

Athletics and the NCAA Clearinghouse

Student athletes interested in pursuing their athletic opportunities in the collegiate setting must meet minimum requirements.

NCAA Regulations

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is the governing body that regulates participation in all of its member schools. Although there is another group called the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics), which oversees its own member schools, the number of institutions in the NCAA far outnumbers those in the NAIA. The NCAA, whose headquarters are located in Kansas, makes available to high school athletes publications explaining the recruitment process.

The most relevant publications from the NCAA as far as high school athletes are concerned, are the **NCAA Guide for the Student-Athlete** and separate publications which list schools, by division, that offer various sports. This information is only available at their website at <http://www.ncaa.org>.

NCAA Clearinghouse

Every recruited athlete must have on file a form from the NCAA Clearinghouse. If you intend to participate in division I or II athletics as a freshman, you must register and be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. It is a good idea to start this process by the end of your junior year. Final transcript information should be sent to the Clearinghouse immediately after graduation. This form is only available on their website.

www.ncaaclearinghouse.org

Preparing to be a Recruited Athlete

Student athletes should aggressively pursue colleges and universities that interest them. It is a mistake to passively wait "to be recruited". Start by identifying those schools, which interest you and by making sure that the coaches in that school know who you are and what you've accomplished.

It is advisable to send a letter to the college coach telling them of your interest in that school. Along with the letter, include an Athletic Resume, which lists relevant personal, athletic, academic information along with the names and phone numbers of at least two of your coaches. Additionally, prepare a cd or videotape of you participating in your sport, unless your sport has objective criteria (timed or measured events). The cd or videotape should be of high quality and you should be easily identifiable on the tape. You will need at least 10-15 copies of the cd or videotape (one for each school). There are many schools that will express interest if you do a credible job of marketing your skills and abilities. This self-promotion should take place no later than the beginning of your junior year. Information about athletic resumes can be found in your school's college and career center.

Websites that are helpful in preparing students for the recruiting process are:

<http://www.athleticaid.com/index.html>

<http://www.collegerecruiting.com>

<http://www.naia.org>

<http://www.collegesportsscholarships.com>

Most universities and colleges can be accessed on the Internet at an address that incorporates their name succeeding the www. and closing with edu.

