



COLLEGE RECRUITING BOOKLET

College Recruiting Information and Questions

- I. Athletic Scholarship availability
- II. 3 Core Pursuits
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 - b) Life
 - c) Sports
- III. Chronological Order-Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior
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I. Athletic Scholarship Availability

NCAA Division 1

- a) 287 Schools offer baseball scholarships
- b) 11.78 per year
- c) Rosters usually around 25 student athletes...can be higher

NCAA Division II

- a) 236 schools.
- b) 9 Scholarships a year,
- c) Rosters usually 22-25 student-athletes

Division III

- a) 360 schools.
- b) No athletic scholarships but do offer academic
- c) Rosters usually 22-25

NAIA

- a) 212 schools
- b) Maximum of 12 scholarships
- c) Rosters usually 22-25, varies by school
- d) Most are private schools with less than 10, 000 students.
- e) Over \$450,000,000 available in 23 sports.
- f) Minimum 860 SAT, 18 on ACT
- g) Must have 2.0 GPA
- h) Only have to satisfy 2/3 (2.0 & 860 or 18 ACT and 2.0) to be deemed eligible for NAIA.
- i) No cumulative score allowed, must be on same test on same day.

NJCAA

- a) 24 scholarships per school
- b) These are full-ride financial aid grants but some junior college's offer partial grants in aid.
- c) Top athletes of course tend to receive the best offers.
- d) There are 184 division 1 colleges and 129 division 11 colleges that offer baseball scholarships.
- e) Each college can only offer 24 in total; unlike the NCAA they cannot offer a larger number of scholarships at a lower percentage.

II. 3 Core Pursuits

1) Academics

- a) Does the school I am interested in offer the 2 Majors I am most interested in?
- b) Do they offer free tutoring services for student-athletes

2) Campus Life

- a) What activity outside of baseball does the school I am looking at offer?
- b) What type of on campus housing is available for student-athletes?

3) Athletics

- a) Who is the coach and what is their experience?
- b) How do they view me helping the program?
- c) Are there any players in front of me at my position(s)?
- d) What kind of academic support is there for the athletic program?
- e) What are their athletic facilities like?
- f) Do professional scouts attend their practices/games?

III. Chronology in High School

- a) **Freshman**-As a freshman, a student-athlete should be focusing on their core classes and acclimating to High School academically. This is the year where your grades begin to count toward your college GPA. On the field, they should be focusing on two positions at this point with open dialogue between the coach and the parents/players and also looking to play select baseball in a top notch program.
- b) **Sophomore**-Academically the course really does not change much except to begin looking at potential colleges and universities of interest and begin to gear most academic work toward college prep courses. Also, any community service work above and beyond your High School requirements looks very good on college transcripts. Athletically, this is a year to focus on adding strength through a position specific weight/agility program, really eating right and working on any weaknesses that may appear in their game through feedback from coaches they play for.
- c) **Junior**-It is now time to get with your High School Guidance Counselor and start to research as many of the colleges you are interested in utilizing the core questions in roman numeral II to help narrow down your choices. Athletically, you should begin to contact your 10 top choices of college baseball programs and send them your statistics, your HS and/or summer baseball coach contact information, video and transcripts. This is also a time to do showcase clinics or college camps as how you do at these will really help in directing you toward the right college baseball program for you. College coaches can begin to talk with you after September 1st of your junior year.
- d) **Senior**-Academically, all of your transcripts should be sent to the colleges you are applying by the end of your first semester. You should be starting the application process for any grants/loans and also make your commitment to the college baseball program of your choice before the fall is over.

There will of course be student-athletes who make their decision later for one reason or another but it is generally better to make these decisions early into your senior year. Athletically, you should try and take all 5 of your official visits by Jan. 1st of your senior year and make a decision as mentioned above. You should begin taking your official visits after the first day of your senior year (See section V).

IV. What to say and what not to say

A) What to say? Remember, college coaches are human being like the rest of us so the best course of action is to be up front and honest about your desire to play the highest possible level of baseball in college and for their program. Beyond that, ask appropriate questions. (see below)

- a) How long has the coach been there?
- b) What are there long term goals as a program?
- c) What are their needs as a college program?
- d) Ask them to send you information about the program and the university as a whole.
- e) Ask them what their team GPA was in past years?
- f) Ask permission to send them video of your via email or hard copy?
- g) Ask them if they could send you a schedule of their upcoming season and vice versa?
- h) Ask about their assistant coaches and why they chose them?
- i) Ask if they have any clinics you could attend?
- j) Ask if there are any tournaments they will be attending during the summer?

B) What not to say?

- a) Do not over commit. If a college is very interested in signing your son they may put the hard press on but you want to explore all your options until the appropriate time comes to make an official decision.
- b) Do not call/email the coach incessantly with updates of stats/games.
- c) Do not ask to come for an official visit
- d) Do not disclose amount of scholarship offers from other schools until you have narrowed your choices to your last 3 schools and all have made you offers. If you qualify for an academic scholarship then that money does not count against the total athletic scholarship budget the coach has to work with. You can see why

this is so attractive to the coach. You need to meet one or more of the following criteria to qualify. (This can vary depending on the institution).

- e) Do not tell them you do not need scholarship help
- f) Do not tell a coach you are signing a professional contract before you actually do

It is appropriate to contact schools about once a month during your junior year if both parties have interest. They may contact you more often which is good but you should allow the player to form the relationship with the coach, not the parent. Let the player ask the questions via phone or email. The player/coach relationship is the one that matters most and will go a very long way in determining the comfort level in making a commitment to play for a certain college or university.

With such a limited number of scholarships to offer, college baseball programs are eager to try and get the greatest prospects they possibly can to go play at their school and for their team. There are regulations however for contacting these players just like agents during the Major League Baseball Draft. Before September 1st of a potential college player's junior year, it is illegal for a college program to give any kind of recruiting materials to the prospect. **A phone call is not even permitted to the prospect until July 1st after his junior year.** These rules are very important for a coach to follow and failure to do so could result in a very harsh penalty to their program.

Once the player is committed to the school of their choice, there is a time range to sign their letter of intent. The early signing period for a division baseball player is between **November 8th and November 15th.** The late signing period dates for these players are **April 11 to August 1.**

Players who may have professional opportunities out of High School should not sign with an agent until after they have signed their college scholarship commitment letter or National Letter of Intent.

V. Official Visits

What is an official recruiting trip and how many can I have? It differs by division. An official visit is paid for by the school in full or in part that may include meals, travel and lodging. Remember, the official visit is permission based and you will need to provide the college coaches with a copy of your high school transcripts and standardized test scores before the visit can be offered.

Restrictions

Senior prospects who are interested in Division 1 or Division 2 programs are permitted to take a total of (5) official visits to college campuses, with no more than (1) visit to any particular institution. Prospects who are interested in Division 3 institutions, may take an unlimited number of official visits, with no more than one visit to any particular institution. Official visits to Division 3 schools are also permission based and the athlete will need to follow the same (Division 1 and 2) procedures in securing a written invitation to visit campus.

Prospects are permitted to begin taking official visits starting the first day of classes at the beginning of the senior year in high school and if a fall visit is a strong possibility, the family that takes a proactive effort in arranging the trip will have a better chance in organizing a manageable travel schedule.

VI. Helping Yourself (Video, etc.)

Many student-athletes and parents do not fully understand what exactly a college or university is looking for in order to offer them an athletic scholarship. In order to get the most opportunity for your son, a “showcase” video is often a great way to go. These video’s can then be sent via email link or burned to a disc that can be sent to any and all colleges and universities around the country. This video should include the following:

- a) A concise introduction that includes name, high school attending and where it is located and your top two positions as a baseball player.
- b) A 90 second to 2 min long video of yourself that shows you hitting, pitching, fielding, throwing, and running. Remember you are graded on 5 main tools as a ballplayer. (Speed, Average, Power, Defense, Arm Strength) This is also a sliding scale. The stronger you are in one, generally the weaker you are allowed to be in another. **This also varies by position.**

c) Your statistics. Only HS and summer ball since 9th grade statistics. Colleges are not interested in what you did in 9U select league☺ Keep your statistics updated but do not send a coach every recent game. Again, once a month is good.

*If you are sending a hard copy disk with video, please address to the recruiting coordinator at the given school with a very brief letter that includes an introduction, your most up to date statistics and a couple reasons why you are interested in that particular program.

Sample Letter

Dear Coach _____,

My name is _____ from _____, TX. I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself to you and let you know of my interest in attending _____ (college name) and becoming a part of your baseball program.

Not only is your program one of my top choices because of the success of the baseball program you have built but also _____ (college name) has a tremendous _____. (Subject, i.e. engineering program)

I have included a 90 second video of recent game footage at my top two positions and my most recent statistics. If you have any questions, my summer coach is _____ and his contact information is _____ (include name, email and telephone number).

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,

_____ (contact information including name, home address, email and phone number)

VII. The Route

No matter what school you want to attend the objectives remain the same. You need to be able to get the best academic, athletic and social experience possible that will either prepare you for life after baseball or help foster an environment to prepare you for professional baseball.

The most important question I would ask is, "If baseball were to end today, where do I get the best academic and college experience possible?" It sounds funny to ask that considering you are trying to put yourself in a position for a college athletic scholarship but because baseball is just one part of the equation then you really have to weigh the other two parts very heavily.

Some people may choose to go the Junior College route to start so it will hopefully be a catalyst to a top Division 1 baseball program where as some will choose a Division III program right out of High School and never look back. Each person is different and just because one program is in a different division from another does not mean it is necessarily a better school or baseball program for you as an individual. Please consider all your options very carefully.

VIII. Eligibility Requirements

16 core course rules apply (see below)

4 years of English
3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
2 years of natural/physical science (one must be a lab science)
1 year of additional science, math or English
2 years of social studies
4 years of additional core courses (they can be from any listed above or from non-doctrinal religion or philosophy or foreign language)

For athletes who receive a scholarship from a Division II University the old 14 core course rule will still apply, they are as follows:

3 years of English
2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
2 years of natural/physical science (one must be a lab science)
2 year of additional science, math or English
2 years of social studies
3 years of additional core courses (they can be from any listed above or from non-doctrinal religion or philosophy or foreign language)

What high school grades are needed for me to get into college? Students must graduate from High School and have a grade point average {GPA} of 2.00 in a core curriculum of 16 academic subjects for Division I and 14 subjects for division II and III. **IN ADDITION TO ANY ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP YOU MIGHT RECEIVE**, you could also get grants, loans, academic scholarships for college. If you have all your high school credits we recommend taking a class that can get you college credits. Playing a sport in college is very demanding and the easier you can make it but getting a head start on college credits will really help.

What is the SAT exam, and how do I find out when and where to take it? The SAT tests the skills you're learning in school: reading, writing and math. Each section can be scored individually and added cumulatively if you take the SAT exam more than once. (Ex. You can take your score on writing in January and add it to the Math score you get in April to get your highest cumulative score)

*This is not acceptable for NAIA schools. The score has to be on the exam taken on the same day.

Format of SAT exam

- **Reading** section-includes reading passages and sentence completions.
- **Writing** section-includes short essay, multiple-choice questions including ones identifying errors and improving grammar.
- **Math** section-includes questions on arithmetic operations, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability.

When-Most students take the SAT during the spring of their junior year of high school. We recommend taking the exam twice.

Where-Most high schools offer the SAT exam or testing centers/dates can be found on your local high school website.

The ACT

- Includes the four subject area tests and the ACT Plus includes a writing test that is 30 minutes in length
- ACT results are accepted by all 4-year colleges and universities in the United States

Format

215 multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes to complete. You will get a short break during the exam

- The ACT is administered on six test dates within the 50 United States and District of Columbia—in September, October, December, February, April, and June. We recommend taking the exam twice, once in the fall and once in the early spring.

Differences in the exams

- The ACT is an achievement test. It measures what a student-athlete has learned in school. The SAT tests reasoning and verbal abilities.
- The ACT has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test. The SAT has 3 components: Critical Reasoning, Mathematics, and a required Writing Test.
- The College Board introduced a new version of the SAT in 2005, with a **mandatory** writing test. ACT continues to offer its well-established test, plus an **optional** writing test. You take the ACT Writing Test only if required by the college(s) you're applying to.
- The SAT has a correction for guessing. That is, they take off for wrong answers. The ACT is scored based on the number of correct answers with no penalty for guessing.
- The ACT includes an Interest Inventory that allows students to evaluate their interests in various career options whereas the SAT does not.

IX. Resources

There are several resources that can help you in researching the college of your choice. Each college or university will generally have a website that will give you academic as well as athletic information. Some further useful websites are as follows.

- 1) www.Sat.collegeboard.com
- 2) www.NCAA.org
- 3) www.ShowcaseU.com
- 4) www.National-letter.org
- 5) www.Eligibilitycenter.org
- 6) Your local High School website

X. The Sliding Scale

For example, if a student-athlete earns a 3.0 grade-point average in core courses, that individual must score at least 620 on the SAT or 52 on the ACT. As the GPA increases, the required test score decreases, and vice versa. The higher the GPA, the lower the SAT or ACT scores generally allowed by the institution.

Student-athletes must complete 40 percent of the coursework required for a degree by the end of their second year, 60 percent by the end of their third year and 80 percent by the end of their fourth year. Student-athletes are allowed five years to graduate while receiving athletically related financial aid.

All student-athletes must earn a minimum of six hours each term to be eligible the next semester.

XI. Answers to Your Questions

a) **How long is my athletic scholarship for?** They are year to year and must be renewed each year. NCAA Division 1, NCAA Division 2, NAIA , NJCAA Division 1 , and NJCAA Division 2 can offer athletic scholarships. Also you should be aware that individual colleges and conferences have their own athletic scholarship rules and policies. Please visit the websites of your schools of interest to determine what their particular rules and policies may be.

b) **Do athletic scholarships last for four years?** Despite common references in news media reports, there is no such thing as a four-year scholarship. All N.C.A.A. athletic scholarships must be renewed and are not guaranteed year to year, something stated in bold letters on the organization's Web site for student-athletes. Nearly every scholarship can be canceled for almost any reason in any year, although it is unclear how often that happens. Also, more scholarship money can also be given to a student-athlete should the coach exercise that privilege.

c) **What are the differences at each Division?** **Number of required sports: Division I** members must offer at least 14 sports (at least seven for men and seven for women, or six for men and eight for women). The institution must sponsor at least two team sports (ex: football, basketball or volleyball) for each gender. The school also must have

participating male and female teams or participants in the fall, winter and spring seasons. The Division I academic-eligibility model provides a set of standards that begin when a high school student is considering becoming a Division I student-athlete and end when the student-athlete earns a degree from a Division I institution. 66% are public institutions, while 34% are private.

Division II programs must offer at least 10 sports (at least five for men and five for women, or four for men and six for women). The institution must sponsor at least two team sports for each gender. The school also must have participating male and female teams or participants in the fall, winter and spring seasons, and must have at least the minimum number of participants and contests for each sport. In Division II, 53 percent of the members are public institutions; 47 percent are private.

In **Division III**, there are no athletic scholarships, only academic. There are 447 Total Members (432 active & 15 provisional / reclassifying
20% public institutions / 80% private institutions

What do athletics scholarships cover?

Per NCAA guidelines, full scholarships do not exceed tuition and fees, room, board, and required course-related books. Most student-athletes in baseball receive athletic scholarships that only cover a portion of these costs.

What is a full athletic scholarship worth these days?

It depends on the program. At an in-state, public school in 2008, the NCAA estimates the average yearly value of a full scholarship at just under \$14,000. For an out-of-state public institution, the average cost is approximately \$24,000 per year. Full scholarships at private schools average slightly more than \$32,000. **The average cost of inflation for college is generally around 10% annually.**

Can student-athletes receive other, non-athletic financial aid?

Yes. Thousands of student-athletes benefit from academic scholarships and need-based aid, such as federal grant or loan programs. In addition, there is money available from the NCAA's own Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund.

Is an athletic scholarship the same thing as a national letter of intent?

No, but they are often confused with each other. By signing a national letter of intent, a future NCAA student-athlete ends the recruiting process with all other National Letter of Intent institutions and commits to a school for one year. In return, the student-athlete is guaranteed a one-year scholarship from that school.

Do many high school athletes earn athletics scholarships?

According to recent statistics, about 2 percent of high school athletes are awarded athletics scholarships to compete in college.

Do many NCAA student-athletes go on to play professionally?

Even fewer! Of the student-athletes participating in sports that have professional leagues, hardly any go on to be professional athletes. In reality, student-athletes depend on academics to prepare them for life after college.

What is the NCAA clearinghouse and what does it require? The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse is the organization that determines whether prospective college athletes are eligible to play sports at NCAA **Division I or Division II** institutions. It does this by reviewing the student athlete's academic record, SAT or ACT scores, and amateur status to ensure conformity with NCAA rules. You should probably register by the end of the fall of your junior year. There is no registration deadline, but students must be cleared by the clearinghouse before they receive athletic scholarships or compete at a Division I or Division II institution. You may register by visiting www.eligibilitycenter.org. They will ask you to enter personal information, answer questions about your athletic participation, and pay a registration fee. The website will then prompt you to have your high school transcript and ACT or SAT scores sent to the clearinghouse. Students should arrange to have you send their high school transcript to the clearinghouse as soon as they have completed at least six semesters of high school. The transcript must be mailed directly from their high school. (See your guidance counselor) They must also arrange to have their ACT or SAT test scores reported directly by the testing company to the clearinghouse. Students can arrange this when they register for the ACT or SAT.

NCAA Clearinghouse contact information:

NCAA Eligibility Center mailing address:
NCAA Eligibility Center
P.O. Box 7136
Indianapolis, IN 46207

What is a NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT? By signing a National Letter of Intent, a prospective student-athlete agrees to attend the designated college or university for one academic year. Pursuant to the terms of the National Letter of Intent program, participating institutions agree to provide athletics financial aid for one academic year to the student-athlete, provided he/she is admitted to the institution and is eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules. No participating institutions can continue recruitment of a prospective student-athlete once a National Letter of Intent is signed with another institution.

- Once a National Letter of Intent is signed, prospective NCAA student-athletes are no longer subject to further recruiting contacts and calls.
- Student-athletes are assured of an athletics scholarship for one full academic year.

What does **REDSHIRTING** mean? In college baseball, players have the ability to receive a redshirt. Essentially, this allows a player to spend a year practicing and training with the team but still have four years of eligibility left as long as the player doesn't reach certain minimums in playing time. In other words, an athlete that is a redshirt senior would be in his fifth year of college. Redshirting players is a common practice for college baseball teams, and as a result, the NCAA has rules that govern the practice. However, a redshirt can be given to sophomores, juniors and seniors as well as long as the player has not used up his redshirt but is generally used for baseball related injury purposes or illnesses. A

baseball player may apply for two medical redshirts during his or her college career. If a player has already received a redshirt for non-medical reasons, that player may apply for only one medical redshirt. The rule allowing for two medical redshirts is particularly useful in college baseball because arm injuries to pitchers can require more than a year to properly heal.

XII. Statistics and Market Research

***Percentage of High School Athletes who receive college scholarship:** About 2%

***Percentage of NCAA student-athletes who become professional athletes:**

Men's Basketball - 1.2%

Women's Basketball - 1.0%

Football - 1.8%

Baseball - 9.4%

Men's Ice Hockey - 3.7%

Men's Soccer - 1.7%

XIII. Now What?

There are almost 50 summer baseball leagues for collegiate athletes to compete in. Below are a list of them and they are not ranked in any particular order.

National Alliance of College Summer Baseball

- [Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League \[1\]](#)
- [Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League \[2\]](#)
- **[Cape Cod Baseball League \[3\]](#)**
- [Florida Collegiate Summer League \[4\]](#)
- [Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League \[5\]](#)
- [New York Collegiate Baseball League \[6\]](#)
- [Southern Collegiate Baseball League \[7\]](#)
- [Valley Baseball League \[8\]](#)

National Baseball Congress

- [Alaska Baseball League \[9\]](#)
- [California Collegiate League \[10\]](#)
- [Clark Griffith Collegiate Baseball League \[11\]](#)
- [Coastal Baseball League \[12\]](#)
- [Dallas Amateur Baseball Association \[13\]](#)
- [Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League \[14\]](#)
- [Jayhawk Collegiate League \[15\]](#)

- [K.I.T. League \[16\]](#)
- [M.I.N.K. Baseball League \[17\]](#)
- [Northern Illinois Baseball League](#)
- [Pacific International League \[18\]](#)
- [Pacific Southwest Baseball League \[19\]](#)
- [Rocky Mountain Baseball League \[20\]](#)
- [Sooner Collegiate League \[21\]](#)
- [Southern California Collegiate Baseball Association\[22\]](#)
- [Walter Johnson League \[23\]](#)
- [Western Baseball Association \[24\]](#)

Other Summer Leagues

- [Atlantic Baseball Confederation \[25\]](#)
- [Arizona Collegiate Wood Bat League \[26\]](#)
- [Ban Johnson Baseball League \[27\]](#)
- [Boise Collegiate Summer League \[28\]](#)
- [Carolina-Virginia Collegiate League \[29\]](#)
- [Coastal Plain League \[30\]](#)
- [Collegiate Baseball League \[31\]](#)
- [Eastern Collegiate Baseball League \[32\]](#)
- [Great South League \[33\]](#)
- [Hawaii Collegiate Baseball League \[34\]](#)
- [Horizon Air Summer Series\[35\]](#)
- [Maryland Collegiate Baseball League \[36\]](#)
- [Mountain Collegiate Baseball League \[37\]](#)
- [New England Collegiate Baseball League \[38\]](#)
- [Northwoods League \[39\]](#)
- [Pacific International League \[40\]](#)
- [Prospect League \[41\]](#)
- [River Valley League \[42\]](#)
- [Rockingham County Baseball League \[43\]](#)
- [Sooner Collegiate League \[44\]](#)
- [Sunbelt League \[45\]](#)
- [Texas Collegiate League \[46\]](#)
- [Triple Crown College Baseball League \[47\]](#)
- [West Coast Collegiate Baseball League \[48\]](#)
- [Western Major Baseball League \[49\]](#)

XIV. Survey

- 1) Was the information presented in a clear and concise manner?
- 2) Were there any topics you would like to see added to this booklet?
- 3) Did you find the presentation informative and helpful?
- 4) Do you feel the length of the verbal presentation was appropriate to cover all of the topics in the booklet?
- 5) Would you recommend this presentation to other parents of High School student-athletes?