



# The Student-Athlete and College Athletics



*Presented by:*  
**Mrs. Jessica Pignataro**  
on behalf of the  
**EHS Guidance Dept.**

# Tonight's Agenda



- ✚ Preparing for College-level Athletics
- ✚ Recruitment and College Selection
- ✚ Differences Between Athletic Associations and Divisions
- ✚ The NCAA Eligibility Center (formerly known as "NCAA Clearinghouse")
- ✚ College Search Overview

The slide features a yellow banner at the top with the title. A green line with a black dot starts from the left and curves over the banner. On the right, two black stick figures with blue backpacks are climbing a rope. The background is white with a faint pattern of chemical structures.

# Ready for College Athletics?

- You must be prepared both as a **STUDENT** and as an **ATHLETE**
- Preparation begins in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and continues throughout High School
- Student-Athletes, Parents, Coaches and Counselors must work as a team!

# Game Winning Strategies

## Grades 9 & 10: “The First Half”

- **Start your athletic resume**
- **Attend sports camps**
- **Participate in multiple sports if possible**
- **Take a strong academic course load**



# Game Winning Strategies

## Grade 11: “The Third Quarter”

- Continue developing athletic resume and taking challenging courses
- Take the PSAT, SAT and/or ACT
- Meet with your coaches to evaluate your athletic abilities and discuss recruitment
- Respond promptly to any communication from college athletic personnel
- Begin college campus visits
- Register online with the NCAA Eligibility Center



# Game Winning Strategies



## Grade 12: “The Fourth Quarter”

- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, or update your Eligibility Center information as needed
- Retake the SAT and/or ACT if necessary
- Narrow your college list and complete your athletic resume- Consult with your counselor & coaches
- Contact college coaches to express interest
- Schedule visits to college(s) you are considering
- Be mindful of application and financial aid deadlines!

# Athletic Associations

- ✦ NCAA: National Collegiate Athletic Association
- ✦ NAIA: National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics
- ✦ NJCAA: National Junior College Athletic Association

# NCAA Division I

## Division I

- **Most competitive level of play.**
- **Usually offer athletic scholarships- governed by NCAA and varied by sport.**
- **Students MUST meet NCAA academic eligibility requirements (as reviewed by Eligibility Center).**
- **Athletes spend much more time on their sport (year-round time commitment).**



# NCAA Divisions II and III

## Division II

- Level of competition & number of scholarships generally one step below Division I schools.
- Considerable time commitment.

## Division III

- Schools still offer competitive programs, but do not give “athletic” scholarships.
- May offer packages (aid, loans, work-study, etc.)
- May be less time commitment during the season and considerably less in the off-season.

# NAIA

## National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA):

- ✦ Refer to [www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org) for detailed information
- ✦ Entering freshmen must meet **2** out of the following **3** requirements:
  - **Minimum composite score of 18 on ACT or 860 on SAT**
  - **Minimum overall GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale**
  - **Graduate in top half of graduating class**

# NJCAA

## National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA):

- ✦ Governs intercollegiate athletics for two-year schools (i.e. Community Colleges).
- ✦ Refer to [www.njcaa.org](http://www.njcaa.org) for list of member schools and participation requirements.
- ✦ Requirements vary based on method of completing high school (diploma or GED).

# NCAA Recruiting Rules



- ✦ **The NCAA governs the type/frequency of contact coaches can make with prospective student-athletes.**
- ✦ **This includes printed materials, phone contact, personal contact and campus visits.**
- ✦ **Visit the NCAA website for a complete list of recruiting rules by sport.**

# Coaches

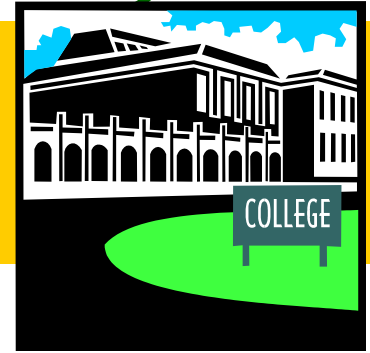
- ⚡ High School/Club vs. College
- ⚡ Part-Time vs. Full-Time
- ⚡ Job Security (They will find you!)

# The Unofficial Visit

- ✦ *Prospect pays all expenses.*
  - Institution may provide 3 complimentary admissions to an on-campus athletics event.
  - Prospect may take an unofficial visit at any time.
  - Prospect may take as many unofficial visits as he/she wishes.



# The Official Visit



- *Institution finances all or part of the visit.*
  - Maximum of 5 visits per prospect.
  - One visit per school.
  - Maximum 48 hours in length.
  - Academic requirements for visit:
    - Division I: Test scores and transcript.
    - Division II: Test scores.

# Letter of Intent



## ✦ National Letter of Intent (NLI)

- Binding one-year agreement.
- Signing date will vary by sport. Visit [www.nationalletter.org](http://www.nationalletter.org) for a complete listing.
- Prospect must attend that institution for one year.
- Institution must provide prospect with athletic financial aid in conjunction with the NLI.
- Athletic aid is for **one year only**, renewed on a year-to year basis.





**Who Should Register**  
**with the NCAA Eligibility Center?**

A student who plans to attend an  
NCAA Division I or II institution

*and*

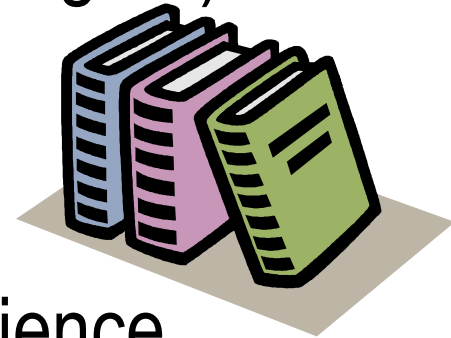
who wishes to participate in  
intercollegiate athletics.

# NCAA Division I

## Core-Course Requirements (Current)

**\* Note: Requirements will change as of August 2016 \***

- ✦ 4 years of English
- ✦ 3 years of Math (at level of Algebra I or higher)
- ✦ 2 years of Science (one must be a lab)
- ✦ 2 years of Social Studies
- ✦ 1 year of additional English, Math or Science
- ✦ 4 years of additional core-course units from any category above and/or Foreign Language



# NCAA Division I

## Changes in effect August 2016

- Applies to HS graduating classes of **2015** & beyond
- Three possible eligibility outcomes:
  1. Full qualifier = competition, athletics aid (scholarship), and practice the first year.
  2. Academic redshirt = athletics aid the first year, can practice in first regular academic term.
  3. Nonqualifier = no athletics aid, practice or competition the first year.

# Summary of Div. I Changes

- Minimum core-course GPA of 2.3 required to be a full qualifier.
- Change in GPA/test score index (see sliding scale handout)
- Ten core courses required before the beginning of senior year: **seven** must be in the areas of **English, math, or science**. These courses become “locked in” for the purpose of GPA calculation. A repeat of one of the “locked in” courses will not be used if taken after the senior year begins.

# NCAA Division II Core-Course Requirements

*\* Division II Now Requires 16 courses! \**



- ✦ 3 years of English
- ✦ 2 years of Math (at Algebra I or higher)
- ✦ 2 years of Science (one must be a lab)
- ✦ 3 years of additional English, Math or Science
- ✦ 2 years of Social Studies
- ✦ 4 years of additional core-course units from any category above and/or Foreign Language

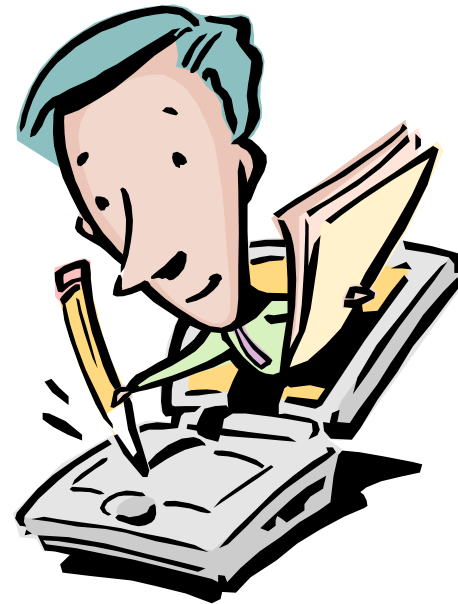
# Exam Scores, GPA and Division I Eligibility

- For **Division I eligibility**, the NCAA uses a sliding scale to compare Core GPA to SAT and/or ACT scores (see handout).
- A student's "Core GPA" is determined by the NCAA using the following system:

A= 4 points	C= 2 points
B= 3 points	D= 1 point

# Division II Requirements For Exam Score & GPA

- There is NO sliding scale for Division II. Instead, there are minimum academic standards:
- Core Course GPA of 2.000 AND
- Combined SAT score of 820  
(on 1600 scale)
- OR Combined ACT score of 68



# Four Parts of Initial Eligibility

1. Graduation from high school.
2. Completion of **16** core courses
3. Minimum ACT or SAT test score.
4. Minimum core grade-point average.





# Notes on Eligibility Center Registration



You may register online during your junior year- but remember...



The Eligibility Center will not process a transcript with fewer than six high school semesters represented! This means that your transcript cannot be sent until you have completed your junior year.



Your ***final transcript*** will automatically be sent to the NCAA by the Guidance Department after graduation in June. (No need to call to request.)

# Steps to Eligibility Center Registration

1. Go to [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)
2. Complete all necessary information and submit payment.
3. Inform the Guidance Department that you have registered. If you have completed your junior year, we will forward your official transcript to the NCAA for preliminary review.
4. Send your own official SAT/ACT scores directly to the Eligibility Center (use code 9999).
5. You will receive a preliminary report from the Eligibility Center.





# NOTE

## Transcript Accuracy is Vital!

- Once the Eligibility Center receives an official transcript, a revised transcript can not be used!
- Seniors were given their transcripts for final review in September of Senior Year.

# When Does a Student Receive a Preliminary Report?

The Eligibility Center prioritizes incoming information by the following categories:

1. Students who are being actively recruited by an institution and are on an institutional request list;
2. Students with disabilities who have registered with NCAA disability services;
3. Students who request a report.

***NOTE: The Eligibility Center begins transcript review  
NO EARLIER THAN October of Senior Year!***

# College Search Overview

- Consult with your Guidance Counselor.
- Attend college fairs.
- Use “Big Future” college search online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) .
- Visit [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) and click on the “Sports” tab to see a list of sports, sorted by schools, regions and divisions.

# Watch Those Deadlines!!



- **Admissions Deadlines Vary!** It is the student's responsibility to submit his/her application on time.
- **Athletics** and **Admissions** are two separate departments within any college! Even if you are in constant contact with coaches, you **MUST** carefully follow college application rules!

# Questions?



NCAA Customer Service: (877) 262-1492

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*Thanks for Attending!*