

# The College Athlete

and the college recruitment  
process





## The World of College Sports

Many high school athletes look forward to a continuation of their sports in college. In many instances these expectations can be very realistic; in others, they are not. When the time comes be sure to talk to your coach, your athletic director and your counselor about college sports. These people will be able to give you the information you need to make an important transition in your life. In the meantime, keep the following pointers in mind:

- ❖ Search out the right academic program. You may not know exactly what you want to major in, but you probably have an idea of some academic choices that sound better than others do. You should also know about classes that you should take to prepare for college and that will be accepted by the NCAA.
- ❖ Find the best schools for you. When you compile a list of possible colleges be sure to develop a list that will meet your academic, career, and personal requirements. College sports last just four short years, but your career will last a lifetime. Try to remember the main reason you are going to college.
- ❖ Prepare yourself for playing sports in college by preparing early. Begin in your freshman year by learning about courses you will need to take. Apply to the Clearinghouse after your junior year of high school. Take the PSAT, SAT, and/or ACT and have your scores sent to NCAA. Prepare a resume and interest letter for teams of the schools you may be interested in. Lastly, keep up your grades, and develop a good work ethic.

# NCAA Clearinghouse

Your responsibility as a prospective student athlete

If you are planning to play a Division I or II sport, it is your responsibility to make sure the Clearinghouse has the documents it needs to certify you.

- ❖ Complete the "Student Release Form" and send to clearinghouse.
- ❖ Review with your counselor the NCAA list of Approved Core Courses to make sure you are taking courses that are acceptable by the Clearinghouse.
- ❖ Record your pin number so you can check on your certification status.

You must also send the following information to the Clearinghouse:

- ❖ Transcript
- ❖ Standardized test score (ACT and/or SAT) presented in one of two ways:
  - On the official transcript from a standard high school, or
  - As reported directly from the testing agency to the Clearinghouse by entering 9999 as a college choice on either your SAT or ACT registration form.
  - Note that Student Score Reports and scores taken directly from a Student Score Report are not usable.
- ❖ Proof of high school graduation, including specific graduation date

Prospective Student-Athletes



NCAA Student Release Form (U.S.)

NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE

In order to participate in athletics and receive athletically based financial aid, you must register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse and meet eligibility standards. If you wish to register online with the clearinghouse, you must have a valid MasterCard or VISA debit or credit card. If you received a fee waiver for the ACT or SAT exam and are requesting a waiver of the clearinghouse fee, you may complete the written version of this form available from your high-school counselor or the clearinghouse. If you register online, an authorized high-school official may validate your access to the fee waiver by following the procedures on the clearinghouse Web site.

To register with the clearinghouse, please provide the following information:

PRINT in black ink or type. Be sure to READ and follow the instructions in the insert contained in the NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.

**Section I: Student Information**

Social Security Number  -  -

Name  Last  First  MI

Address

City, State, ZIP Code

Country (If not U.S.)

Date of birth  /  /  Phone (  )  -

E-mail

School Name

Date  /  /

**Section II: List in chronological order all schools you attended during the last 12 months (including high schools that were part of your high school district.) If additional information is necessary, please attach on separate page.**

1. High School Name

H.S. Code  -  Date Entered  /  /  Date Withdrawn  /  /

2. High School Name

H.S. Code  -  Date Entered  /  /  Date Withdrawn  /  /

3. High School Name

H.S. Code  -  Date Entered  /  /  Date Withdrawn  /  /

**Section IV: Select a Personal Identification Number (PIN)**

After you submit this form, you can check on the status of your file from a touch-tone phone or at the NCAA clearinghouse Web site at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net). To access the status of your record, you must provide this 4-digit personal identification number.

Enter 4 numbers of your choice here:     (NUMBERS ONLY)

Please record this number for future reference to your record.

**Section VI: Payment \$30**

Your form will not be eligible for processing without correct payment.

VISA  MasterCard  Check/Money Order  
(Please make payable to NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse).

Card Number

Exp. Date:  /  /  Signature:

**Section VII: Authorization Signature**

I understand and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the NCAA and the Clearinghouse. I authorize the high school official to provide the Clearinghouse with my academic records, as requested, for the purpose of determining my eligibility. I understand that the Clearinghouse will not send my eligibility status to any Division I or II institution that requests it. Further, I realize that the Clearinghouse will not send my eligibility information at my request; rather, the institution must make the request for that information. Finally, I am aware that if no member institution requests my eligibility status, a final certification may not be processed. By submitting this form I understand it is my responsibility to provide accurate and true information to the NCAA Clearinghouse and to provide updated information as necessary.

I understand and agree that the information provided to the Clearinghouse for the purpose of determining my athletic eligibility may be used by the NCAA and Clearinghouse research concerning athletic eligibility, the academic preparation and performance of student-athletes, and related issues. I also understand and agree that such research may be disseminated to third parties, but that I will not be identified in any such published or distributed information. I understand that the Clearinghouse will send my eligibility status to any Division I or II institution that requests it. Further, I realize that the Clearinghouse will not send my eligibility information at my request; rather, the institution must make the request for that information. Finally, I am aware that if no member institution requests my eligibility status, a final certification may not be processed. By submitting this form I understand it is my responsibility to provide accurate and true information to the NCAA Clearinghouse and to provide updated information as necessary.

I realize that the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse takes steps that are intended to ensure that academic records and documents are properly handled, processed and assessed during evaluation of initial-eligibility status for prospective student-athletes. I also understand that in the unlikely event an error occurs in handling, shipping, processing, assessing or evaluating registration documents or academic records, the clearinghouse will correct the error, if possible, and refund the processing fee, if appropriate. I am aware that erroneous evaluations of initial eligibility are often the result of invalid or fraudulent information provided by prospective student-athletes and by academic institutions. I understand and agree that the clearinghouse is under NO duty to authenticate the validity or accuracy of academic records submitted by academic institutions or prospective student-athletes and makes all determinations of eligibility based on the documentation provided by the applicant and his or her institutions.

I understand and agree that to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, in no event will the clearinghouse be liable for any special, incidental, indirect, exemplary or consequential damages resulting from erroneous evaluation of initial-eligibility status. I further understand and agree that the remedy described above is the exclusive remedy available to prospective student-athletes for errors in handling or processing of registration records and in an evaluation of initial-eligibility status.

Student Signature:  Date

Parent/Guardian Signature:  Date

(Required if student is under 18)

**Fee Waiver**

Fee Waiver (section must be completed by an authorized high-school official)  
Verification of Fee Waiver Eligibility: I verify that the student named above has received a waiver of the  ACT or  SAT test fee (check appropriate box).

Student Release Forms may be found online at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). You can either complete the form online (which is the preferred method) or print out a PDF version and have the Guidance Office mail it in for you with your transcript.

# Questions to Ask ...

...when looking at college athletic programs.

## Ask the Recruiter:

- ❖ What position (event) do you want me to play (perform). And how many others are you recruiting for the same position?
- ❖ How do practices coincide with the classes I will be taking?
- ❖ What is expected of players during the off-season?
- ❖ What will happen to my scholarship if I am injured or ineligible to participate?
- ❖ Are there services in case I am having difficulty keeping up with my courses and need extra support?
- ❖ Are all injuries handled by team insurance?
- ❖ Does an athletic trainer travel with the team?

## Ask the Players:

- ❖ What does your typical daily schedule look like?
- ❖ What is the general attitude of the professors towards athletes? What is the attitude of non-athletes?
- ❖ Are the coaches available to help if you are having academic problems?
- ❖ Are there mandatory study hours? If so, what are they?

## Ask Yourself:

- ❖ Would I attend this school if I had no intentions of competing?
- ❖ Do the coaches and players seem genuinely concerned about each other?
- ❖ Will I be successful at this school academically? Athletically? Personally?
- ❖ Do the coaches seem concerned about academics?
- ❖ How does this school compare to others I have visited?

# Contacts and Visits

High school athletes are as bound by NCAA rules and regulations as any college player. By not following the rules you could jeopardize your athletic future. If you need clarification of these rules see your counselor, coach, or athletic director.

- ❖ A college coach can contact high school athletes only after their junior year. A contact is any face-to-face meeting involving even a simple "Hello".
- ❖ High school athletes can receive letters from college coaches, faculty members, and students, but not until after September 1<sup>st</sup> of their junior year.
- ❖ Contacts are prohibited with university boosters at any time.
- ❖ During your contact, you may not receive T-shirts, college mementos, or financial inducements to sign to a particular university.
  
- ❖ The NCAA allows "prospective student athletes" one expenses-paid visit to five different universities. Select your visits carefully. This restriction applies even if you are being recruited for more than one sport.
- ❖ You may not receive an official visit until you provide the college authorities with an official high school transcript and a score from the PSAT, PACT, plus SAT or ACT taken on a national test date.
- ❖ Each visit may not last more than 48 hours.
- ❖ You may visit any campus at any time beyond your five official visits if you pay all the expenses for each visit.

# Player Information Sheet

**The accompanying videotape illustrates the performance of:**

**Player Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**This video is a highlight of:**

- Skills \_\_\_\_\_
- Tape of Game/Contest \_\_\_\_\_  
Against (Opponent) \_\_\_\_\_

**Relevant Information:**

- Player's Position: \_\_\_\_\_
- Player's Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Jersey Color: \_\_\_\_\_
- Player size:  
Height: \_\_\_\_\_  
Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

**Relevant Game/Contest Statistics:**

**Academic/Career Information:**

- ACT Score(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- SAT Score(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Class Rank: No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ No. in class
- Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_
- Educational and Career Goals:

**High School Coach's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address and Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Athletic Director:** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name**  
Street Address  
City, State 14882  
(607) 533-Phone  
email@aol.com

December 14, 2000

Mr. Robert Ford  
Head Football Coach  
SUNY Albany  
1400 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12222

Dear Mr. Ford:

I am interested in playing football for your university. I have heard some good things about the Great Danes, and I would be proud to be a part of the team. I am sending my application to the processing center this week, and although I am undecided of a major at this time, I am thinking of Business and Computer Science as a major. Currently I have a 90.3 average and rank sixteenth in my class. I have taken the SAT and received scores of 600V and 590M.

I was a part of our High School Football team for the past 4 years. During this time I played OT/DT. This past year I was named to several select teams including Ernie Davis Exceptional Senior Game, Interscholastic Athletic Conference All-Star Team, and the News Center 7 All-Star Team. I believe my strength is being Defensive Tackle, and I am sending a video of some highlights for your review. My high school coach, Mr. Redmond, said he would be happy to provide you with any additional information. He may be reached at (607) 533-4652.

I would be interested in meeting with you and reviewing my skills and finding out about the opportunities in your program. If a meeting can be arranged, I may be reached at the above address and phone number.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Your Name



# The Letter of Interest

If a college coach has not contacted you, but you are interested in playing for a particular school, write the coach an interest letter.

Be sure to:

- ❖ Use the Coach's Name in the greeting
- ❖ Include your High School Coach's Name and phone number
- ❖ Talk about your season's playing statistics
- ❖ Talk about your interest in the college and the academic program you plan to pursue
- ❖ State desire to meet and learn more about the team

## Making Highlight Tapes

There are two types of highlight tapes: Performance and Skill

### Performance Tapes

Sometimes called a game tape, this is a video of an athlete performing in a contest usually under formidable competition. These tapes should be accompanied with a Stats sheet.

### Skill Tapes

Demonstrate the player's skills. For example, high jumping in track, ball handling in basketball, or your swing in golf. You can include footage of part of a practice.

An important note in putting together highlight tapes is to make them short.

## Player Information Sheet/Resume

Along with your letter and video tapes, you should include some additional information about yourself. This information should be written in a clear, concise format and should include your name, address, phone number, birth date, jersey number, height, weight, tournaments, season highlights, camps attended, awards and honors. You may attach a color photo of you in uniform if you play a team sport so you may be identified on your video.

Street Address  
City, State, Zip

Phone Number  
Social Security Number

# Your Name

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**High School Attended**      Lansing High School      CEEB# 332930  
Graduation Date: June 2001

**Personal Information**      Date of Birth:  
Height:    '    "      Weight:    lbs.  
Class Rank: # of 81  
SAT:    V    M      ACT: composite:  
Academic Interest: future academic major

**High School Highlights**      Varsity Sport  
Dates Played      Position  
Coach's Name      Coach's Phone #  
Season statistics  
Personal records  
School records

**Honors and Awards**      **Award/Honor**  
Date received  
**Award/Honor**  
Date received  
**Award/Honor**  
Date received  
**Award/Honor**  
Date received

**Additional Sport Experiences**      Dates      Program Name      Location  
Important Aspects  
May be work related experience (i.e. swim instructor)

**References**      Name, Address, Phone Number and How Acquainted

# The Total Sports Picture

## Divisions I Scholarships For Women

Sport	NCAA Div I Colleges	H.S. Seniors in Sport	Freshmen Scholarships Awarded	Team Scholarships (Total)	Odds of Receiving Scholarship
Volleyball	270	85,000	3	10	1:105
Soccer	90	37,500	3-4	11	1:119
F. Hockey	75	13,000	3	11	1:58
Softball	170	56,250	3	11	1:110
Swimming	160	23,375	3-4	14	1:42

## Divisions I Scholarships For Men

Sport	NCAA Div I Colleges	H.S. Seniors in Sport	Freshmen Scholarships Awarded	Team Scholarships (Total)	Odds of Receiving Scholarship
Volleyball	60	5,000	1-2	6.3	1:55
Soccer	200	60,500	2-3	9.9	1:121
Baseball	270	107,000	3	11.7	1:132
Swimming	160	19,500	2-3	9.9	1:49

