



Newly Adopted Background Clearance Information for PIAA Registered Sports Officials

Background Certifications

Because PIAA-registered officials are independent contractors to schools whose Contests they officiate, the officials are required to comply with the requirements for background certifications as set forth in the Public School Code and the recent revisions to the Child Protective Services Law (adopted July 1, 2015), as follows:

Currently Registered Officials

All current PIAA-registered officials who have not yet submitted to PIAA the certifications identified below are required to obtain and submit them to PIAA on or before January 1, 2016. The failure to submit such certifications shall result in suspension of registration until the certifications are submitted.

What this means?

- If not previously submitted, clearances for PIAA registered officials are required by January 1, 2016. They are not required by law until this date.
- All registered officials are required to re-submit all three clearances every five years.
- Clearances for those officials that have registered in the last five years will remain in effect until their initial five year period expires.
- Clearances obtained by newly registered officials in the year prior to their test date may be used to satisfy the clearance requirement.
- There is no "grandfather clause" in this legislation. ALL officials are required to obtain all three clearances and have them on file with PIAA by January 1, 2016.
- Clearances obtained through employment may be used to satisfy PIAA clearance requirements. However, clearances obtained as a volunteer may not be used to satisfy PIAA clearance requirements.

There are three clearances that are required by PA State Law. Each can be accessed at the links below:

1. **FBI clearance** - https://pa-aps.3m.com/perlpub/registration_edu_pci.pl
(This is the Cogent site required to be used by Department of Education)
2. **PA State Police clearance** - <https://epatch.state.pa.us>
3. **Department of Human Services clearance** (PA Child Abuse) - <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

Once at this site create an individual account

Additional information:

- PIAA registered officials are not considered “volunteers.” Do not click on any of the boxes that reference volunteers. Officials are independent contractors employed by the individual schools and school districts. In addition, the Affidavit-Exemption from FBI Clearance form is not acceptable for PIAA registered officials. All officials must be fingerprinted every five years.
- Expenses for obtaining clearances shall be borne by the registered sports official. PIAA is not permitted to accept certifications which were obtained for volunteering purposes under Section 6344.2 (relating to volunteers having contact with children).
- Additional information and links to the clearances may also be accessed by going to www.piaa.org and click on the Officials Home Page tab. Click on the Background Check Reports Requirements link on the right hand side of the page.
- Keep the originals of your clearances and hold on to copies in the event a particular school wants to view your clearances.
- **Please do not send clearances to PIAA at this time.** We are currently in the process of building a portal where all clearances may be entered by each individual official to establish their own personal file. Once this portal is established further information will be shared with all officials.

New Applicants

Upon successful completion of the respective sport examination, all applicants must comply with the background clearance mandates listed on the previous page. The change in this law has had no effect on the application process currently in place.

Direct any questions to PIAA at (717) 697-0374.