

Information for Student Athletes

Athletic ability is a specialty that can make a difference in the college admissions and financial aid process. At most colleges, athletics are regulated by the rules established by the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) or NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics). The recruitment and enrollment of college athletes are governed firmly by the NCAA's and NAIA's rules.

To be eligible to participate at the NCAA Division I or II level and NAIA, where full athletic scholarships are awarded, students must be certified as eligible by the NCAA/NAIA Eligibility Center. Additional information is available at www.eligibilitycenter.org or <http://www.playnaia.org/>

At a NCAA Division III college, where athletic scholarships are not awarded, admission offices generally look favorably upon student athletes who also meet the college's academic entrance requirements.

Suggestions for the student athlete:

- **Inform your high school coach that you are interested in playing that sport in college.** Ask the coach when he/she would be available to meet with college coaches to discuss your performance.
- Prepare and mail a short letter of introduction and an athletic resume to college coaches in your schools of interest.
- Become familiar with the NCAA/NAIA rules regarding the recruitment of athletes.

The School Counseling Department suggests that student athletes:

- Inform their counselor that they are interested in competing in athletics at the college level during their junior year. Counselors can outline the athletic recruiting process and what the role of the student should be in the process.
- Register with the NCAA or NAIA Eligibility Center if planning to play a sport at college by the end of your junior year.
- Make an appointment with your counselor to assure that you are taking courses from an approved core curriculum.