NCAA ELIGIBILITY UPDATES

Division I

For many athletes who dream of playing Division I athletics, their high school careers can be a numbers game. Are they scoring enough points? Running fast enough times? Completing enough passes? You may even have given them another number to think about: 2.3, the minimum high school GPA needed for a Division I freshman to compete if they enroll full time on or after August 1, 2016.

But did you know all your high school athletes who aspire to play Division I also need to remember the numbers 16, 10 and 7? Starting August 1, 2016, high school graduates (current senior class) must meet the following core-course requirements to compete in their first year at a Division I school:

16 Students must complete 16 core courses.

10 Students must complete 10 of their core courses before the start of their seventh high school semester. For most students, that is the start of their senior year.

7 Students must complete 7 of their 10 core courses in English, math or science.

Students have until the start of their seventh semester to complete their 10 core courses. That may mean summer school for students who are finishing their sixth semester without the necessary 10 core courses. Just remember that summer school courses must be on your school's approved list, as well as completed before the first day of the student's seventh semester.

Division II

Division II also has increased its minimum GPA from a 2.0 to a 2.2, effective for Division II freshmen to compete if they enroll full time on or after August 1, 2018. Division II has also adopted a sliding scale of GPA and SAT/ACT scores, similar to Division I. To read more about these rule changes and to see the new Division II sliding scales, go to *www.ncaa.org/playcollegesports.*

Check the List!

All classes must be approved by the NCAA to count toward the 16 core-course requirement. This includes traditional brick-and-mortar programs as well as nontraditional (online, independent study, etc.) programs. To determine if a school has a list of NCAA courses, go to *www.eligibilitycenter.org* to search our school database.

SAT Changes

The SAT is changing, and the redesigned test will be offered for the first time in March 2016. The NCAA Eligibility Center will not combine section scores from the current and redesigned SAT when determining a student-athlete's initial eligibility. The NCAA Eligibility Center will only combine section scores from the same version of the test. Additional information on changes to the SAT can be found at *www.collegeboard.org.*

Transcript Upload

Did you know that high school administrators can upload student transcripts directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center? Uploaded transcripts are available to our certifiers almost instantly; no more waiting for days for transcripts to arrive in the mail.

Primary Takeaway

If your athletes want to play NCAA Division I or II sports, they need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. That means they need to be more than a great athlete. They need to be a great student, also. You are an integral part in helping spread the word about these academic standards. We need your help in emphasizing that from the beginning of ninth grade, courses and grades are more important than ever.

CHECKLIST

How You Can Help

- Visit *NFHSLearn.com* and join the more than 6,000 other individuals who have completed the free online NCAA Initial-Eligibility course.
- Make sure your athletes who want to play sports in college register at eligibilitycenter.org.
- Share information: Talk to coaches, counselors, parents and athletes about the upcoming increase in academic standards.
- Spread the word to your colleagues in the scholastic and non-scholastic coaching communities.
- Use NCAA Eligibility Center resources:
  - *www.ncaa.org/playcollegesports*
  - *www.eligibilitycenter.org*
  - *www.2point3.org* **IAA**