is not from the US has completed a full academic year and permitted to utilize that address as a secondary residence, if the PSA were to move to a different state, he/she would NOT have to fulfill a 2<sup>nd</sup> full academic year at the new location. After the full academic year requirement has been completed once, the domestic standard would then be applied to that prospect and the address being utilized must have been established and maintained for a **minimum of three months** in order for the address to be utilized as a secondary residence for participation with a nonscholastic team at an NCAA-certified event.

**Single Address Per Season**

While a PSA may have several addresses that he/she is permitted to use, the PSA needs to select one address and utilize the same address for the duration of the season. In other words, the athlete cannot utilize the school address to play for a team in one state and the home address to play for a team in a different state during the same season. The address being utilized to fulfill this requirement is the one that should be entered in the Basketball Certification System (BBCS).

**Waivers and Legislated Exceptions**

A team that has a prospective student athlete that meets one of the legislated exceptions outlined in NCAA Bylaw No. [13.18.1 Adjoining State Exceptions](#), will need to submit a request application to the NCAA Enforcement Certification and Approval Group (ECAG) and obtain a verification that the prospect meets the legislated exception prior to his/her participation. Waiver/exception requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

To do so, the following form will need to be completed and submitted (via the button on the form): [Adjoining State Waiver/Exception Application](#) You will have to document in detail what extenuating circumstances you believe justifies the need for a waiver/exception.

Follow the directions outlined in the [Instructions for Completing the ECAG Waiver Exception Form](#) section.

Requests that are not properly submitted will not be processed. The NCAA will not accept handwritten, faxed or mailed forms or emailed forms that failed to use the required SUBMIT button.

Any additional documentation that supports the reasons for your request should be sent to [ECAG@ncaa.org](mailto:ECAG@ncaa.org) or faxed to 317/917-6073. Be sure to identify the team name on additional documents that are submitted.

All waivers/exceptions granted are specific to the identified team and athlete(s) AND only for the calendar year in which it is granted.

**Possible Outcomes**

1. If the athlete DOES meet one of the exceptions of which ECAG has the authority to grant approval, ECAG will return the application with the approval decision documented. The team will then have documentation of the approval that they can provide to event operators as an indication that the prospect has been cleared to participate with the team.
2. If the athlete DOES NOT meet one of these exceptions of which ECAG has the authority to grant approval, but ECAG believes that the circumstances are within the scope of reasons that the Basketball Oversight Committee(s) (BOC) have expressed support, ECAG will work with the staff liaison to the appropriate committee (men's or women's) and the committee's chair to verify this belief. If the committee chair is supportive of sponsoring an official (Sub)Committee for Legislative Relief (SLR) Waiver, ECAG will forward the application and supporting documentation to SLR on behalf of the BOC. Only someone in the NCAA membership (an institution, conference or committee) can



request an official SLR waiver. SLR will notify ECAG of their approval/denial decision, which ECAG will then communicate the decision back to the team.

3. If the athlete DOES NOT meet one of the exceptions of which ECAG has the authority to grant approval AND the circumstances are NOT within the scope of reasons that the BOC has expressed support, ECAG will DENY the request and return the application with the denial noted.

- If ECAG denies the request, there is still one final option that a team can explore. The team can make contact with an NCAA Division I institution or conference and see if they are willing to submit an SLR Waiver on the prospect's behalf. This is a much more complicated process and will require more information from you, but is the only additional opportunity for a waiver. Institutions and conferences should have some familiarity with the SLR application process. Be aware, however, that the institution/conference may initially be confused because they will not think of SLR in the context of a prospective student-athlete. This is, however, the correct process required to set aside any legislated requirements.

**NOTE: Waivers and Exceptions are EXTREMELY RARE!**

A team may request an exception to the NCAA residency requirements, but should realize prior to that request that the residency requirements are RARELY set aside. Historically, the NCAA membership has indicated that relief from the strict application of the requirement should be granted only in situations in which no permissible team exists that will allow a prospect the opportunity to participate in any NCAA-certified event.

A waiver/exception is typically not granted to allow an athlete to play with a preferred team or to allow the athlete to attend specific NCAA-certified events, but to provide those who have NO opportunity to participate in any NCAA-certified event a chance to participate.

Be sure to start the wavier process as early as possible to allow for processing prior to scheduled participation.

**Instructions for Completing the ECAG Waiver Exception Form**

1. Make sure the Highlight Existing Fields button on the top of the page is selected (in orange oval). This will turn all the fields where you can type a light blue color.
2. Click your cursor in one of the light-blue shaded fields.
3. When the field turns white, you can type directly onto the form to enter the required information.
4. When all the fields are entered, click the Submit Form button at the top of the form (in orange oval).

Not finished, click Submit Form to return the completed form.

Highlight Existing Fields Submit Form

### Adjoining State Exception Application


Participants on nonscholastic teams participating in NCAA-certified events must be legal residents of the state in which the team is located or a geographically adjoining state and not more than a three prospective student-athletes from adjoining states may participate on any one nonscholastic team. An individual that does not comply with that requirement would have to have the exception rule verified by the NCAA certification staff in order to utilize that exception to participate with a team that does not comply.

This form along with any supporting documentation should be submitted to the NCAA Basketball Certification Staff at [process.BBCert@ncaa.org](mailto:process.BBCert@ncaa.org) for any athlete that would required an exception in participate with the team.

NOTE: Any team that provides false and/or misleading information in order to satisfy any of the NCAA's demographic or residency (adjoining state) requirements will result in the withdrawal of the approvals for all coaches associated with that team, which will prohibit those coaches from participating in any coaching activity at any NCAA-certified event for a period of up to five years.

**Instructions:** Complete form and then press the "Submit Form" button in the bar across the top of the page. Once you identify what method you use to send emails, the form will be sent to [process.BBCert@ncaa.org](mailto:process.BBCert@ncaa.org).

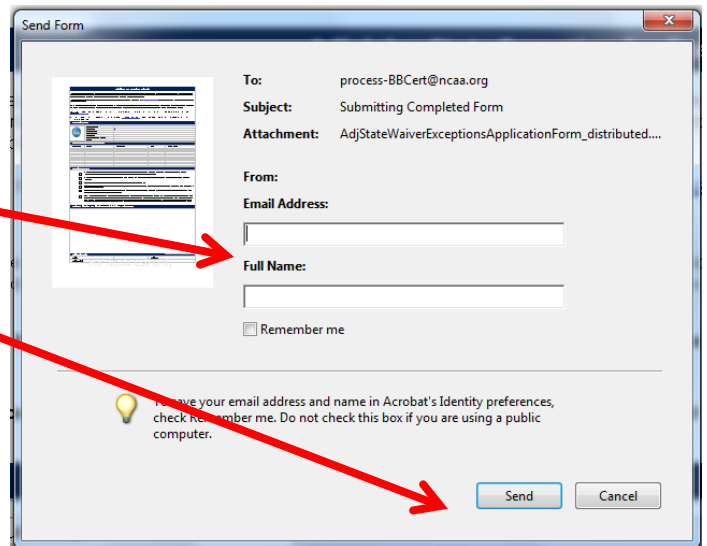
Additional documentation to support the reasons for your request can be sent to [process.BBCert@ncaa.org](mailto:process.BBCert@ncaa.org) or faxed to 317/917-6073. Be sure to identify the team name on additional documents that are submitted.

Team Making Request		
	Date Submitted	DATE
	Team Name	YOUR TEAM NAME HERE
	Team Address	
	City/State/Zip	
	Head Coach	
	E-mail Address for Contact	
	Phone	

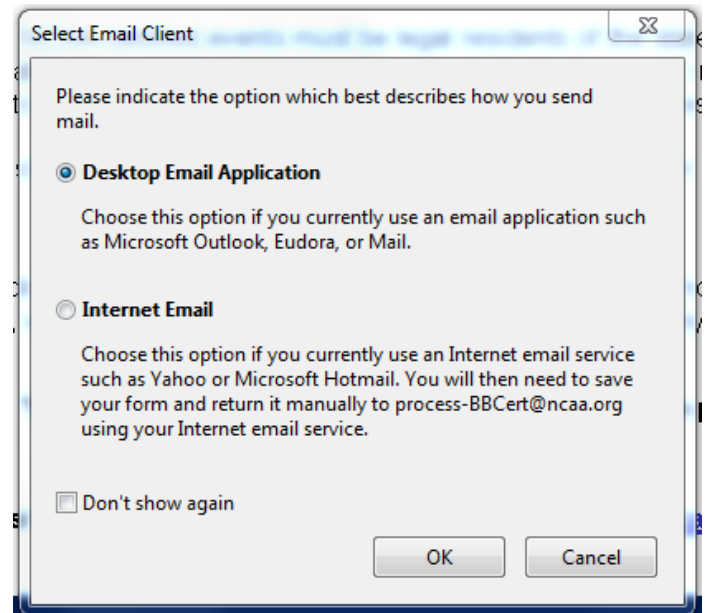
Requested for the Athlete(s) Identified Below

**To submit the form:**

1. Enter your email address.
2. Enter your name.
3. And hit the Send button.



4. When you get the Select Email Client pop-up window, you will need to select one of the two options.
  - Choose **Desktop Email Application** if your email is actual software that runs on your computer like Outlook.
  - Choose **Internet Email** if your email is an online option like Gmail, Yahoo, AOL, Hotmail, etc.
5. Click OK and the form will be submitted via email. You should have a copy in the sent items of your email account.



**Request that are not properly submitted will not be processed. The NCAA will not accept handwritten, faxed or mailed forms or emailed forms that failed to use the SUBMIT button.**