

# The Division III experience

## Division III Philosophy

Academics are the primary focus for Division III student-athletes. The division minimizes the conflicts between athletics and academics and keeps student-athletes on a path to graduation through shorter practice and playing seasons, the number of contests, no redshirting and regional competition that reduces time away from academic studies. Student-athletes are integrated on campus and treated like all other members of the general student-body, keeping them focused on being a student first.

Division III is engaged in division-wide discussions about implementing an Academic Success Rate in the near future. The NCAA has collected and reported graduation rates since 1991 for all students (using the six-year federal methodology) and for all student-athletes receiving athletically related financial aid.

While Division III students have been included in this process, a separate report on student-athletes in Division III has been absent because the division does not award athletics grants-in-aid. While many Division III institutions and conferences have tracked the academic success of their student-athletes, they have used a variety of criteria (for example, graduation, grade-point average, class rank).

However, Division III recently completed a two-year pilot academic-reporting program that produced data from a representative sample showing that student-athletes graduate at higher rates than those of their student-body peers. Division III members will decide soon whether a division-wide academic reporting structure that produces an annual Academic Success Rate is appropriate.

## Positioning Statement

### Follow Your Passions and Discover Your Potential

The college experience is a time of learning and growth — a chance to follow passions and develop potential. For student-athletes in Division III, all of this happens most importantly in the classroom and through earning an academic degree. The Division III experience provides for passionate participation in a competitive athletic environment, in which student-athletes push themselves to excellence and build upon their academic success with new challenges and life skills. And student-athletes are encouraged to pursue their full passions and find their potential through a comprehensive educational experience.

## The Three D's

### Discover

Division III student-athletes are encouraged to pursue their interests and passions beyond the classroom and field of play...to discover themselves.

### Develop

Division III institutions provide an environment that encourages student-athletes to develop into well-rounded adults. Small class sizes, the ability to participate in more than one sport, and an emphasis on participating activities outside of the classroom are all hallmarks of the Division III experience.

### Dedicate

Division III institutions expect student-athletes to dedicate themselves to achieving their potential. Student-athletes must manage their busy schedules, keep up with class work and face the same challenges as the rest of the student-body.

## **DIVISION III RECRUITING - QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE**

*This document is designed to provide a quick reference of NCAA Division III recruiting rules.*

*It is not to serve as a substitute for the legislation within the NCAA Division III Manual.*

NCAA Division III recruiting rules apply to athletics based recruiting and are not meant to limit an institution's admissions office from the recruitment of prospective students generally.

**Contact:** There are no restrictions on the number of off-campus contacts. Off-campus contacts are not permitted until the conclusion of the prospect's junior year of high school.

**Evaluations:** There are no restrictions on the number or timing on the observation of a prospect participating in practice or competition. Observations must be done at a high school, club, summer league, etc. practice or competition. Tryouts on campus are not permitted.

### **Campus visits in which athletics recruitment is involved:**

**Official visits.** Each institution is permitted to finance the expenses of one visit per prospect. There are restricted allowances on transportation, meals, lodging, and entertainment detailed within the legislation. Official visits can take place beginning with the opening day of classes for the prospect's senior year in high school. An additional paid visit would be permitted beginning October 15 after the prospect's completion of high school, which is typically used by two- and four-year college prospects.

**Unofficial visits.** A prospect may visit a member institution's campus at his or her own expense an unlimited number of times and there are no restrictions on the timing of these unofficial campus visits.

### **Communications:**

**Recruiting materials and letters.** There are no restrictions on the timing of providing recruiting materials or letters to prospects. Institutions are permitted to provide any official academic, admissions, athletics and student-services publications or videotapes published or produced by the institution and other information of a general nature that is available to all students.

**Telephone calls.** There are no restrictions on the number or timing on telephone calls to prospects.

**Text messages/instant messenger/social networking sites, E-mails or facsimiles.** There are no restrictions on the number or timing for sending electronic transmissions provided that the correspondence is sent directly to the prospective student-athlete (or his or her parents or legal guardians) and is private between only the sender and recipient (e.g., no use of public chat rooms, message boards or public communication through social networking site).

**Four-year college prospects:** Athletics recruitment of an NCAA or NAIA four-year college student-athlete is not permitted without first obtaining written permission from the student's current institution to do so, regardless of who makes the initial contact. A student-athlete transferring from a Division III institution to another Division III institution can sign the self-release form for proper permission.