

IMPORTANT RECRUITING TERMS

Athletic Financial Aid: Any amount of money a student-athlete received based on their athletics ability.

Binding Agreement: A Commitment to enrolling at an institution and subsequently withdrawing all applications to other institutions.

Contact: A contact happens any time a college coach says more than "Hello" during a face-to-face meeting with you or your family members off the college's campus.

Contact period: During a contact period, a college coach may have face-to-face contact with you or your family members, watch you compete, visit your high school and call or write to you or your family members.

Dead period: A college coach may not have any face-to-face contact with you or your family members on or off the college campus at any time during a dead period. The coach may call or write you or your family members during this time.

Early Decision: A Commitment to enrolling at an institution and subsequently withdrawing all applications to other institutions. Due to the restrictive nature of early decision, students are not permitted to apply to other colleges or universities under binding early decision plans.

Early Action: A non-binding, early application plan. Under an Early Action plan, students typically apply early and receive an admission decision early, but are not committed to enroll if admitted.

Evaluation: An evaluation happens when a college coach observes you practicing or competing.

Evaluation period: During an evaluation period, a college coach may watch you compete, visit your high school and call or write to you or your family members. However, a college coach may not have face-to-face contact with you or your family members off the college's campus during an evaluation period.

Financial aid (scholarship): Any money you receive from a college or another source, such as outside loans or grants. Financial aid may be based on athletics ability, financial need, scholarships or academic achievement.

Five-year clock: If you play at a Division I school, you have five calendar years in which to play four seasons of competition. Your five-year clock starts when you enroll as a full-time student at any college. Thereafter, your clock continues, even if you spend an academic year in residence as a result of transferring, decide to redshirt, do not attend school or attend school part time during your college career.

Full-time student: Each school determines what full-time status means. Typically, you are a full-time student if you are enrolled for at least 12 credit hours in a term, but some schools define a full-time student as someone who takes fewer than 12 credit hours in a term.

Official commitment: When you officially commit to attend a Division I or II school, you sign a [National Letter of Intent](#), agreeing to attend that school for one academic year.

Official visit: During an official visit, the college can pay for transportation to and from the college for you (and up to two family members in Division I basketball and FBS football), lodging and meals (Division I allows for up to three meals per day) for you and up to four family members, as well as reasonable entertainment expenses, including five tickets to a Division I or II home sports event. Before a Division I or II college may invite you on an official visit, you will have to provide the college with a copy of your high school transcript and register for a Certification account with the [Eligibility Center](#). In Division I, you may not make an official visit during a recruiting shutdown period or a dead period. In Division II, you may not make an official visit during a dead period.

Quiet period: During this time, a college coach may not have any in-person contact with you or your family members off the college's campus. A coach may not watch you play or visit your high school during this period. You and your family members may visit a college campus during this time. A coach may call or write to you or your family members during this time.

Prospective Student-Athlete(PSA): Any individual who have entered the 9th grade.

Recruited: If a college coach contacts you off campus, pays your expenses to visit the campus, or (in Divisions I and II) issues you a [National Letter of Intent](#) or a written offer of financial aid, you are considered recruited.

Recruiting calendar: NCAA member schools limit recruiting to certain periods during the year. Recruiting calendars promote the well-being of college-bound student-athletes and ensure fairness among schools by defining certain periods during the year in which recruiting may or may not occur in a particular sport. [DII](#) [DI](#)

Regular Decision: A non-binding application plan. Applying Regular Decision does not constitute a binding commitment to attend if admitted, and applicants are permitted to submit early and regular round applications to other institutions.

Season of competition: Generally, NCAA rules say any competition in a season — regardless of the amount of time — counts as having played one season in that sport. If you play any time during a season, regardless of how long you played, it counts as having played for an entire season in that sport. A season starts when you spend one second in competition on the field, court, gym or track. In Division III, you also use a season if you practice at any time after the first contest.

Ten-semester/15-quarter clock: If you play at a Division II or III school, you have the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which you are enrolled as a full-time student to complete your four seasons of competition. You use a semester or quarter any time you attend class as a full-time student or are enrolled part time and compete for the school. You do not use a term if you only attend part time with no competition or are not enrolled for a term.

Two-year college (JUCO – Junior College): Any school from which students can earn an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or Associate of Applied Science within two years. Some people call these schools community or junior colleges.

Unofficial visit: Any visit by you and your family members to a college campus paid for by you or your family members. The only expense you may receive from the college is three complimentary admissions to a Division I home athletics contest and one meal on or off campus, or five complimentary admissions to a Division II home athletics contest. You may make as many unofficial visits as you like after the first permissible date in each sport. The only time you cannot talk with a coach during an unofficial visit is during a dead period. In Division I, it is not permissible to make an official visit during a recruiting shutdown period or a dead period. In Division II, you may not make an unofficial visit during a dead period. In Division III, you may receive one on-campus meal as well as admission to a home athletics event for you and those accompanying you.

Verbal commitment: A verbal commitment happens when you verbally agree to play sports for a college before you sign or are eligible to sign a [National Letter of Intent](#). The commitment is not binding on you or the school.

Walk-on: Someone who is not typically recruited by a school to participate in sports and does not receive a scholarship from the school, but who becomes a member of one of the school's athletics team.