

Guidelines for Collegiate Swimming

Following are some helpful hints and information for how to go about looking into college swimming.

Levels of Collegiate Swimming

Currently, there are five competitive levels of collegiate swimming sponsored by three collegiate organizations. A description of each organization and levels they sponsor is outlined below.

NCAA (www.ncaa.org)

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), is a non-profit association comprised of more than 1260 schools and conferences. The NCAA membership is divided into three legislative and competitive Divisions (I, II, and III). There are currently 1006 active member schools, 325 in Division I, 270 in Division II, and 411 in Division III.

Division I

NCAA Division I institutions are comprised primarily of large schools with enrollments that range from 3,500-50,000+ students. College institutions in this classification can, if they choose to, offer athletic scholarships for student athletes. The NCAA sets the number of full athletic scholarships a school can fund. Presently the limits for Division I swimming scholarships are as follows:

Women's Scholarships: 14	Men's Scholarships: 9.9
Number of Division I Swimming Programs:	
Women's Programs: 188	Men's Programs: 140

Athletic scholarships are limited to one year and can be renewed annually for up to five years out of a six-year period. **There is no award of a four year scholarship!** Athletic aid can be increased, reduced or even canceled annually. The total financial aid package (athletic scholarships, grants, student loans, booster club or civic scholarships) can't exceed the total cost for attending that particular institution for one year.

Ivy League Conference: Ivy League member institutions include the following: Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Pennsylvania, Princeton and Yale. These Division I programs do not offer athletic scholarships and acceptance to any of these institutions is based upon a rigid academic standard. All Ivy League student athletes are rated upon an Academic Index rating scale that each member institution must follow. Students are rated based upon their G.P.A., Class Rank, College Board SAT and ACT Scores, high school course load, and community service involvement. Financial aid awards are offered after a student athlete has been accepted on a need based assessment that has no bearing whether a student will be accepted or not.

Division II

NCAA Division II institutions are comprised primarily of small to medium sized schools with enrollments that range from 1,500-15,000 students. College institutions in this classification can, if they choose to, offer athletic scholarships for student athletes. The NCAA sets the number of full athletic scholarships a school can fund. Presently the limits for Division II swimming scholarships are as follows:

Women's Scholarships: 8.1	Men's Scholarships: 8.1
Number of Division II Swimming Programs:	
Women's Programs: 67	Men's Programs: 50

Division III

NCAA Division III institutions are comprised primarily of small colleges and universities with enrollments that range from 600-5,000 students. Division III institutions cannot offer athletic scholarships for student athletes. Financial Aid can be offered on a need based assessment only and primarily is in the form of academic scholarships, grants, and student loans.

Number of Division III Swimming Programs:	
Women's Programs: 235	Men's Programs: 191

NJCAA

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) is the governing body of intercollegiate athletics for two-year colleges. As such, its programs are designed to meet the unique needs of a diverse group of student-athletes who come from both traditional and non-traditional backgrounds and whose purpose in selecting a junior college may be as varied as their experiences before attending college. NJCAA may offer athletic scholarships for student athletes but are not required to do so.

Number of NJCAA Swimming Scholarships:	
Women 15	Men 15
Number of NJCAA Swimming Programs:	
Women 21	Men 21

National Junior College Athletic Association (<http://njcaa.org/index.cfm>)

Look for the: **NJCAA Student Athlete Information Guide**

NAIA

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, NAIA, is comprised of over 300 member institutions ranging in size from around 400-2500 students. Roughly 90% of all NAIA schools offer athletic scholarships.

Any financial aid or assistance to prospective students, in money or in kind, except from members of the student's immediate family or from those upon whom the student is legally dependent, shall be

administered by the institution under the policies and procedures established by the institution through the regularly constituted committee on student loans and scholarships.

A member institution of the NAIA shall award no more institutionally-controlled financial aid to a student-athlete than the actual cost of: 1) tuition; 2) mandatory fees, books and supplies required for courses in which the student-athlete is enrolled; 3) board and room for the student-athlete only, based on the official board and room allowance listed in the institution's catalog. Further financial assistance to a student-athlete, other than listed above, by a member institution shall be prohibited.

Number of NAIA Swimming Programs:	
Women 19	Men 16

NAIA Website (<http://naia.cstv.com>)