

## Athletics After High School

Mrs. Holly Markiecki-Bennetts

It is not uncommon for students who have played an organized athletic sport in their youth and into high school to have a desire to play at the next level. There are several factors at work that can determine the success of a student playing at the next level. First and foremost is the athletic ability of a student. A student needs to stand out among their peers to be recruited for athletics as there are simply too many high school athletes. Think about football and the number of kids in Michigan who play high school football. How many football teams (Division I – Division III) are in the state? There are more athletes than spots, and that is just considering the state of Michigan.

The next step is the NCAA Eligibility Center and admission to schools. At the core the NCAA is an agency that supports the academic and athletic endeavors of students. On their website, the NCAA touts “A vast majority of college-student athletes will become professionals in something other than sports” (NCAA, 2010). Because of this, the NCAA does have standards for a student to “clear” a student to play college athletics.

Division I and Division II sports are regulated by the NCAA Eligibility Center because they can offer scholarships for athletes. Division III sports are not regulated by the Eligibility Center, however many of the same standards apply, since a student is only admitted to the institution if they meet the academic criteria.

For Division I and Division II sports, a student must have a minimum 2.0 GPA in core classes to be eligible to play. The NCAA will re-calculate the GPA without theology, all Computer classes, Art and PE/Health. Based on the student GPA, a minimum ACT or SAT test score is required. There is a sliding scale for the minimum score on these tests, based on the student GPA.

If a student is interested in playing at the next level, they should also contact coaches at the colleges they are interested in, just to make an introduction. This is especially important if the student is considering a smaller institution, as they may not have the recruiting staff to cover a wide area.

Additionally, your current coach at U of D Jesuit is a valuable resource with regards to athletics beyond U of D Jesuit. They can help direct you toward specific programs and can guide you through the process. Your coach also can help you contact schools and send video highlights.

Official visits cannot take place until the first day of classes of the prospective student-athlete’s senior year in high school. In order for a student to make an official visit they need to complete the registration process with the NCAA Eligibility Center, provide the college with a copy of your high school transcript (Division I only), and send an ACT, SAT, or PLAN score. The ACT/SAT code for the Eligibility Center is “9999” and should be filled in at the time of registering for the test. The Eligibility Center will use the best scores from each section of the ACT or SAT to determine your best cumulative score—this is known as superscoring. Additionally, an official transcript needs to be sent to the Eligibility Center. Once you register for the NCAA Eligibility Center, and provide our school code, 231-225, you should add the NCAA Eligibility Center to your “Colleges I am Applying To” list in Family Connection. We will then send your transcript to the NCAA.

For more information on the NCAA Eligibility Center, visit <http://eligibilitycenter.org>

### Reference

NCAA, (2010). NCAA eligibility. Retrieved October 12, 2010 from <http://eligibilitycenter.org>