NCAA ELIGIBILITY GUIDE

What student athletes and families need to know about competing at the NCAA level. Start planning by freshman year — the requirements begin long before recruitment does.

UNDERSTAND THE DIVISIONS

- [ ] Division I & II: athletic scholarships available; academic and amateurism standards apply.
- [ ] Division III: no athletic scholarships, but academic merit aid is common and athletics are competitive.
- [ ] Junior colleges (NJCAA) and NAIA schools offer additional paths to four-year programs.

CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS (DIVISIONS I & II)

- [ ] Complete 16 NCAA-approved core courses: 4 years English, 3 math, 2 natural/physical science, 1 additional English/math/science, 2 social science, 4 additional courses.
- [ ] Ask your school counselor to review your course schedule against the NCAA approved-course list each year.
- [ ] Complete 10 of your 16 core courses before your senior year (7 in English, math, or science for Division I).

REGISTER WITH THE ELIGIBILITY CENTER

- [ ] Create a certification account at eligibilitycenter.org during your sophomore year.
- [ ] Complete the amateurism questionnaire and request final amateurism certification.
- [ ] Request an SAT/ACT fee waiver if eligible, and a fee waiver for the Eligibility Center if you received one for the ACT/SAT.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

- [ ] Earn the minimum core-course GPA (2.3 for Division I, 2.2 for Division II) — and aim far higher.
- [ ] Take the SAT or ACT and send official scores to the NCAA using code 9999.
- [ ] Graduate on time with your incoming high school class.

WORK WITH YOUR SCHOOL

- [ ] Request your official transcript be sent to the Eligibility Center after six semesters.
- [ ] Send your final transcript with proof of graduation as soon as you graduate.

RECRUITING AWARENESS

- [ ] Learn the recruiting calendar (contact periods, quiet periods, dead periods) for your sport.
- [ ] Know the difference between an unofficial visit (your cost) and an official visit (school-funded).

Questions for my counselor: