



NCAA ELIGIBILITY AND RECRUITING : BECOMING A STUDENT-ATHLETE IN COLLEGE

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Introduction

- Thanks for your participation
- Misperceptions and Misunderstandings
 - Eligibility
 - Opportunities to participate
 - Scholarships



Program

- College Athletics
- Initial Academic Eligibility
- Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse
- Scholarships and Financial Aid
- Information for the Prospective College Student Athlete

Recruiting Process Has Changed

- Process starts earlier than ever
 - No longer: “my kid’s a junior and made varsity this year and I hear some college coaches are interested in her”
 - Coaches now are compiling lists of prospects in MS and freshmen year of HS
 - Lots of letters but not always offers
 - Would be great if there was a direct connection between money spent on child’s athletics and a scholarship, but...
 - May take work to get recruited and find oppty to play

College Athletics: NCAA

- Division I: highest level: high expectations in time, travel, year round involvement
 - Athletic Scholarships: not all athletes get full grants
 - Hofstra, Stony Brook, St Johns
- Division II: more regional schedules
 - Athletic Scholarships: amount vary by school/most students packaged to spread aid out
 - East Coast Conference : Dowling, LIU Post, NYIT,AU
- Division III
 - No scholarships/need based only
 - St. Joseph's, Farmingdale State, CUNY

College Athletics

- NAIA: smaller, some scholarships
 - Briarcliffe
- NJCAA
 - Suffolk/Nassau CC, SUNY 2 year schools
 - Need to know a bit about what a student needs to be considered eligible to participate at the level they choose to compete at

Requirements for Participation: Initial Eligibility

- NJCAA
 - HS Diploma/GED
- NAIA
 - 2 of 3 entry requirements
 - Achieve minimum composite score of 860 on SAT
 - Minimum overall HS GPA 2.0
 - Grad in top half of HS class
- NCAA DIVISION III
 - DIII schools set own admissions standards
 - No initial-eligibility requirements
 - If accepted, eligible

Requirements for Participation

- If you wish to participate in NCAA DI or DII , you need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center

You need to:

- Qualify academically
 - Need to be cleared as an amateur student-athlete
 - Academic standards for college athletes getting tougher and will continue
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- SEE HANDOUTS

DIVISION I

- Complete 16 core course requirement in 8 semesters
 - 4 English
 - 3 Math (Algebra I or higher)
 - 2 Natural/Physical Science
 - 1 extra: English, Math, Science
 - 2 Social Science
 - 4 extra core from above or language, religion, philosophy
- Minimum GPA in core courses
- Combined SAT or ACT score that matches GPA and test score on sliding scale

Division II

- 16 core courses:
 - 3 years English
 - 2 years Math (Alg 1 or higher)
 - 2 years Science
 - **3** Additional years of above
 - 2 years social science
 - **4** years extra core of above or language, religion, phil.
- 2.0 GPA or better
- Combined SAT of 820 or ACT sum of 68
- As of August 2013

Core Course

- Not all classes you take to meet HS graduation requirements may be used as core courses
- Must be academic course in one or a combination of these areas:
 - English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
 - Be a four year college preparatory level course
 - Taught at or above your HS regular academic level (not remedial)
 - DI has time limits on when core courses must be taken by
- Check with HS list of NCAA core courses on Resources page of NCAA Elig Center website: www.eligibility.org
- Ask HS guidance counselor

Eligibility Center Process

- NCAA Initial Eligibility Center
 - Determines whether prospective college SA is eligible to play sports at DI/II institution
 - Reviews academic records, test scores, amateur status to ensure conformity with NCAA rules
 - No actual deadline to register, but must be cleared by Elig Center before can receive scholarship or compete
 - **RECOMMENDED:** Register with Eligibility Center at start of Junior year

Eligibility Center Process

- To register: www.eligibilitycenter.org
 - Create account
 - Registration fee: \$70
- Documents Required:
 - Have HS transcript sent to clearinghouse by HS as soon as complete 6 semesters.
 - Arrange to have test scores sent directly by testing company
 - HS must send final transcripts and proof of graduation at end of SR year

Eligibility Center Process

- Complete on line form, pay fee and submit
- Remember your pin number
- Print out transcript release forms and bring to guidance office
 - If you have attended more than one HS will need official transcript from all
- No final certification until graduate from HS but can get prelim reports and keep track on website



STEPS TO ACHIEVING YOUR ELIGIBILITY

- See handout and refer to it as move along the process

National Letter of Intent

- NCAA Eligibility Center administers the NLI
- Contract between school and prospect
 - Requires student to attend for one academic year
 - School to provide commitment for one year
 - A prospective student-athlete signs an NLI with an institution, not with a coach. If the coach leaves, the prospect is still bound by the provisions of the NLI.
- Legal document: Read carefully

Athletic Aid

- NOTE:
 - Less than 10% of all HS athletes play in college
 - Less than 1% of those students get DI scholarship
 - Don't believe all the stories you hear about who gets what
- One year, renewable (some DI offer multi year)
 - Can be renewed, cancelled, reduced at end of each year for many reasons.
 - If reduced or cancelled, must be provided opportunity to appeal
- Awarded in various amounts
 - Can range from Full (TFB, R&B) to small awards
 - May be additional grants available based on total package

Information for the Prospective College Student -Athlete

- Determining Your Level of Ability HANDOUT
- **BE REALISTIC !**
 - Where does the student best fit in?
 - Academically/athletically
 - Where can their goals best be met?
 - Need input from coaches, family, college recruiters
 - Honest evaluations
 - Judge your own talent
 - Handout: 5 questions

Information for the Prospective College Student -Athlete

- Every parent wants their child to play at highest level...is this the right level for them?
 - Do they have the skills, can they develop them
 - Mental toughness? Year long commitment?
- Be Realistic: Overestimating/Underestimating
- Content to watch or really want to play?
- College Recruiters help determine level of ability
 - Not lots of top level recruits who fall through cracks
 - If no scholarship offer/interest by beginning of JR year, most likely not at elite level
 - Maybe start thinking about other levels

Information for the Prospective College Student -Athlete

■ SHOWCASING YOURSELF

- Exposure and promotion that may lead to oppty
- Camps and Clinics/Summer Leagues
 - More exposure
 - NETWORKING IS KEY – build connections with coaches
- Good Grades
 - Show off your academic achievements
- Involvement of Coaches and Parents
 - HS Coach can help, but not their job
 - Involve club coach if can help
 - Let the student make the calls

Information for the Prospective College Student -Athlete

- Develop your own Media Kit
 - Resume sample/stats
 - Letter of reference
 - Video
 - Recruiting Services
 - Contacting Coaches
 - Letter sample/email
- Coaches recruit character
 - Leaders, maturity, work ethic
 - Coaches recruit parents, too

Information for the Prospective College Student -Athlete

- Prepare Self/Improve Self for Recruiting
 - Academically
 - Are you doing what you need to do to be eligible?
 - Grades/ Support for deficiencies
 - Meet with Counselor
 - HANDOUT: Schedule year by year
 - Athletically
 - Realistic Evaluation
 - Commitment to improving/fitness/strength
 - Socially
 - Socially ready for next step?
 - Social skills/ ready to be on own?

Information for the Prospective College Student -Athlete

- Recruiting Process
 - Understand the Process
 - On line resources/ Ask questions
 - Contact Coaches
 - Well written, well communicated
 - Practice...first impressions are important
 - Stay in touch with coaches to build relationship
 - Learn about potential Coach: HANDOUT
 - Visit, ask questions coach and team members
 - Look at roster: grad years, size, bios
 - What to look for in a college: HANDOUT
 - Use school/conference website to help with research

Some more tips...

- Do not ask about athletic aid during initial conversation with coach...build relationship
- When writing coach, no "to whom it may concern"...do your research
- "I had problems with my HS coach"...
- Never talk about what you can't do, won't do
- Be prepared for meetings; no "I don't knows"
- Coach wants to talk to the recruit, not just the parent

FINAL DECISION

- Visit schools you are interested in
 - Speak to coaches, administrators, team members, admissions people, other students
 - ASK QUESTIONS
- ULTIMATELY: academics and ability to be successful and happy should be prime consideration
- Try to remain open minded about all opportunities and levels