

STUDENT ATHLETES

INFORMATION ON THE COLLEGE PROCESS AND NCAA POLICY

NCAA Divisions:

In general, the differences among Division I, II, and III lie in the number of sports an institution is required to sponsor and the amount of athletically related financial aid an institution awards to student-athletes. There are no minimum or maximums on the enrollment of an institution as it relates to its membership division.

In Division I and II, an institution MAY award athletic scholarships to student-athletes, and the number of scholarships an institution may award varies between divisions and varies from sport to sport. Division III institutions are NOT allowed to award any type of financial aid based in any way on athletic ability.

There are additional differences among the three divisions in other areas such as recruiting, academic eligibility, playing and practice limitations, awards and benefits and scheduling. Your high school coach may be able to help you determine which division level would be appropriate for your skills. This may change as you develop your talents during high school. The list of colleges with sports at each division level is available in the College Handbook.

Juniors: During the junior year, student-athletes interested in playing in college should research and connect with colleges on their websites and through visits. There is an athletic department portion on each college website where interested students can fill out information about themselves and request information about specific athletic programs as well. During or at the end of the junior year, student-athletes can request that the high school coach write a short letter describing the skill level and potential of the athlete. The student can send this letter to the coaches at potential colleges. College coaches cannot be in touch with students until the July after the completion of their junior year. In the meantime, students should meet with their guidance counselor to generate a list of schools to visit/ research/ consider as academic and possible athletic matches. They should also go the NCAA website to familiarize themselves with the process.

End of Junior year/Early Senior year: During this time frame, student-athletes interested in playing Div. I or II, must complete the eligibility process.

Academic Eligibility:

If you intend to participate in Division I or II athletics as a freshman in college, you must register and be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse, which will indicate to colleges that you have met basic college preparatory standards. Division III athletes are not required to complete this process. Detailed information about the academic requirements for eligibility (including core courses at your high school and standardized test requirements) is available on the NCAA Clearinghouse website. This process is completed online and includes a registration fee. If you are qualified for and received an SAT fee waiver, you may receive a waiver for this fee as well.

Step One:

Go to www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

Click on “Prospective Student Athletes” and register with payment.

Step Two:

Fill out a transcript request form and turn it in to the guidance office. We will mail a transcript anytime after six semesters have been completed. Students who have attended more than one high school must send a transcript from each high school (your current high school may send both copies if available). A final transcript will also be sent from the guidance office at graduation.

Step Three:

You must send an official copy of your SAT scores directly from the Collegeboard to the NCAA (code 9999).