

During the recruitment process, it's important to understand the rules that coaches and players are required to follow. One mistake players often make is going up to talk to a coach they see at a tournament. NCAA rules state that coaches are not allowed to talk with players until the event or practice is complete and the players' coach has released them for the day.

In addition, coaches can get irritated when players do not know the contact rules. It is important to take the time to learn the information below.

NCAA Division 1 Softball Recruiting Rules

It is important for potential prospects to know the NCAA Division 1 Softball Recruiting Rules. Athletes and coaches have certain restrictions when it comes to college basketball recruiting. Ensure your eligibility by following the NCAA recruiting rules.

As a Sophomore in high school

Recruiting Tactic	As a Sophomore
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Recruiting Material	You may receive brochures for camps and questionnaires.
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Telephone Calls	You can call the coach at your own expense. Coach cannot call you.
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Off-Campus Contact	Not Permitted
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Official Visits	Not Permitted
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Unofficial Visits	Unlimited
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As a Junior in high school

Recruiting Tactic	As a Junior
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Recruiting Material	You can begin to receive recruiting material and information from the coach on September 1st.
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Telephone Calls	You can call the coach at your own expense. You can receive one per week starting July 1st after your Junior year Telephone calls are unlimited during contact periods.
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Off-Campus Contact	Allowed July 1st after your Junior year.
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Official Visits	One per college and a maximum of 5 visits to D1 schools.
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Unofficial Visits	Unlimited
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As a Senior in high school

Recruiting Tactic	As a Senior
Recruiting Material	You can receive material and information from the coach
Telephone Calls	You can call the coach at your own expense. Coach can call you once per week starting July 1st. Telephone calls are unlimited during contact periods.
Off-Campus Contact	Allowed but no more than 3 times.
Official Visits	You can start official visits on the opening day of your classes. You get one per college and a maximum of 5 visits to D1 schools, and unlimited for D2, D3 and NAIA schools.
Unofficial visits	Unlimited

Source: <https://www.ncsasports.org/ncaa-eligibility-center/recruiting-rules>

<https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2021/2/10/recruiting-calendars-faq.aspx>

Other important information

- College coaches have 50 days in which to evaluate you. They cannot exceed that number.
 - College coaches can evaluate and/or contact you no more than 7 times during your senior year.
 - During your senior year, a college coach cannot contact you more than 3 times.
 - In those states that play high school softball season in the fall, evaluations shall be permissible during those seasons, except during dead periods.
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NCAA Division 2 Softball Recruiting Rules

It is important for potential prospects to know the NCAA Division 2 Softball Recruiting Rules. Athletes and coaches have certain restrictions when it comes to college recruiting. Ensure your eligibility by following the NCAA recruiting rules.

As a Sophomore in high school

Recruiting Tactic	As a Sophomore
Recruiting Material	You may receive brochures for camps and questionnaires.
Telephone Calls	You can call the coach at your own expense. After June 15th coaches can call, text, and email you unlimited.
Off-Campus Contact	After June 15 of your Sophomore year, these contacts are unlimited.
Official Visits	Not Permitted
Unofficial Visits	Unlimited

As a Junior in high school

Recruiting Tactic	As a Junior
Recruiting Material	You can begin to receive recruiting material and information from the coach.
Telephone Calls	You can call the coach at your own expense. College coach can call, text, and email you unlimited.
Off-Campus Contact	Unlimited
Official Visits	Unlimited
Unofficial Visits	Unlimited

As a Senior in high school

Recruiting Tactic	As a Senior
Recruiting Material	You can receive material and information from the coach
Telephone Calls	You can call the coach at your own expense. College coach can call, text, and email you unlimited.
Off-Campus Contact	Unlimited
Official Visits	Unlimited
Unofficial visits	Unlimited

Source: <https://www.ncsasports.org/ncaa-eligibility-center/recruiting-rules#top>

<https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2021/2/10/recruiting-calendars-faq.aspx>

Other important information

- Division 2 does not have any rules on the number of evaluations per student athletes.
 - College coaches cannot contact you on competition or practice days until your event is finished, and you are dismissed by the proper authority (like your high school coach or athletic director).
 - During a contact period college coaches can make only one visit per week to your high school.
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The NCAA oversees the NCAA Division 3 recruiting operations. The Division 3 recruiting rules are more relaxed than the other NCAA divisions. There are no set NCAA Division 3 Recruiting Calendars. College coaches at the NCAA Division 3 level can contact and recruit without certain dead periods, contact periods, and quiet periods. Without the big athletic recruiting budgets like at the Division 1 level, the flexibility in recruiting at the Division 3 level helps level the playing field. Division 3 schools cannot offer athletic scholarship money, only academic monies. Recruits with good grads have a better chance at getting recruited and scholarship money at the Division 3 level. **Each year nearly 184,000 student-athletes from 450 member colleges compete in 28 different sports at the Division 3 level.** When being contacted by coaches make sure you are not jeopardizing your eligibility. Below is a chart that can help.

NCAA Division 3 Recruiting Rules

As a Sophomore and Freshman in high school

Recruiting Tactic	As a Sophomore and Freshman
Recruiting Material	You may receive brochures for camps and questionnaires. You can receive recruiting information and material from college coaches.
Telephone Calls	You can call the coach at your own expense. College coach can call you an unlimited number of times.
Off-Campus Contact	Allowed after your sophomore year.
Official Visits	Not Permitted
Unofficial Visits	Unlimited

As a Junior in High School

Recruiting Tactic	As a Junior
Recruiting Material	You can receive recruiting material and information from the coach.
Telephone Calls	You can call the coach at your own expense. College coach can call you an unlimited number of times.
Off-Campus Contact	Allowed
Official Visits	Allowed beginning January 1st
Unofficial Visits	Unlimited

As a Senior in high school

Recruiting Tactic	As a Senior
Recruiting Material	You can receive material and information from the coach
Telephone Calls	You can call the coach at your own expense. College coaches can call you an unlimited number of times.
Off-Campus Contact	Allowed
Official Visits	You can start official visits on the opening day of your classes. You get one per college.
Unofficial visits	Unlimited

Other important Division 3 Recruiting information

- Division III does not have any rules on the number of evaluations/contacts per student-athlete.
- College coaches cannot contact you on competition or practice days until your event is finished, and you are dismissed by the proper authority (like your high school coach or athletic director).
- During a contact period college coaches can make only one visit per week to your high school.
- A college coach can evaluate a potential recruit at all-star games throughout the year. There are no limitations for the college coach except that the game has to occur within the state that their university is located.

Source: <https://recruitlook.com/ncaa-d3-rules-and-calendar/>

NAIA Recruiting Information

The NAIA has around 300 colleges and universities. The appeal that the NAIA has to offer is their smaller class sizes and tight knit campus communities, the ability to transfer and not lose any eligibility, there are fewer recruiting rules and restrictions, and you have the opportunity to compete for championships. Not everyone has the ability or the academics to play NCAA sports. The NAIA is a terrific chance for any student athlete looking to earn a scholarship.

Each NAIA institution will have their own academic requirements that you must meet, and the NAIA association has an overview of recruiting rules and requirements that student-athletes must meet.

Student-athletes must meet 2 of the 3 requirements below in order to be eligible for the NAIA:

1. Achieve a minimum of 18 on the ACT or 860 on the SAT.
2. Achieve a minimum overall high school GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Graduate in the top half of your graduating class.

If you are looking to play college athletics at the NAIA level, you must follow these steps:

1. Register with the [NAIA Eligibility Center](#) and pay the \$70 fee (\$120 for international students).
2. Submit your info: contact info, address, high school attended, sport(s) played.
3. Insert the code: 9876 when taking the ACT and/or SAT on the lists of places test scores should be sent.
4. Have your guidance counselor send your official transcripts to the NAIA Eligibility Center (address below)

NAIA Eligibility Center – Transcripts
P.O. Box 15340
Kansas City, MO 64106

***The NAIA and NCAA are two separate associations, with different rules and eligibility process. Your eligibility with the NCAA is separate from your eligibility with the NAIA.**

Quick Facts About The NAIA

1. The NAIA sponsors 13 sports and determines 23 national championships.
2. 60,000 student athletes compete at NAIA member schools.
3. There are nearly 300 NAIA colleges and universities.
4. NAIA schools award more than \$500 million in financial aid each year.

Does The NAIA have national letters of intent?

As an association, the NAIA does not have a letter of intent program in which students sign a binding agreement to participate in athletics at a particular institution. Student-athletes may sign letters of intent with an individual NAIA school, however, they aren't obligated to

attend that institution. That said, some NAIA conferences require their member schools to recognize letters of intent that are signed with other institutions within the conference. Please check with your prospective school to see if any conference programs apply.

What are the amount of scholarships awarded at the NAIA level?

Each sport has scholarship limits set by the NAIA, but those scholarships can be dispensed as partial awards to spread financial aid around among athletes. Each sport has an overall limit on the amount of financial aid it can award as full or partial. Softball = 10 scholarships

Source: <https://recruitlook.com/naia-recruiting-information/>

JUCO Recruiting

Going the junior college route gives you the opportunity to improve your athletic skills while earning credits toward a degree. You can transfer after two years, and still have two years of playing eligibility. Many coaches are now looking for junior college prospects to come in and compete right away.

The NJCAA serves as the national governing body for two-year college athletics in the United States and is the nation's second-largest national intercollegiate sports organization (second to the NCAA). **Each year nearly 60,000 student-athletes from 525 member colleges compete in 28 different sports.**

What are the eligibility requirements for junior college?

Every student must be a high school graduate with an academic diploma, general education diploma or a State Department of Education approved high school equivalency test. Each institution is different when it comes to academic eligibility requirements. It is recommended that each potential student-athlete discuss their athletic eligibility with the specific college.

What are the junior college recruiting rules?

No institution shall permit an athlete to be solicited to attend by the promise of a gift or inducement other than an athletic scholarship.

An institution may pay for one visit to its campus by direct route, for a stay not to exceed two days and two nights. The paid visit must be limited to the campus and local community where the college is located.

A student-athlete must have completed his/her junior year in high school in order to receive an official recruiting visit by a member NJCAA college.

While recruiting a potential athlete on campus, a college representative may purchase meals for the athlete. The value of the meals may not exceed the amount provided to a college employee while traveling on college business.

Does the NJCAA have National Letter of Intent?

The NJCAA Letter of Intent is used to commit an individual to a specific institution for a period of one academic year. The form is only valid for NJCAA member colleges and has no jurisdiction over NCAA or NAIA colleges. The student may not, however, sign a NJCAA Letter of Intent with two NJCAA colleges. If a student does sign with two NJCAA colleges, that student will become immediately ineligible to compete in NJCAA competition for the next academic year in any sport.

What type of scholarship funds can NJCAA schools offer.

Each institution belonging to the NJCAA can choose to compete on the Division I, II or III level in designated sports.

Division I colleges may offer full athletic scholarships

Division II colleges are limited to awarding tuition, fees, books and up to \$250 in course required supplies

Division III institutions may provide no athletically related financial assistance.

Source: <https://recruitlook.com/junior-college-recruiting-information/>