

Essential knowledge for potential college athletes and families.

Athletes and families should be familiar with both sites below NCAA and NAIA. There is a cost to register, around \$90, fee waivers may be available if you qualify for financial aid. NCAA profile pages are free and can be upgraded later, see NCAA below.

NCAA: See attached checklist and consider the following:

Profile Page Account: If you are not sure in which division you want to compete or are a domestic student-athlete who plans to compete at a Division III school, create a free Profile Page account. If at any time you wish to pursue a Division I or II path, you'll be able to transition to the right Certification account.

NCAA: <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2014/10/24/how-to-register.aspx>

NAIA: <https://www.naia.org/landing/index>

Other action items below.

- Go to a college website that you are interested in and search for the athletics page. Then choose "recruits" if that is an option. See [this sample](#) of Austin College in Sherman (Division III). Fill out interest forms. Look at who they play, those are other good potentials for playing your sport.
- Start a twitter account for recruiting. Clean up all your social media.
- Work with your high school coaches and any select or club teams. If you want it, **YOU** must be proactive. Keep grades up!
- Attend camps, showcases, etc.
- Make a sports resume. Your coaches can help you add relevant information. See sample **pages 14/15** on attachment "How to Create a College Recruiting Resume." There are also sample emails...
- Keep and digital copy of your transcript after each semester handy.
- Even though NCAA isn't requiring test scores, colleges can use them for merit scholarships, and this makes you more attractive.
- Let your counselor know you registered & your NCAA/NAIA ID#. We must upload your end of junior year transcript. And your final transcript when you graduate to the college you decide & to NCAA.
- When deciding on a college, think about what will happen if you get hurt and can't play. Will you still be happy at that college? Of course, you can transfer, but this thought should go into your decision. Many students consider the distance and schedule so that their families can come watch them compete. If you are on the fence about playing, remember you can play a year and then decide **but** if you don't play freshman year you are not likely to be able to the next year. There are perks, early registration, special tutoring, immediate friend/support group, less temptation to make poor decisions....
- Make sure coaches give you an application fee waiver or code so you don't pay it. They may give you a special link to apply when the time comes. Know your deadlines.