

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) is not affiliated with the NCAA and has its own set of eligibility rules and guidelines. NAIA schools provide many opportunities to play sports on the college level and should not be overlooked by student-athletes.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NAIA

"The varsity athletic experience can and should contribute to the participant's educational and personal development. Consequently, the selection of a four-year college or university at which to continue your education is of tremendous importance. The quality and breadth of the institution's academic offering, the quality of the coaching staff, the nature and sphere of athletic competition and the institution's philosophy regarding athletics as an integral part of the educational process are important considerations. We feel that the NAIA philosophy is sound and that participation in a well-conducted intercollegiate athletics program will provide an added dimension to your college experience."

NAIA ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

Freshman MUST meet two of the following three entry level requirements.

1. Minimum 18 on the ACT or 860 on the SAT (written portion of tests not included)
2. Minimum overall high school gpa of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale
3. Graduate in the top half of your high school class

NAIA ADVANTAGES

There are many advantages to competing in NAIA sports. Besides the benefit of close-knit communities and small class sizes on the typical NAIA campus, NAIA Athletics offer:

1. Maximum opportunity to participate in regular season contests and National Championships.
2. Flexibility to transfer without missing a season of eligibility.
3. Fewer recruiting restrictions.
4. Focus on the education and character development of the student-athlete.

The NAIA recruitment process is less cumbersome, with fewer restrictions on the contact a student-athlete and coach can make. More frequent communication aids in assuring that the student-athlete is comfortable with the choice of institution. In the event the student-athlete feels that the school or team is not the right fit, he can transfer to another NAIA institution and compete the next season without sitting out a year. While NAIA rules hold strict academic requirements, the process of establishing eligibility is streamlined since there is no clearinghouse.

To learn more about the NAIA and its member institutions, visit the Official Web Site of the NAIA at <http://www.naia.org/>.

NAIA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

As of September 1, 2010, the NAIA has opened its own eligibility center. Any student-athlete with the hope of playing sports at an NAIA college or university MUST register in order to have their eligibility status determined.

Learn more about the NAIA EC by clicking on this link:

<http://www.playnaia.org/>

The NAIA has also provided this video to assist in answering any questions you might have:

http://www.playnaia.org/page/video_student.php

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