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# Athletics in the United States: *How to Support Student Athletes*

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# Agenda

- Major Governing Bodies
- Eligibility
- Amateurism
- Student Journey
- Resources



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# Major Governing Bodies



NCAA

- Division I – elite (900 members)
- Division II – very competitive
- Division III – merit scholarships only



NAIA

- 350 member schools
- Smaller schools; fewer sports
- Entry requirements less strict



NJCAA

- Start with an associates degree
- Transfer to a 4 year institution



# NCAA: National Collegiate Athletic Association

Country	Registrants	Percentage
Canada	3154	27.40%
United Kingdom	1028	8.90%
Australia	618	5.40%
Germany	588	5.10%
Spain	456	4.00%
Sweden	369	3.20%
Brazil	307	2.70%
France	303	2.70%
New Zealand	216	1.90%
Netherlands	144	1.30%



- 195,224 registered student athletes
- 5.89% international





## NCAA

Fall Sports	Winter Sports		Spring Sports		Emerging Sports
Cross Country (W)	Basketball (M)	Basketball (W)	Baseball (M)	Softball (W)	Equestrian (W)
Cross Country (M)	Fencing (M)	Fencing (W)	Golf (M)	Golf (W)	Rugby (W)
Field Hockey (W)	Gymnastics (M)	Gymnastics (W)	Lacrosse (M)	Lacrosse (W)	Triathlon (W)
Football (M)	Ice Hockey (M)	Ice Hockey (W)	Outdoor Track and Field (M)	Outdoor Track and Field (W)	
Soccer (W)	Indoor Track and Field (M)	Indoor Track and Field (W)	Tennis (M)	Tennis (W)	
Soccer (M)	Rifle (M)	Rifle (W)	Rowing (W)	Volleyball (M)	
Volleyball (W)	Skiing (M)	Skiing (W)	Water Polo (W)	Beach Volleyball (W)	
Water Polo (M)	Swimming and Diving (M)	Swimming and Diving (W)			
	Bowling (W)	Wrestling (M)			



# NCAA Division I

## Numbers

<b>12,900</b>	Average enrollment
<b>18</b>	Average number of sports
<b>6%</b>	Average number of students Participating in sports
<b>26</b>	National Championships

## Participation

<b>173,500</b>	Student athletes
<b>346</b>	Member schools
<b>53%</b>	Receive some athletic aid

- Largest enrollment
- Largest budgets
- Diverse academic programs
- Diverse sports
- Highest Profile



# NCAA Division II

- Growth opportunities through academic achievement
- High-level competition
- Community engagement

## Numbers

4,200	Average enrollment
15	Average number of sports
14%	Average number of students Participating in sports
25	National Championships

## Participation

119,000	Student athletes
307	Member schools
56%	Receive some athletic aid



# NCAA Division III

## Numbers

<b>2,643</b>	Average enrollment
<b>18</b>	Average number of sports
<b>24%</b>	Average number of students participating in sports
<b>28</b>	National Championships

## Participation

<b>180,000</b>	Student athletes
<b>450</b>	Member schools
<b>75%</b>	Receive some academic scholarship or need-based aid

- Focus on academic success
- No athletic scholarship
- “Meaningful” athletic opportunities



# Eligibility Requirements



NCAA

- 16 core courses within 4 years (10-13)
- Division I uses sliding scale
- Minimum GPA 2.3/4.0



NAIA

- Minimum GPA of 2.0/4.0
- Minimum 18 on ACT / 860 on SAT
- Graduate in top half of class



NJCAA

- No minimum passing SAT score
- Only 25% of scholarships can be given to international students



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# NCAA Eligibility

## Eligibility Center:

- Email address
- Demographic information
- Education history
- Additional coursework
- Athletic resume

## Required items:

ACT or SAT scores

Official transcripts (including graduation dates)

Certified Translation

Amateurism questionnaire

Application fee

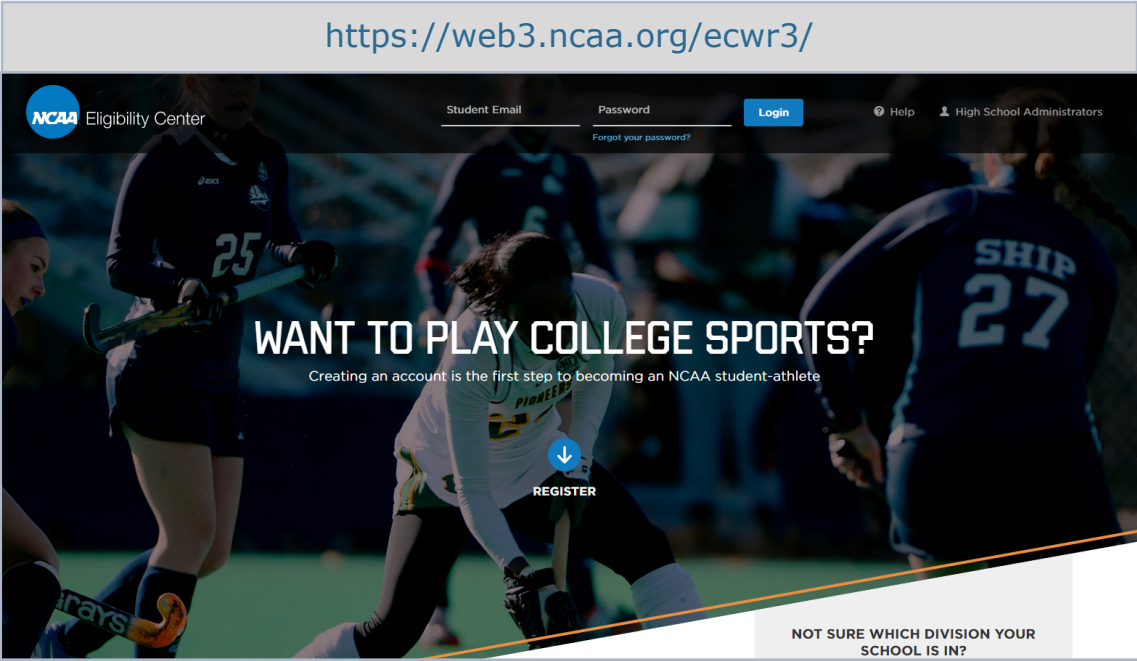


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# NCAA Registration



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# NCAA Core Courses

- Academic, university preparatory courses
- Receive instruction at or above regular academic level
- Earn diploma program course credit that appears on official transcript

## Core Courses:

**English**

**Math** (algebra I or higher)

**Science** (natural & physical)

**Social science**

**Additional core courses (foreign language, religion, philosophy)**

## Transcript Requirements:

**Course titles, grades, credits awarded**

***International Standards: Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility (Download from NCAA website)***



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# NCAA Timeline

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center
- Maintain coursework progress
- Send official transcripts to Eligibility Center

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Sit for ACT or SAT  
(NCAA Eligibility Center code: 9999)
- Send official transcripts to Eligibility Center



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# NCAA Timeline



## 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Sit for ACT or SAT  
(NCAA Eligibility Center code: 9999)
- Request final amateurism certificate  
(on or after April 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Send official transcripts and proof of graduation to Eligibility Center



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# Amateurism

## Dos

- Save all documents  
(NCAA Eligibility Center code: 9999)
- Consult with NCAA institution coach or compliance officer regarding any benefits

## Don'ts

- Sign for or accept benefits from an agent
- Accept payment from professional team in excess of expenses
- Accept prize money or training payments





# National Letter of Intent

The form is titled "NLI NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT 2011-2012". It contains several sections for personal and institutional information. The "Name of Prospective Student-Athlete" section includes fields for Last, First, and Middle Initial. The "Permanent Address" section includes City, State, Postal Code, and Country. The "Prospective Student-Athlete's NCAA ID" and "Date of Birth" are also required. A section for "Signatures" includes lines for the Prospective Student-Athlete, the Director of Athletics (or designee), and the Parent or legal guardian. There are checkboxes for "Parent or legal guardian signature" and "Two-year college graduate". The form also includes a "For Institutional Use Only" section with checkboxes for "Two-year college transfer", "One-quarter", "One-semester", and "Two-year college graduate". A "Signature" line is provided for the institution. The form concludes with a "Copyright © National Letter of Intent" and a "Rev. 08/01/2010" date.

- Cannot sign before the initial signing date of chosen sport
- Must be within 7 days
- University must file letter within 14 days
- Intent is binding for one academic year





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# Scholarships

- Full:
  - Tuition & fees
  - Room & board
  - Books
  - Cost of attendance (power 5)
- Partial:
  - Tuition & fees
- Length:
  - One-year, renewable
  - Not typically four year or guaranteed



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# Scouting

- Athletic department identifies talent
- Scouting service providers must be NCAA approved



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# Sports Agents



## Ask...

- How long have they been an agent?
- Do they charge universities for their prospect information? If so, who is the client?
- Will they provide direct referrals to past clients?
- Do they offer any guarantees?
- How much do they charge?
- What do they do with your money?
- Will they assist with university transfers for no extra fee?



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# Contacting Universities

## Things to consider...

- Good-fit involves academics & athletics
- Creating an athletic CV
- Creating an online CV
- Athletic camps
- Promotion
  - [athletic-scholarships.net](http://athletic-scholarships.net)
- Directly contacting university athletic coordinators and/or coaches



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# Supporting Student Athletes



- Be realistic about opportunity & athletic ability
- Subscribe to NCAA newsletter; visit site often
- Become familiar with Eligibility Center & timelines
- Sports are not the primary reason for university
- Watch for emerging sports
- Process doesn't end with the signing of the National Letter of Intent



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# What to tell student athletes

- Use your EducationUSA advising center
- Register with Eligibility Center(s)
- Use search engine to find the list of colleges/universities with your sport:
  - NCAA / NAIA / NJCAA
- Email coaches at colleges you are interested in: coaches may contact individual athletes but most international athletes initiate the first contact
- Talk to coaches, friends who are already in the U.S. on athletic scholarships, etc.
- Follow up every lead or suggestion
- Be persistent





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# Online Resources

[www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)

[www.ncaa.com](http://www.ncaa.com) / [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

[www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org)

[www.njcaa.org](http://www.njcaa.org)

[www.athleticscholarships.net](http://www.athleticscholarships.net)

[www.collegesportsscholarships.com](http://www.collegesportsscholarships.com)

[www.scholarshipstats.com](http://www.scholarshipstats.com)

[www.collegecoaches.com](http://www.collegecoaches.com)



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# Questions?



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