

# *Student Athletes, Colleges, and the NCAA/NAIA*

***Karla Lafferty, Director of College Guidance***

Karla.Lafferty@Montverde.org

***Sue Tortora, Dean of External Program Development***

Sue.Tortora@Montverde.org

Montverde Academy

# Recruiting 101

- Who should be involved?
  - Student-Athlete
  - High School Coach
  - High School College Guidance
  - Someone who understands NCAA and NAIA Guidelines
  - College Coach
  - College Compliance
  - College Admissions

## Timeline and Process

- Depends on level of the student-athlete
  - Levels include recruits, walk-ons
  - Students who want to play sports at the collegiate level should:
    - Research colleges and universities online
    - Submit player profiles as appropriate
    - Regularly communicate with High School coach and College Guidance
    - Work hard in class and on the playing field!
    - Take SAT and ACT early – do not wait until senior year!

## Visits

- Unofficial Visits – Student pays for the visit. College can only give the student 3 tickets to a home sports event.
- Official Visit – Paid for by the college. Includes transportation, lodging, 3 meals per day for prospect and parents. Reasonable entertainment expenses including 3 tickets to home sports event.
  - The student-athlete, if NCAA Division I or II, needs to have an account number.
  - College or university will likely request transcript from high school and test scores.

# Myths and Assumptions

- I play a sport, I will be a Division I athlete!
- I'm so talented, college coaches will come find me!
- I don't have to worry about the recruiting process until senior year!
- Grades don't matter if I am good enough!
- I will get a full ride for my sport!
- The college coach wants me so I am in!
- I received a letter from the coach asking if I am interested. I am in!
- I am recruited so I will be a starter as a freshman!
- I am recruited so my grades no longer matter!
- I am recruited so I don't have to apply to the school!

# College Process

- Student meets with College Guidance
- College Guidance meets with coach
  - Discuss athletic level (DI, II, III, NAIA) vs. academic level
- College Guidance meets with student
  - Realistic conversation
- Once student commits to a college, must submit application

## Our Role (as college counselors)

- Be supportive of the students' goals but assist them in conducting college searches...just in case
- Provide information sessions on athletic recruiting for student-athletes
- Work with your Athletic Director to make sure coaches are well-versed and know how to support prospective students
- Secure former recruited athletes as resources for students during the process
- See your student play: You cannot advocate without knowing their ability
- Remind students to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse

# Social Media

- "We found his Twitter account, looked through it and some of what we saw isn't representative of what our university is about," the recruiter explained.
- "If there's a lot of questionable stuff that they're posting, we'll stop recruiting the kid," [Brown](#) told The Record. "We have had that happen two or three times, where we've read a kid's Facebook page and we've wanted no part of it. These are kids that we were actively recruiting."
- Clemson men's soccer head coach [Mike Noonan](#) said his coaching staff regularly uses social media, and he said "without question" coaches can find out a player's personality by his or her social media habits.
  - "You don't want to read too much into social media because it's more about information than it is a character analyzation of the player. But if someone posts things that are inappropriate, that tells you a lot about whether you want to recruit the player or not," Noonan said. "If someone is being critical of a teammate, coach, referee or situation on social media, that may be suggesting some potential problems down the road."



HTTP://WWW.TREYATHLETES.COM/YOU-ARE-WHAT-YOU-POST/



# Perfect Example...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZINdmGkyMyc>

# NCAA

- DI
  - 170,000 student-athletes at over 350 institutions
  - Partial and full athletic scholarships offered up to 4 years which can cover tuition and fees, room and board, course related books, and up to \$250 in required supplies each academic year
  - Highest level of collegiate athletics
  - Examples: University of Florida, University of Tennessee, Wake Forest University, University of Georgia



- **DII**

- More than 300 institutions
- Offers partial-scholarships funded through a mix of athletics scholarships, academic aid, need-based grants, and/or employment earnings
  - Can cover tuition and fees, course related books and up to \$250 per year for course related supplies
- Has at least 5 men's and 5 women's teams
- Examples: Barry University, Catawba College, Flagler College, Tusculum, University of Tampa



- **DIII**
- 180,000 student athletes at more than 450 institutions
- Does not offer athletic scholarships
- Allows opportunities to play more than one sport



Examples: Amherst College, Bates College, Berry College

# NAIA Colleges

- 65,000 student athletes at over 250 institutions
- \$500 million in athletic scholarships
- Flexible recruiting and transfer regulations
- Student-athletes in NAIA may get more playing time and more opportunities to compete on a championship level.



Examples: Johnson & Wales, Webber International, Dalton State



# NCAA Process

- Register at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org) – during junior year is best or sooner in some sports
- Register at [playnaia.org/eligibility-center](http://playnaia.org/eligibility-center)
- Two Options for NCAA
  - **Certification Account**
    - You need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school. Create a Certification Account and we'll guide you through the process.
    - You need to create a Certification Account to make official visits to Divisions I and II schools or to sign a National Letter of Intent.
  - **Profile Page**
    - Create a Profile Page if you plan to compete at a Division III school or are not yet sure where you want to compete.
    - You'll get an NCAA ID, and we will send you important reminders as you complete high school.

## Once Registered- Students MUST:

- Ask previous high schools to send transcripts directly to NCAA or NAIA
- Have test scores sent to NCAA or NAIA
  - They will put this off!
- International Students:
  - Make sure their transcripts have been properly translated
    - 8<sup>th</sup> grade to ninth – recent example – Give Peace a Chance!
    - Countries – Brazil, Colombia, UK – different educational systems – handouts
    - NCAA requires 9<sup>th</sup> year (not grade) to 12<sup>th</sup> year. Sometimes they ask for 8<sup>th</sup> as well.



# NCAA and NAIA Requirements

- **NCAA**
- Division I – 16 core courses and qualifying GPA (2.3) and test scores (sliding scale) minimum with 2.3 is a 900 math/verbal SAT
  - 10 courses locked in at start of senior year and cannot be retaken to improve grade
- Division II – Full Qualifier: 16 core courses and minimum GPA (2.2) and test scores minimum of 840 math/verbal
  
- **NAIA**
- Must meet 2 of the three
  1. Test Scores minimum of 16 on ACT or 860 on SAT
  2. High School GPA minimum cumulative High School GPA of 2.0 on 4.0 scale
  3. Class Rank Requirement – Graduate in top 50% of high school class

Download the  
FCIS App from  
any app store:  
iTunes,  
Google Play,  
or Windows.



Share your  
reflections and  
takeaways with the  
FCIS community!  
#FCISConv2017

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

- 1) Open the app and select  
Schedule and Sessions.
- 2) Select Thursday Sessions.
- 3) Select the appropriate session time.
- 4) Select the session title.
- 5) Click on the link at the bottom of  
page to take the 3-question survey.

