



NCAA Initial Eligibility & Introduction to Recruitment

Fox Valley
Strikers

What is the NCAA "Clearinghouse"?

- Established in 1995 to ensure equity in determining academic initial eligibility
 - colleges/universities had previously established eligibility status of their incoming student-athletes
 - many inequities existed nationwide
- As of November 1st: NCAA 'Eligibility Center'
 - Oversight moved from ACT (Iowa City) to the NCAA (Indianapolis)



NCAA Eligibility Center

- Determines the academic eligibility status of high school seniors to play NCAA intercollegiate athletics as first year college students
- Data base for all collegiate athletic departments to access a student-athlete's eligibility status

New during Fall 2007: NCAA Amateurism Clearinghouse

• Required for all freshmen / transfers

- Register beginning as a junior in high school
- On-line registration

• For both domestic and international students

- Provides consistent information across country
- Growingly more difficult for colleges to establish amateurism status
 - What's amateur/professional in foreign countries
 - Large number of domestic leagues being created



NCAA Amateurism Clearinghouse

- Student must answer several questions regarding sports participation history
- Final NCAA amateurism certification: end of prospects senior year
- Colleges responsible for amateurism issues from June – August

Amateurism Rules to be Certified – mostly D-I

- ⦿ Contracts with a professional team
- ⦿ Salary for participating in athletics
- ⦿ Prize money about actual and necessary expenses
- ⦿ Play with professionals
- ⦿ Tryouts, practice or competition with a professional team
- ⦿ Benefits from an agent or prospective agent (D-II)
- ⦿ Agreement to be represented by an agent (D-II)
- ⦿ Organized-competition rule (D-II)

NCAA Academic Eligibility Terminology:

• Qualifier -

- meets test / GPA index minimums
- eligible to practice/ compete/ receive athletic aid during initial year of collegiate enrollment

• Non-Qualifier –

- does not meet minimum test / GPA index requirements
- **NOT** eligible to practice / compete / receive athletic aid during initial year of collegiate enrollment
- eligible for 3 seasons of competition*
- *may earn 4th season of competition if earns 80% of their degree by the beginning of the 5th academic year

How do I become a *Qualifier* ? - ***NCAA Division I & II*

- Graduate from High School
- Successfully complete 16 HS 'Core Courses' for NCAA **Division I** competition
- Successfully complete 14 HS 'Core Courses' for NCAA **Division II** competition
- Meet NCAA Index Requirements
 - Core Course GPA (out of 4.00)
 - ACT sum score
 - SAT total
 - Currently no "writing component" is included in the calculations (SAT)



NCAA Division III

- No additional standards for Initial (Freshman) Academic Eligibility; Needs only to:
 - Be enrolled at least a minimum full-time enrollment
 - Be in good academic standing (determined by the institution)
 - Maintain satisfactory progress toward degree



NAIA Initial Eligibility

- Must meet two of the three entry level requirements:
 - have achieved an 18 on ACT or 860 on SAT (SAT's Reading and Math only) – National Test
 - High School GPA of 2.00
 - Graduate in upper half of student's high school graduating class
- Home-schooled students must meet ACT or SAT requirement and receive certificate granted by the state verifying completion of home schooling requirements

What are Considered Core Courses?

- 4 yrs. - English (D-I); . . .3 yrs. - (D-II)
- 3 yrs. - Mathematics (Algebra 1 or higher);
. . . 2 yrs. (DII)
- 2 yrs. – Natural / Physical Science – w/ lab
- 1 yr. - Additional English/Math/Science (D-I)
. . . 2 yrs. – (D-II)
- 2 yrs. - Social Science
- 4 yrs. - Additional Academic Courses (e.g., foreign language / philosophy / or above courses)
. . .3 yrs. – (DII)
- **Total: 16 core courses-DI; 14 core courses-DII**

New Core Course Rule - DI: Effective August 1, 2007

- If student graduates when anticipated (with their 'class')
- May take ONE core course during the summer prior to initial collegiate enrollment
 - May be used to obtain 16 core courses
 - May be used to meet GPA requirement
- Course may be taken at a location *other than* high school from which student graduated
- May not receive institutional financial aid while enrolled in the course

Calculating Core GPA

☉ Quality Points:

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

☉ Multiply your core course grades by quality points and divide by the number of courses

☉ Core Courses – established by every High School (You must be aware of yours!!)

- available at your HS Guidance Office
- available on web sites:
- NCAA Clearinghouse:
 - ncaaclearinghouse.net
 - ncaa.org

Qualifier Index

Division I:

<u>Core GPA</u>	<u>ACT</u>	<u>SAT</u>
• 3.55+	37	400
• 3.25	46	520
• 3.00	52	620
• 2.75	59	720
• 2.50	68	820
• 2.25	77	920
• 2.00	86	1010

Division II:

- Minimum GPA: 2.00
- Minimum combined score on SAT of 820
- Minimum sum score on ACT of 68

Course Work Provisions:

☉ Acceptable:

- ☉ home-schooling*
- ☉ learning disability*
- ☉ internet/independent study courses*
- ☉ College courses
- ☉ pass/fail courses
- ☉ non-standard test procedures*
- ☉ English as second language – waiver process only
- ☉ * if meets NCAA standards & with proper documentation

☉ NOT Acceptable:

- ☉ Prep/remedial classes – including classes with an ESL component
- ☉ credit-by-exam courses
- ☉ vocational courses
- ☉ ANY courses taken in 8th grade (*even foreign language courses*)

ACT (SAT) Tests

- ⊗ Test score must be achieved 'under national testing conditions on a national testing date'
- ⊗ However (8/06): ACT taken during the Prairie State exams can be utilized for both:
 - NCAA Initial Eligibility
 - NCAA Official Campus Visit
- ⊗ Also: can use PLAN / PSAT for NCAA Official Campus Visit but not Initial Eligibility
- ⊗ NEW (8/07): Test score reporting to NCAA Eligibility Center *MUST* come directly from the testing agency

When Should I Apply to the NCAA Clearinghouse?

- Can apply as a Senior or as a Junior
- **Optimal:** After completion of your Junior Year in high school
 - have enough core courses to begin processing
 - most likely taken at least one ACT/SAT
 - collegiate coaches can access your information after/around July 1st

NCAA Eligibility Center: Waiver of Initial Eligibility Criteria

Proposal 2007-63, (sponsored by the AEC Cabinet)
effective date: August 1, 2008

It provides for early certification if a prospect has achieved both of the following criteria:

- SAT of 1000 or an ACT of 85, and
 - Core Course GPA of 3.0 in 13 core courses through 6 semesters
 - The courses must include three in English, two in math, two in science, and six additional in any area.
- Proposal 2007-63, if it passes, will be available for students entering college after **8/1/07**.

How do I Apply to the Eligibility Center?

• ncaaclearinghouse.net

• select:

Perspective student-athlete

- Follow instructions
- Register: \$50.00 – credit card
- (also access: List of high school core courses)

• Recommended Reading:

- Guide to the College Bound Student-Athlete

• Must forward official HS transcript*

- *EACH high school you attended with test score OR
- test score directly from ACT or SAT centers (code 9999)

• HS will need to forward **FINAL** official transcript w/ **graduation date posted** for final certification



NCAA Recruiting Regulations:

A brief overview . . .

Scholarships for Soccer – NCAA / NAIA

☼ Men's Soccer

- ☼ Division I: 9.9
- ☼ Division II: 9.0
- ☼ Division III: none

- ☼ NAIA: 12.0

☼ Women's Soccer

- ☼ Division I: 14.0
- ☼ Division II: 9.9
- ☼ Division III: none

- ☼ NAIA: 12.0

NCAA's Telephone Regulations for Recruiting:

- You may telephone the coach as often as you would like (fr./so./jr./sr.)
- Most sports - coach may telephone you:
 - After July 1st after junior year:
 - Only one time / week
- Exceptions – unlimited calls:
 - 5 days prior to official visit
 - day of coach's off-campus contact
 - Initial day of National Letter of Intent (NLI) signing and 2 days after

Yet More Telephone Regs / Electronic Communication

• Telephone:

- Unlimited calls after sign NLI
- Once college calls that week – cannot leave messages on voicemail
- No calls during prospect's competition
- Legislation meant for prospect and parents/legal guardian

• Electronic Communication:

- ONLY e-mails and facsimiles
 - All other forms are prohibited
 - Inclusive of text messaging
- Unlimited except during prospect's competition
- E-mail:
 - May include color attachments
 - Attachments may not be animated/video

Printed Recruiting Materials

- Camp brochure/questionnaire
(can send any time)
- Cannot send other materials until Sept. 1st -Junior year
(MBB – June 15th after Sophomore year)
 - General correspondence
 - Business card
 - Any Non-athletics publications
 - NCAA educational materials
 - **ONE** athletics recruiting brochure/media guide
 - Institutional note cards
- *Only* National Letter of Intent may be sent by Express Mail

Other Recruiting Materials

- **Game Program:**
only provided during official or unofficial visits;
cannot be sent
- **Highlight video:** only shown – not sent/left
- **Computer recruiting presentation:**
in-home or during official / unofficial visits
- May post other materials or information on website
but institutions may not copy from website and send

NCAA's Contact/Evaluation Recruiting Regulations:

: Men's and Women's Soccer

- ⊗ 7 recruiting opportunities
- ⊗ contacts / evaluations
- ⊗ After July 1st - maximum of 3 contacts (including parents) – off-campus

**unlimited contacts after sign National Letter of Intent

Campus Visits

⊙ NCAA Official Visit

- must present transcript and test score – *national test date; Prairie State ACT test; PLAN or PSAT*
- 48 hours maximum stay
- Meal/lodging expenses paid for prospect/parent - no siblings may receive expenses
- assigned to a Student Host - \$30.00 / day max. - for entertainment – no memorabilia
- 3 complimentary admissions

⊙ Unofficial Visits –

- you pay all expenses
- may visit as often as you would like
- 3 complimentary admissions

Other NCAA Regulations:

• Boosters:

- established relationship with institution (donor)
- cannot contact / telephone you during recruitment process
- after sign NLI: can help with summer employment only

• National Letter of Intent:

- Specific times based on sport
- must be accompanied by Athletic Scholarship

Once at Institution:

Continuing Eligibility Standards

- ⦿ Maintain full-time status (12 credit hours)
- ⦿ Earn minimum GPA (NCAA or institution)
- ⦿ Satisfactorily complete 24 semester hours of degree credit your first academic year
 - academic year = fall / spring / summer
 - thereafter, you must earn minimum 18 'degree relevant' hours during fall/spring
 - earn 6 'degree relevant' hours / semester to compete – no summer make up
- ⦿ Declare academic major prior to **5th** semester
- ⦿ **40 – 60 – 80 %** of degree completed by **5th -7th -9th** semester respectively

Getting recruited . . .

Where do I start?

- ncaa.org – list of schools offering your sport – by division
- You need to decide:
 - close / far from home
 - Large school / small school / or in between
 - Possible major course of study
 - Big fish/small pond or small fish/big pond
 - Male coach / female coach
- Ask your coaches (or others who know you) for unbiased assessment of your talent level (D-I / D-II / D-III / or NAIA)

Getting recruited . . .

How do I get noticed?

☉ Be proactive in your recruitment

- ☉ Telephone coaches
 - coaches cannot return your calls until after July 1st before sr. year
- ☉ E-mail coaches
 - coaches can e-mail only during you jr. & sr. year
- ☉ Send resume and video tape
 - probably after jr. year
- ☉ Send your schedule; invite coaches to attend
- ☉ Visit campuses – anytime!
- ☉ Attend practices / competitions
 - 3 complimentary tickets for all unofficial visits
 - unofficial visits may occur at any time (except NCAA ‘dead period’)
- ☉ If possible, talk with current team members – is this the place for me?
- ☉ Recruiting Services – cannot provide more than you can accomplish on your own (*personal comment*)

More Questions??

- Call, e-mail, or stop by . . .
- Bobbie Cesarek
Associate Athletics Director - Compliance
Intercollegiate Athletics
200J Convocation Center
Northern Illinois University
- (815) 753-9474
- bcesarek@niu.edu