

APR (Academic Progress Rate) Percentage of student-athletes that graduate. Schools that do not meet the NCAA standards risk the ability to award scholarships.

Boosters A person who represents a school's athletic interest. High school athletes may not be contacted by boosters or alumni for the purposes of influencing their selection.

Celebratory Standardized Signing Form (a form used by Division III institutions): This form is a standard NCAA-provided, non-binding athletics celebratory signing form after a college-bound student-athlete has been accepted for enrollment at a Division III school.

Club Sports Student organizations formed for competitive intercollegiate play. Most of these groups have coaches but do not receive funding from the college.

Coach Contact A questionnaire, camp brochure, letter, email, phone call, or text message directly from a member of the coaching staff to a student.

Contact A contact occurs any time a coach has any face-to-face contact with you or your parents off the college's campus and says more than a quick "hello." A contact also occurs if a coach has any contact with you or your parents at your high school or any location where you are competing or practicing. *A contact can also be an exchange of information between a coaching staff member or admissions department, and a prospective student-athlete. Contacts include camp brochures, letters, questionnaires, emails, phone calls, and video requests.*

Contact Period The period when a coach may have in-person contact with a student or his/her parents on or off college campus. The coach may watch the student compete or visit the high school. Dictated by NCAA regulations.

Combine Showcases where student-athletes perform a series of tests before coaches, recruiters, and scouts. Combines provide a venue for student-athletes to be evaluated individually. Attendance is by invitation only, and combines generally consist only of the nation's top players.

Core Course The core course is recognized as an academic, college-preparatory course that qualifies for high school graduation credit.

Core GPA The GPA of the courses the NCAA counts when determining eligibility.

Dead Period Periods of time when it is not permissible for a coach to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on- or off-campus as well as official or unofficial visits. This period is dictated by NCAA regulations and will vary by sport.

Division I or II Classification of colleges that can offer athletic scholarships. NCAA registration is required.

Division III Classification of colleges that cannot offer athletic scholarships; however, other forms of financial assistance are available. NCAA registration is not required.

Evaluation A coach's review of a student's athletic and academic ability. A coach typically evaluates a student either at his or her high school or during a showcase, combine, practice, competition, club practice, or camp.

Evaluation Period The period of time when a college coach may watch students compete or visit the high school. There is no in-person contact away from the college campus allowed during this time; however, a coach may call and write during this time.

Full Scholarship A scholarship that includes tuition, room and board, and course-related books.

Gray Shirt Student is recruited out of high school but delays full-time enrollment.

Graduation Success Rates NCAA publishes the percentage of student-athletes who graduate from the university.

Institutional Request List An institutional request list (IRL) is a list of college-bound student-athletes who an NCAA Division I and/or II school is interested in recruiting. The action of adding a college-bound student-athlete to the IRL informs the NCAA Eligibility Center of the school's interest in having an academic and amateurism certification decision for the student-athlete.

Intramural Sports Teams organized by students (or faculty members) for recreational play. Teams are put together by a captain and compete with other teams in the same institution.

NAIA National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (over 300 schools)

NCAA National Collegiate Athletic Association (over 1,000 colleges and includes DI, DII, DIII)

NCAA Clearinghouse Identification Number: The number given to individual student-athletes upon registration with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

NCAA Eligibility Center The organization responsible for certifying the academic eligibility for practice, competition, and financial aid of all prospective student-athletes for Division I and Division II.

NCAA National Letter of Intent (NLI) A legal, binding contract in which a student agrees to attend a college for one academic year. In return, a college agrees to provide the student with athletics-related financial aid for one year. The NAIA also has a separate Letter of Intent.

NJCAA National Junior College Athletic Association

Official commitment When you officially commit to attend a Division I or II college, you sign a National Letter of Intent, agreeing to attend that school for one academic year. (Equivalent to a National Letter of Intent or NLI.)

Official Visit Any visit to a college campus, paid for by the college, by the student and his parents. Before a college may invite a student for an official visit, the student must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center as well as provide the college with a copy of her high school transcript (Division I only) and ACT, SAT score.

Qualifier A qualifier is a student who has met the academic and standardized test scores required.

Quiet Period A period of time when a coach cannot have in-person contact with a student or his/her parents off of the college campus. The coach cannot evaluate a student during this time, but he/she can write or telephone during quiet periods.

Recruited A student who is recruited by a college is someone who has been called by a coach more than once, someone who has been contacted by a coach off campus, or someone who has made an official visit to a college.

Recruiting Contact Face-to-face interaction between a coach and a student-athlete or his/her parents away from the college campus, including high school competitions.

Recruit List List of athletes the coaches at an institution are actively recruiting. Typically, a student-athlete is not added to this list until the athlete has been evaluated.

Recruiting Materials Information sent by a member of a coaching staff to a student-athlete. These include camp brochures, questionnaires and letters.

Redshirt A student-athlete who does not participate for a year of competition. The player may practice and train with the team. This is often an option for new recruits who need to further develop before contributing.

Scout An individual who is certified to evaluate, educate, and empower student-athletes during the collegiate recruiting process.

Signing Date The approved times when a student-athlete is permitted to sign a National Letter of Intent to attend a specific school.

Ten-Semester/Fifteen-Quarter Clock If you play at a Division II or III school, you have the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which you are enrolled as a full-time student to complete your four seasons of participation. You use a semester or quarter any time you attend class as a full-time student or are enrolled part time and compete for the school. You do not use a term if you only attend part time with no competition or are not enrolled for a term.

Title IX Education Amendment of 1972 specifying that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

Unofficial Visit Any visit by you and your parents (paid for by you or your parent) to a college campus. The only compensation you may receive from the college is three complimentary admissions to a home athletics contest. You may make as many unofficial visits as you like and may take those visits at any time. The only time you cannot talk with a coach during an unofficial visit is during a dead or quiet period.

Verbal Commitment A student verbally indicating that he/she plans to attend a college or university and play college sports. A verbal commitment is not binding although it is a generally accepted form of commitment. This phrase is used to describe a college-bound student-athlete’s commitment to a school before he or she signs (or is able to sign) a National Letter of Intent. A college bound student-athlete can announce a verbal commitment at any time. While verbal commitments have become very popular for both college-bound student-athletes and coaches, this commitment is NOT binding for either the college-bound student-athlete or the college or university. Only the signing of the National Letter of Intent accompanied by a financial aid agreement is binding for both parties.

Walk-on A student-athlete who has not received a scholarship may be given the opportunity to “walk-on.” This person is given the chance to try to earn a position on the team and may earn a scholarship in the future.

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