

## The National College Planning Summit

### Keep Playing: Being Recruited to Play NAIA College Sports

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**1. For our listeners who may be unfamiliar with the NAIA, can you tell us about it?**

- a. The NAIA exists to advance character-driven, intercollegiate athletics.
- b. It provides High School Athletes the opportunity to keep playing sports while receiving an outstanding education.

**2. How many student athletes play in the NAIA today?**

- a. 65,000 Student Athletes throughout the US and Canada compete in 23 National Championships. There are thousands more playing in Invitational and Emerging Sports.

**3. How much money is given in scholarships every year to NAIA student athletes?**

- a. \$500 million in athletic scholarships is offered at NAIA colleges.

**4. What are some of the sports offered in the NAIA?**

- a. Football, Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, Basketball, Tennis, Swimming and Diving, Track and Field, Cross Country, Soccer, Wrestling, and Golf

**5. What sports are on track to become Championship Sports?**

- a. Competitive Cheer and Dance in 2016-2017
- b. Men's Volleyball and Men's and Women's Lacrosse in 2017-2018

**6. Where do Students find out what colleges are part of the NAIA?**

- a. Go to [www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org) and go to "School Search."

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### 7. How do students connect with the NAIA on Social Media?

- a. Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and YouTube

### 8. Besides fostering athletic success, the NAIA cares deeply about the character development of its student athletes - Can you tell us about the Champions of Character Program?

- a. Champions of Character provides measurable ways for athletes to make a difference in their community.
- b. It consists of 5 Core Values:
  - i. Integrity
  - ii. Respect
  - iii. Responsibility
  - iv. Sportsmanship
  - v. Servant Leadership

### 9. What is the recruiting process in the NAIA?

- a. It is very different than the NCAA recruiting rules – much simpler!
- b. There is no recruiting calendar, so reach out to NAIA coaches early in your High School career.
- c. You can communicate with the coach by phone, email, text or social media.
- d. Build personal relationships with coaches early and let them know you are interested.
- e. Student Athletes should reach out to coaches directly and not use recruiting services.

### 10. Does the NAIA offer any Showcases?

- a. Yes, they are one-day, one-stop recruiting opportunity to showcase your skills in front of coaches.
- b. Student Athletes can interact directly with the coaches.
- c. At the end of the showcase, students and parents can meet one on one with coaches.
- d. Hundreds of scholarships were offered on the spot at the showcases this summer.
- e. There is also a college fair at the showcase where admissions officers from NAIA schools are available to answer questions about their colleges.
- f. Go to [www.naiashowcase.com](http://www.naiashowcase.com) to register for the showcase.

### 11. What is the process of registering with the NAIA eligibility center?

- a. Register on line at [www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org).
- b. NAIA eligibility center is different than the NCAA eligibility center.
- c. The cost is \$75 unless you are eligible for a fee waiver, which is based on the need of the family.

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### 12. Are there any grade requirements to play NAIA sports in college?

- a. Students must meet two out of three:
  - i. Minimum 2.0 GPA (out of 4.0).
  - ii. Minimum 18 on ACT composite or Minimum 860 combined critical reading and math.
  - iii. Graduate in top 50% of your HS class.

### 13. Is there anything special to know about the SAT or ACT?

- a. The Writing section is not used to determine eligibility.
- b. You cannot combine scores from different test dates. They must be taken in one sitting.
- c. Send SAT & ACT scores directly to the NAIA Eligibility Center.
- d. NAIA Eligibility Number is 9876.

### 14. When do I send my High School Transcript to the Eligibility Center?

- a. Have your Guidance Counselor send an official transcript to the Eligibility Center after High School Graduation.
- b. All the courses must be completed, so send after graduation unless the student is Early Decision.

### 15. What does Early Decision mean in the context of the NAIA?

- a. Students qualify for Early Decision if:
  - i. They have an 18 ACT or 860 Critical Reading/Math SAT.
  - ii. 3.0 GPA after Junior year or 2.5 midway through Senior Year. (out of 4.0)
  - iii. If the student meets these requirements, they should send their transcripts early.
  - iv. The student will receive Final Eligibility Determination from the NAIA before the end of the school year.

### 16. Once I've signed up for the Eligibility Center, do I still have to apply to the college for admission?

- a. Yes, applying for Admission and registering for the Eligibility Center are two separate things.
- b. The Eligibility Centers uses transcripts and test scores to make sure you have met the minimum eligibility standards but students still need to submit an Application for Admissions to the Admissions Office.
- c. Academic requirements for the college may be different than the NAIA requirements, so always check with the college.

### 17. How do I find out if I'm eligible for any scholarships?

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- a. It is up to each college to determine the scholarship amount.

### **18. Does the NAIA award the scholarship or do the individual schools award the scholarships?**

- a. Individual colleges award the scholarships.

### **19. Can you explain the Short List? What do I have to do to get on the Short List?**

- a. These are the coach's most serious recruits.
- b. Student must be registered with the Eligibility Center to be on the Short List.
- c. Students receive priority determination with the Eligibility Center.
- d. Students should be proactive and contact the coach if they are not on the Short List.
- e. High School Students do not have to be on the Short List to receive an eligibility determination.

### **20. What does the student need to do after they have registered online?**

- a. Students have a Profile and should check their "To Do List" to make sure the Eligibility Center has received everything needed to process Eligibility.
- b. The Final Determination will also be posted to the Students Profile.
- c. Submit documents early and check your status page to avoid delays.

### **21. Can Students accept a scholarship or a place on the team before they receive a determination on their eligibility?**

- a. Yes, the student's file is not reviewed until all documents are received, so register early and submit documents as early as possible to avoid delays.
- b. You can practice with team, attend class, accept scholarships, but you cannot play competitively until the determination has been completed.

### **22. Once I'm in college do I need to stay eligible each year I play?**

- a. Yes, the college will determine if the student remains eligible under continuing eligibility rules.
- b. The Faculty Athletics Representative will be responsible for certifying the student's eligibility on a semester by semester basis.

### **23. What is the best way for High School Students to contact the NAIA?**

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