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 opportunity 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

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](http://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 you 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
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 oppoty
  - 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
    - Online 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