

# SO YOU WANT TO GET A SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP FOR COLLEGE!

The following information is provided by the NCAA Clearinghouse website and a conversation with Copper Hills Alumni, Nate Slack, with BYU Athletic Communications

## Know the Realities - How many athletes go pro?

Fewer than 2 percent of NCAA student-athletes go on to be professional athletes. In reality, most student-athletes depend on academics to prepare them for life after college. Education is important. There are nearly half a million NCAA student-athletes, and most of them will go pro in something other than sports.

This does not mean YOU won't have a successful career in sports. Work hard and play your best. Watch your performance with a critical eye and change what needs to be improved upon to "up your game."

## How do I get started?

Talk to your coach about your skill level and how you can improve.

## What is the best thing I can do to prepare?

Document your athletic accomplishments from the start of your sporting activities. Talk to both high school and college coaches and athletes who have earned athletic scholarships for advice.

## Why do I have to register with the NCAA/Clearinghouse to play college sports?

The NCAA Clearinghouse is an essential step in becoming eligible to play college sports. ... The Eligibility Center is the organization within the NCAA that determines the academic eligibility and amateur status for all NCAA DI and DII athletes. *If you plan to play for a DIII school, you do not need to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse.*

## When should I register?

It is not necessary to register for the NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER until after your Junior Year academically. However, come July 1 after your Junior Year, it should become your #1 Priority before vacation, games, girls, boys or anything else.

## How much does it cost to sign up for the NCAA Eligibility Center?

NCAA registration for certification accounts cost \$90 for U.S. and \$150 for international athletes. If you qualify for the federal free lunch program, you can have the NCAA fees waived by completing the NCAA fee waiver.

## What are the NCAA Eligibility Center standards I must meet?

- You must graduate from high school.
- You must successfully complete all core courses.
- You must have a minimum 2.000 GPA in core courses; and.
- You must have a minimum qualifying score on the ACT or SAT.

## What is the difference between Division I, II, III?

The division is based on the number of students attending the school. Larger student bodies are Division I schools. Students who play for a Division III school do not need to register for NCAA.

<http://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/Recruiting%20Fact%20Sheet%20WEB.pdf>

## What are college coaches looking for?

It really depends on the sport you're playing. If you're playing a sport like football or basketball, coaches try to project what your body will be like when actually you're eligible to play for them (whether it be right after high school or after a mission). Some coaches will talk to your parents about how obedient you are to their rules because it can reflect how coachable and respectful you are. I guess a short answer is it's not just how many points you score or how fast you can run. How you act at home and how well you do in the classroom can determine whether or not a coach will want to recruit you.

## What are the rules for contacting college coaches?

There are four main periods that either allow or don't allow contact. It's important to understand what/when these periods are! Those periods are briefly explained at the bottom of the page on this link: <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/recruiting>

I think the best way to go about this is to look at the recruiting calendar for whatever sport they play, because the dates vary depending on the sport. The calendars cover when the contact/eval/quiet/dead periods are in more detail.

The link to the recruiting calendars is here: <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/resources/recruiting-calendars/division-i-and-ii-recruiting-calendars>

## When can I start communicating with college coaches?

For most Division I and Division II sports, coaches can start proactively reaching out to recruits June 15 after sophomore year or September 1 of junior year. However, many coaches—think: Division I and some top-tier DII schools—will make scholarship offers to athletes as young as 7th and 8th grade.

## How can I show them my abilities?

Send lots of videos, send lots of emails, invite them to games and tournaments, and fill out recruiting forms for some of the schools you're interested in! The key is definitely being persistent.

I was talking to Coach Kalani about recruiting a few months ago and he said they watch every single highlight film sent to them, but athletes can get lost if they don't show how bad they want it.

Most schools will have forms potential recruits can fill out. Here's the link for BYU football: <https://byucougars.com/recruiting/football> and BYU basketball: <https://byucougars.com/story/m-basketball/nid/byu-mens-basketball-recruiting-form/>. The forms get the ball rolling and is the first step.

Camps during the off-season are also really important! Especially before your sophomore season. The best way to find out if schools you're interested in are having camps—aside from googling them—is just to call their athletic department. They'll connect you to who you need to talk to. It can be a little pricy, but the more camps you go to, the better off you are. Even if you're not anticipating going to a certain school, if you do well at one of their camps and receive an offer, you're very likely to receive another offer or two from schools that are used to competing against the school that offered you for recruits.

## What should be in my portfolio?

Video highlights and awards that you've received (team, district/region, state, etc.). The first 15 seconds of the highlight video is the most important. Put your very best plays first, don't insert highlights chronologically or create a grand finale. Again, coaches watch A LOT of recruit highlights and you want to stand out.

## What guidance should I expect from the high school coach and athletic director?

This one can be a little tricky. If the coach/AD have experience playing a collegiate sport, they can be really helpful. They can build relationships with the coaches recruiting you and recognize how much the school really wants you to sign. They can use their personal experiences to help you make decisions, especially if the athlete's parents are unfamiliar with how recruiting works. The athlete should develop a good relationship with his/her coach(es) and/or athletic director so they can pass positive information onto the coaches instead of the athlete having to do all the heavy lifting themselves.

## What other insights do you have to share?

The biggest thing is to be persistent! Recruiting can be frustrating and exhausting but also rewarding and a lot of fun. Take advantage of going on unofficial visits to show the schools you're serious about going there. Unlike official visits, unofficial visits are paid for by the athlete and it's not quite as intimate as an official visit, but those come as you're actually in the recruiting process instead of trying to get your foot in the door.

Similar to any other application, make sure you stand out. Include leadership opportunities in the recruiting form or emails, times you overcame something hard, times you've demonstrated hard work. Good grades help a lot too.

Don't be afraid to ask people for advice or suggestions. Most people love sports and want you to succeed, including people you may not know very well.