College Admissions and Athletics

OVERVIEW

As a prospective college athlete, you should spend time exploring your options in college sports and researching the most appropriate academic, social, and athletic fits for you.

First, consider how large of a role you want athletics to play in your college experience. Talk with college athletes at all levels (DI, DIII, clubs, intramurals, etc.) about the time commitment required of college athletes and the impact of athletics on their college experience. Ask yourself if you have the ability to compete at the college level and have conversations with your current coaches (MKA coaches, summer league coaches) about the possibility of participating in sports beyond MKA. Coaches’ impressions of your potential candidacy will be invaluable as you determine the level of competition that best matches your skills.

Throughout your junior and senior years, work with both your college counselor and the athletic liaison to the College Counseling Office to understand how athletics will play a role in your individual college process. Only students who are both actively recruited by college coaches and deemed likely to be an asset to that college or university’s team can expect athletics to impact college admission.

Remember that regardless of your level of athletic competition, the admission office always makes the final decision when it comes to who will be admitted to their college or university. If you are in contact with college coaches, make sure you maintain contact with the admission office, too.

ADMISSIONS PATHWAYS IN ATHLETICS

1. **Division I, II Schools**
   The NCAA eligibility center evaluates your academic record to determine if you are eligible to participate in DI, DII college athletics as a Freshman student athlete. There are many scholarships available for student athletes who participate in Division I and II, but they are not guaranteed.

2. **Division III Schools**
   If you are a Division III athlete, your eligibility will be determined by the college/university instead of the NCAA. The opportunities for athletic scholarships at the DIII level are minimal but your recruitment will impact the college admissions process.

3. **Club Sports**
   Club sports are student organized teams that are not necessarily funded by the college/university. Many club teams participate in intercollegiate competition.

4. **Intramural Sports**
   The majority of high school athletes go on to pursue Intramural Sports at the college level. Intramural sports are student organized and competitions are among fellow classmates. Traditional sports such as basketball, soccer, tennis, etc. and non-traditional sports such as ultimate frisbee and flag football can be considered intramural sports.

CONTACT WITH COLLEGE COACHES

There are specific and strict regulations on the contact between colleges and prospective student athletes. For your individual sport, familiarize yourself with the Contact Period, Quiet Period, and Dead Period.

**CONTACT PERIOD** - when coaches and members of the athletic department can be in contact with you in-person and off-campus.

**QUIET PERIOD** - when coaches and members of the athletic department can be in contact with you only on their institution's campus.

**DEAD PERIOD** - when coaches and members of the athletic department cannot be in contact with you.

For detailed information on student-athlete/coach contact, visit [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) and check out the NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.
USEFUL WEBSITES

The National Collegiate Athletic Association provides a detailed and complete resource of information for NCAA Division I, II, III athletics, rules, regulations, and eligibility requirements. This website also links you to the NCAA Clearinghouse. www.ncaa.org

The site for the National Directory of Collegiate Athletics provides access to a free recruiting guide brochure, sample athletic resumes, and tips for student athlete cover letters to colleges. www.collegiatedirectories.com/studentathletes/index.htm

Providing links to help students find colleges and universities that offer their sport of interest, this site for Link Athletics organizes information by sport, gender, and location. www.linkathletics.com

Specialized information for student athletes, their parents, and school officials on the Division III athletic process can be found here on the College Student Athletes site. www.collegestudentathletes.com

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics offers information on the approximately 300 member institutions of the NAIA. http://naia.cstv.com

TIMELINE

Freshman/Sophomore Year

Talk to MKA/community coaches about summer enrichment programs, summer camps, and/or summer leagues. Keep a record of all of your academic and athletic accomplishments for a future college resume. Finally, it surprises many families to learn that freshmen and sophomore students are eligible to receive general information from colleges and universities through the mail at any time.

Junior Year

- Watch college games at different levels of competition (sporting events at Rutgers, Princeton, Drew, etc. are right in your own back yard!).
- The NCAA only accepts test scores from The College Board or ACT directly. To submit scores directly to the NCAA, add the NCAA code, 9999, to the list of places where you want your scores sent.
- On September 1st of your Junior year, you are eligible to receive letters from college/university faculty, current students and/or coaches.
- At the end of your Junior year, register with the NCAA eligibility center. Complete the Student Release Form and amateurism form. You will also submit a $50 registration fee. Register online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net (select the Prospective Student Athlete option). Once registered, notify the CCO that you need a six-semester transcript sent to the NCAA.
- Work on a resume of your accomplishments, both academic and athletic, as well as a letter of interest to send to coaches. Also, make highlight tapes to send to college coaches.
- You may make unofficial visits to colleges. If you plan to visit the colleges you’re interested in, set up an appointment with the admission office and schedule a meeting with the assistant or head coach of your sport.
- Over the summer, play in some college showcases and let coaches know you will be there and what number you wear.

Senior Year

- Complete your academic/athletic resume to send to coaches and include with your application for admission.
- After July 1st during the summer before your Senior year, college/university faculty members and coaches may contact you by phone.
- After July 1st during the summer before your Senior year, college coaches may contact a student athlete in person, off campus.
- During your Senior year, official visits (visits that are financially funded by the college/university) are allowed.
- Remember to ultimately decide on a college or university that you love not just for athletics, but for academic and social reasons as well!