

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**  
**GAME OFFICIALS BACKGROUND CHECK PROGRAM**  
**BASEBALL**

1. Will my background check information be accepted if completed after the deadline date? No. The online system will be active only during the dates noted on the log-in page. No information can be submitted after the deadline date.
2. Can I still submit my background check forms in paper format? No. No paper forms will be accepted. All information must be submitted using the online background check system.
3. If I am **not** a US citizen, do I need to submit my US Citizenship documents every year? Yes. It is possible for changes in your citizenship status to occur from one year to the next, thus, if you are not a US citizen, you are required to submit your US Citizenship documents every year. It is strongly recommended that these documents be submitted via traceable mail as it is your responsibility to verify submission if questions should arise.
4. Is the online process the only requirement for the background check program? No. The online process is the first step in the background check process. Officials selected to undergo a comprehensive background check are required to sign an additional release confirming consent. Those selected officials will be notified via email. If you do not comply with this second step of this process by the noted deadline, you will not be eligible to officiate.
5. Will officials who are selected for a full background check be notified? Yes. Officials will be notified in advance of the comprehensive background check procedure. You will be required to sign and return to the NCAA national office, an additional release to confirm your consent for the background check to proceed. This final authorization form will be sent to those selected for the comprehensive background check via email approximately the end of February. You must print the final authorization form, read, sign and return via traceable mail as it is your responsibility to verify proof of delivery. The final authorization must be postmarked no later than the date noted in the email. Forms postmarked after the deadline will not be accepted; thus, rendering the official ineligible to officiate. If requested, officials will be provided the information generated by the background check.
6. If I sign the release form, will my employer, neighbors or friends be contacted automatically? No. Interviews will be conducted only if an official has triggered the standards that require further investigation. Refer to the General Policies document Item No. 4 for more information
7. What is included in a comprehensive background check? A comprehensive background check will consist of credit history, driving records, civil litigation, criminal convictions and national and state sex offender registries.
8. Please explain the contracted agency release of liability. Indemnification language: The "contracted agency" in the release language refers to the entity that will provide information to the NCAA. The release absolves the entity (i.e., person or organization) from liability by the official (except for gross negligence). The language assures the entity that it is free to provide the requested information without fear of legal action. Some officials have speculated that this

waiver language applies to the NCAA, but that is not true except in the unlikely event that the NCAA itself is asked to provide background information.

9. Do repeated credit checks damage an individual's credit rating? Repeated credit checks do not damage an individual's credit rating. Consumer reporting agencies are controlled by 15 U.S.C. 1681, which limits the manner in which credit reports can be distributed and used. The United States Congress included several procedural safeguards within the statute to ensure that consumer reporting agencies do not misuse, redistribute, damage or limit an individual's credit rating due to repeated checks. The NCAA's requests for credit information will fall within the statutory requirements.
10. What sports require game officials to undergo background checks? The Division I men's and women's basketball officials have undergone background checks since 1999. As part of the recommendations from the NCAA Sports Wagering Task Force, baseball and men's ice hockey officials have been required to undergo background checks since the 2005-06 season. The NCAA Division I Football Issues Committee recommended that background checks be required for officials working postseason football bowl games beginning in 2006. These athletic events represent the highest level of collegiate competition requiring the NCAA to employ game officials of the highest moral character and personal integrity. The NCAA takes very seriously its obligation to do everything necessary to prevent gambling scandals from occurring.
11. Are there background check programs in which coaches and student-athletes participate? Coaches and student-athletes must abide by NCAA Bylaw 10.3, which states, in part, that an individual may not wager on a college or professional sports contest. Each institution is responsible for ensuring that its representatives comply with this important provision.