GET IN THE GAME!
Student Athletes & the College Admission Process
TAKE RIGOROUS COURSES, STUDY HARD

• Take college-prep courses
• Keep your grades up
• Remember student athletes need to meet academic eligibility requirements -- for colleges and for athletic organizations
BE PROACTIVE – GET NOTICED

• Contact coaches at colleges of interest
• Create highlight video and resume
• Attend sports camps
TAKE AND RETAKE TESTS TO MEET TARGET SCORES

• Take the ACT or SAT
• International students may need to take TOEFL or IELTS tests
• Send scores to college admission offices and to NCAA or NAIA
CONSIDER A RANGE OF COLLEGES

• Work with your counselor
• Set high goals, but also apply where you are likely to get in
• Have a backup plan
FILE THE FAFSA, APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

• Full scholarships and “full rides” are rare
• Submit the FAFSA as soon as possible
• CSS profile might also be required
• Work with your counselor to identify scholarships
FIND THE RIGHT “FIT”

- Research academic and athletic programs, majors, etc.
- Visit the campus, talk to students, coaches, faculty, attend a game in your sport
- Consider expectations for playing time
- Use the “broken leg” test
APPLY TO COLLEGES

- Follow instructions and meet all application requirements
- Meet all deadlines
- Know that the final decision comes from the admissions office and not athletics
KNOW WHAT YOU’RE SIGNING

• Review all official paperwork with a trusted adult
• Read Letters of Intent carefully
• Check with colleges to determine their rules
FINAL DETAILS

• Work with your counselor to ensure transcripts and proof of graduation are submitted
• Keep eligibility center account up to date
College Search Timeline

FRESHMAN YEAR
✓ Familiarize yourself with eligibility information.
✓ Plan a four-year class schedule that meets core course requirements.
✓ Explore college websites and talk with student-athletes.
✓ Develop a resume and highlight video.
✓ Consider attending a summer sports camp at a college of interest.
College Search Timeline

SOPHOMORE YEAR

✓ Continue college exploration. Start a list of prospective schools
✓ Stay focused on academics and keep your grades up.
✓ Register with the NCAA or NAIA eligibility center, if applicable.
✓ Update your resume and highlight reel.
✓ Consider making initial contact with college coaches.
✓ Consider attending a summer sports camp at a college of interest.
College Search Timeline

JUNIOR YEAR

✓ Narrow your college list. Visit schools you are interested in attending.
✓ Take the ACT or SAT. Send the scores to college athletic associations and college admissions offices.
✓ Check with school counselor to ensure your senior year courses align with requirements.
✓ Demonstrate your interest by contacting coaches, completing questionnaire.
✓ Update your resume and highlight video.
✓ Consider attending sports camps, ID camps, showcases.
College Search Timeline

SENIOR YEAR

 ✓ Submit a quality application to colleges,
 ✓ If applying Early Action or Early Decision, work with your counselor to meet deadlines.
 ✓ Retake the ACT or SAT if necessary.
 ✓ File the FAFSA as soon as possible, and file the CSS Profile, if applicable.
 ✓ Research scholarship opportunities.
 ✓ Learn about letters of intent, ask questions before signing official paperwork.
Contact coaches at the colleges in which you are interested, and give them an opportunity to see you compete.

Work with your school counselor to make sure that necessary documentation—final transcripts and proof of graduation—are forwarded to the college admissions offices as well as appropriate college athletic association.
National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)
NCAA Eligibility Center
www.eligibilitycenter.org
National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)
NAIA Eligibility Center
www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center
National Junior College Athletic Association

www.njcaa.org