

NCTA 2025 ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION GUIDELINES

These guidelines only apply to the [2025 NCTA National Collegiate & High School Championships and Summer World University Games Team Trials](#).

See “[§\(II\) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA](#)” for a full breakdown of eligibility requirements.

See “[§\(III\) VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY](#)” for a list of acceptable documents and methods to verify eligibility.

§I. INTRODUCTION; TL/DR

Athletes must meet (1) enrollment requirements, (2) age requirements for their respective divisions, and, for the Team Trials Division only, (3) US citizenship requirements.

- (1) Regarding enrollment, eligibility for the Collegiate and Team Trials Divisions requires the athlete to be enrolled at an accredited college or university and at least half-time student status or graduated in 2024 or 2025; for the High School Division, the athlete is required to be enrolled full-time at a high school or be homeschooled or graduated in 2025.
- (2) Regarding age, eligibility for the Collegiate Division requires the athlete be born in 2007 or earlier; for the Team Trials Division, the athlete must be born in 2000 through 2007, inclusive; and for the High School Division, the athlete must be born in 2006 through 2011, inclusive.
- (3) Regarding citizenship, eligibility for the Team Trials Division requires the athlete to be a US citizen. US citizenship is not required for the Collegiate or High School Divisions.

Subsequent sections provide additional clarification for athletes who have special considerations.

§II. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following comprehensive guidelines are presented to athletes and coaches in an effort to be fully transparent as to how eligibility decisions are made in determining whether an athlete is eligible for:

- (A) [the Collegiate Championship Division](#),
- (B) [the SWUG Team Trials Division](#), and
- (C) [the High School Championship Division](#).

(A) Collegiate Championship Division:

- (1) Eligible athletes must satisfy and show proof of these minimum requirements:
 - (a) Currently enrolled between January 10, 2025, and April 13, 2025, at an accredited university or college or recently graduated in 2024 or 2025 from an accredited university or college;

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- (i) “Currently enrolled” status is considered for “Spring 2025” terms for universities and colleges on semester systems; and “Winter 2025” terms for universities and colleges on trimester or quarter systems. If an official transcript shows “Fall 2024” as the latest term on record, the athlete is not considered eligible.
 - (ii) “Currently enrolled” is further defined to require at least a half-time course load (also termed “half-time status”) for the current valid term (as defined in (A)(1)(a)(i)), e.g., if a full-time course load at an athlete’s university or college is 12 units, the combination of courses must be at least 6 units. It is further noted that proof of eligibility can simply state that an athlete is at least “half-time status” without listing the current term course credits.
 - (iii) “Courses” that are considered valid to meet the requirements of (A)(1)(a)(ii) include classes, lectures, courses, seminars, laboratory practicals, research, and preparing a dissertation/thesis. Note that the state of being “registered” for these courses requires proof via official transcript that includes the number of units or credits awarded for each class, course, seminar, research, or dissertation/thesis or official registrar notice that the athlete is considered at least half-time status.
 - (iv) “Accredited” shall be interpreted as any regional or national accreditation.
- (b) Born in 2007 or earlier.
- (i) Non-college-enrolled students (e.g., High School students) born in 2007 or earlier are not eligible for the Collegiate Division unless they are concurrently enrolled at a university or college and are taking at least a half-time course load (i.e., meeting requirements (A)(1)(a)(i)-(iv)). AP or IB classes or AP or IB test scores are not considered substitutable for collegiate coursework.
 - (ii) College students currently enrolled and considered at least half-time status must be born in 2007 or earlier.
- (c) US citizenship is not required for the Collegiate Championship Division.
- (2) Special considerations:
- (a) It may be necessary for NCTA to consider special considerations on a case-by-case basis to determine whether an athlete is at least a half-time student when:
 - (i) the university or college utilizes non-traditional terms;
 - (ii) athletes dual enroll or enroll in multiple colleges/universities to accrue additional credits/units;
 - (iii) the university or college assigns less than 6 credits or credits less than half-time for dissertation/thesis courses; and
 - (iv) US citizens attending a foreign college/university are eligible if the athletes are also considered at least half-time enrolled at the foreign college/university;
 - (v) foreign students attending a US college/university are eligible if they satisfy requirements (A)(1)(a)(i)-(iv) (i.e., currently enrolled at an accredited university or college in at least half-time status);

(b) No exceptions to the eligible birth year range may be made.

(B) SWUG Team Trials Division:

The requirements for the SWUG Team Trials Division is slightly more stringent than those of the Collegiates Division: i.e., US citizenship is required, and the eligible birth year range is more limited to 2000 to 2007.

(1) Eligible athletes must satisfy and show proof of these minimum requirements:

(a) All enrollment requirements stipulated in (A)(1)(a)(i)-(iv) apply for the SWUG Team Trials Division.

(b) Born in 2000 to 2007, inclusive, in addition to the restrictions stipulated in (A)(1)(b)(i)-(ii); please note that the birth year range of 2000 to 2007 supersedes the birth year ranges stipulated in (A)(1)(b)(i)-(ii).

(c) US citizenship is required for the SWUG Team Trials Division.

(2) Special considerations:

(a) The considerations stipulated in (A)(2)(a)(i)-(iv) apply for the SWUG Team Trials Division and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Unlike the Collegiate Division, please note that foreign students are not eligible for SWUG Team Trials Division because they are not US citizens; athletes with dual citizenship including US citizenship are eligible.

(b) No exceptions to the eligible birth year range may be made.

(C) High School Division:

(1) Eligible athletes must satisfy and show proof of these minimum requirements:

(a) Proof of enrollment in a high school (or homeschooled) or recently graduated in 2026.

(i) Enrollment must be at full-time status.

(ii) No other graduation year is eligible.

(b) Born in 2006 to 2011, inclusive.

(i) Non-high school-enrolled athletes (e.g., Middle School students) born in 2006 to 2011 are not eligible for the High School Division unless they are concurrently full-time enrolled at a High School (i.e., meeting requirements (C)(1)(a)(i)).

(c) US citizenship is not required for the High School Division.

(2) Special considerations:

(a) It is understood that some high schools are part of a K-12 institution, are considered 9th-12th grades, or are considered 8th-12th grades depending on the school district. Regardless of grade level, eligible athletes must be full-time enrolled in a High School (or in a certified homeschool) or in grades considered by their district to be at the High School level. Traditionally, these grades are 9th through 12th grades.

(i) Non-high school-enrolled athletes participating in a High School academic program, taking part in a specialized program at a High School, taking any number of regular classes at a High School, or otherwise participating

in any coursework or program connected to a High School but otherwise not enrolled full-time are not considered eligible.

- (ii) For athletes part of a homeschool, the homeschool must be certified in accordance with federal or local statutes. Proofs of certifications must be provided to NCTA when requested by the NCTA Eligibility Committee.

§III. VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Please note that in accordance with USC 438(6)(4)(8) (The Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974) student academic records information is provided to the NCTA upon the condition that the NCTA and its agents or employees are not permitted any other party access to this record without consent of the student. Misuse of an academic record is a violation of state and federal statutes and will result in reporting offenders to the United States Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO).

(A) Athlete-submitted verification:

(1) [NCTA Form A](#) (Collegiate and SWUG Team Trials Divisions)

- (a) The form must be signed by a college or university official with access to official student records, i.e., the Registrar's Office. Other officials (e.g., Rec Sports, student/faculty advisors, student mentors) are not eligible to sign this form.
 - (i) Legible contact information must be provided, including the official's name and the official's email and/or phone number.
 - (ii) Unidentifiable or illegible contact information will not be accepted.
- (b) The form must be stamped/sealed by the Registrar's Office (or equivalent); stamps/seals from other college/university departments (e.g., Rec Sports) will not be accepted.
- (c) A high-quality image (e.g., taken with phone camera) clearly showing the stamp/seal and contact information must be emailed to nctaEligibility@gmail.com; it is optional to submit a second image focused on the stamp/seal. Low quality/resolution scans will not be accepted without additional follow-up requests for an image of the stamp/seal.
- (d) The physical original signed/stamped form must be presented on-site at tournament check-in or mailed to NCTA Eligibility officials by postmark date of March 28, 2025.
- (e) NCTA reserves the right to investigate and confirm questionable forms. Misuse, alteration or otherwise misrepresentation of an academic record is a violation of state and federal statutes and will result in reporting offenders to the United States Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO).

(2) [NCTA Form B](#) (High School Division)

- (a) The form must be signed by a school administrator with access to official student records, e.g., counselor, principal, registrar.
 - (i) Legible contact information must be provided, including the administrator's name and the administrator's email and/or phone number.
 - (ii) Unidentifiable or illegible contact information will not be accepted.

- (b) The form must be stamped/sealed by school administrators using the school's stamp or seal.
 - (c) A high-quality image (e.g., taken with phone camera) of the entire form and clearly showing the stamp/seal and contact information must be emailed to nctaEligibility@gmail.com; it is optional to submit a second image focused on the stamp/seal. Low quality/resolution scans will not be accepted without additional follow-up requests for an image of the stamp/seal.
 - (d) The physical original signed/stamped form must be presented on-site at tournament check-in or mailed to NCTA Eligibility officials by postmark date of March 28, 2025.
 - (e) NCTA reserves the right to investigate and confirm questionable forms. Misuse, alteration or otherwise misrepresentation of an academic record is a violation of state and federal statutes and will result in reporting offenders to the United States Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO).
- (3) Express exclusions
- (a) Forms lacking an official school stamp/seal will not be accepted.
 - (b) Forms containing illegible contact information of school/university/college officials will not be accepted.
 - (c) Forms with poor image quality will not be accepted.

(B) Third party-submitted verification (Collegiate and SWUG Team Trials Divisions):

- (1) College or university registrar office/student records office
 - (a) Athletes may request their respective Registrar's Office or equivalent Student Records Office to send official transcripts or proof of current enrollment directly to the NCTA.
 - (b) Submission of official and/or unofficial transcripts or proofs of current enrollment will not be accepted if submitted by the athlete, their coaches, and/or their parents/guardians; these documents must be submitted directly by university or college officials having appropriate clearance and authority to transmit student records.
 - (c) Misuse, alteration or otherwise misrepresentation of an academic record is a violation of state and federal statutes and will result in reporting offenders to the United States Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO).
- (2) Parchment (<https://www.parchment.com/students/order-status/>)
 - (a) Athletes may request an official transcript from Parchment.com. Please note that some universities and colleges have agreements with Parchment.com to provide these services at reduced or no cost. Please check with your Registrar's Office/Student Records website for links and instructions.
 - (b) These orders should be sent directly to nctaEligibility@gmail.com.
 - (c) Orders downloaded by the athlete and forwarded to the NCTA Eligibility Committee are not acceptable proofs of enrollment. Only documents sent directly by Parchment.com will be considered for eligibility.
- (3) National Student Clearinghouse (<https://www.studentclearinghouse.org/verify/>)

- (a) Athletes may request a verification of enrollment from National Student Clearinghouse. Please note that some universities and colleges have agreements with National Student Clearinghouse to provide these services at reduced or no cost. Please check with your Registrar's Office/Student Records website for links and instructions.
- (b) These orders should be sent directly to nctaEligibility@gmail.com.
- (c) Orders downloaded by the athlete and forwarded to the NCTA Eligibility Committee are not acceptable proofs of enrollment. Only documents sent directly by National Student Clearinghouse will be considered for eligibility.