



Colleges and universities govern college sports and set rules regarding scholarships and athletic recruitment. There are a number of associations that colleges or universities can join:

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

[The NCAA](#) is a non-profit organization whose members include more than 1,200 universities and colleges in the United States. It administers 23 sports and enforces the rules which are made by its member institutions. There are three Divisions: I, II and III. Division I is the most competitive so the athletics standards are high and the level of competition is intense; only students at the very highest standard of athletic ability tend to be recruited. Athletic scholarships are available for sports in Division I and II only.

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

[The NAIA](#) is a governing body of small athletics programs that are dedicated to character-driven intercollegiate athletics. There are around 250 colleges and universities that make up the NAIA, offering excellent sport programs. They do offer some sports scholarships.

Helpful links

[PlayNAIA](#)

[To register](#)

[NAIA vs NCAA](#)

[Getting started with the Eligibility Center as an International Student](#)

[NAIA Guide for the International Student-Athlete](#)

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)

[The NJCAA](#) is an association of Community Colleges and Junior Colleges dedicated to promoting a national program of athletic participation in two-year institutions. The NJCAA does not have an eligibility clock or age limit.

Helpful links

[Eligibility](#)

[Guide for Prospective Student-Athletes](#)