

## **About the NCAA**

Founded more than one hundred years ago as a way to protect student-athletes, the NCAA continues to implement that principle with increased emphasis on both athletics and academic excellence.

The NCAA is made up of three membership classifications that are known as Divisions I, II and III. Each division creates its own rules governing personnel, amateurism, recruiting, eligibility, benefits, financial aid, and playing and practice seasons – consistent with the overall governing principles of the Association. Every program must affiliate its core program with one of the three divisions.

The NCAA is a member association composed mostly of higher education institutions. Each member school is able to choose a level of competition that best fits its mission. Competition is offered in Division I (the largest programs that provide the most athletically related financial aid for student-athletes), Division II (limited financial aid) and Division III (no athletically related financial aid).

There are 1,066 active member schools in the NCAA membership – 340 in Division I, 290 in Division II and 436 in Division III. The NCAA also contains 95 member conferences in all three divisions. Overall membership – counting schools, conferences and related associations – is 1,273.

For more general information on the NCAA visit: <http://www.ncaa.org>

For detailed information on each sport and schools visit: <http://www.ncaa.com>

### **NCAA Eligibility Center (formerly known as the Clearinghouse)**

**\*\*\*Required for all Division 1 and Division 2 Athletes\*\*\***

**Division 3 (not needed)**

#### **NCAA Eligibility Center Basics:**

1. You must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at [their website](#) if you wish to play Division I or Division II college athletics. The only way to register is on-line. The recommended time by the NCAA is at the end of junior year/and before the beginning of senior year.
2. Go to [NCAA Eligibility Center's website](#). Select Prospective Student Athletes and click on Domestic Release Form. Complete the Student Release Form online and include your credit or debit card to pay the \$60 fee.
3. You must send your SAT scores to the Eligibility Center directly from the testing agencies. The Eligibility Center no longer accepts test scores from school transcripts. To send your SAT scores go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
4. Make sure you complete the amateurism questionnaire when you first register with the Center. You will need to return to the Eligibility Center website to update and complete the amateurism questionnaire and request a final amateurism certification in the spring of your senior year.
5. You may check on your status by: Visiting the clearinghouse website and click on Prospective Student Athletes, then Registered Student Login