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# NAIA Eligibility

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## About the NAIA

- The NAIA are the experts in the business of small college athletics.
- We intentionally teach character and prepare student-athletes to be tomorrow's leaders.
- We develop Champions of Character® through our core values:

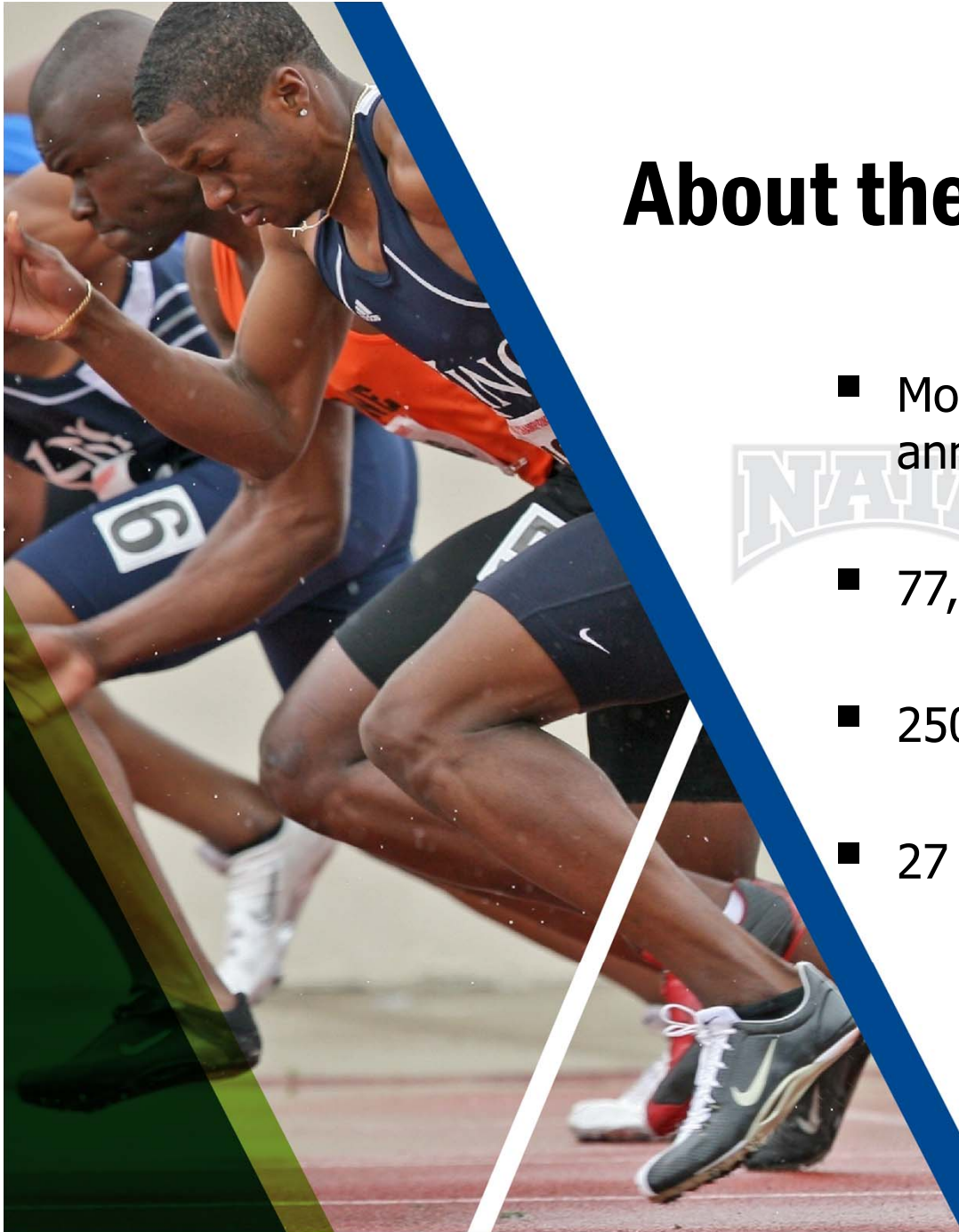
Integrity · Respect · Responsibility  
Sportsmanship · Servant Leadership





# About the NAIA

- More than \$800 million in scholarships annually
- 77,000+ student athletes
- 250+ schools; 21 conferences
- 27 national championships



# Reasons to choose the NAIA

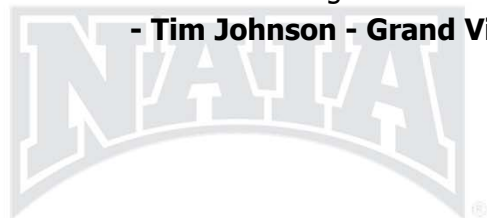
- High caliber competition
- Play the sport you love; less than 2% of high school athletes compete in NCAA DI
- Take part in \$800M in athletic scholarships
- Higher percentage of athletes competing in post-season; 17% post-season participation in the NAIA vs. 14% in NCAA DII and 10% in NCAA DIII
- Character development as our guide
- Tight-knit campus communications mean closer interaction, stronger relationships and personalized attention
- Expand your search to find the program that fits – NAIA schools offer you more opportunities



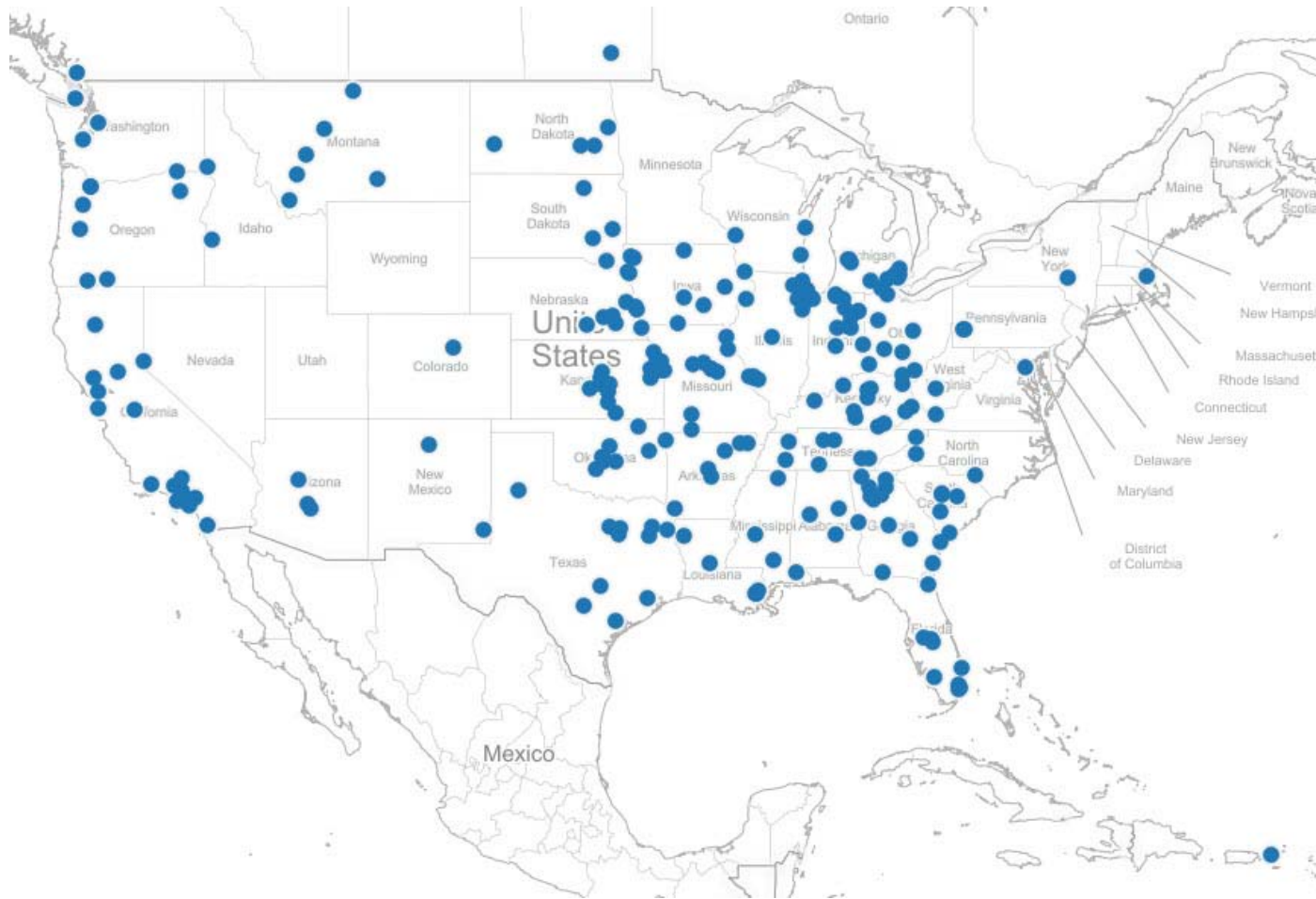


# What Students Are Saying

- "You grow up watching championships and I just couldn't believe that I was going to be on a team that was going to be considered one of the best in the country. I was given another shot to play while all of these other teams' seasons were ending. I cried the first time we went to the national championship I was so excited."  
- **Makenzie Montano - Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)**
- "The NAIA allowed me to be a competitor again. Every athlete should consider the NAIA. It was as exciting to compete in NAIA as any other level. There is nothing lesser about it."  
- **Anna Shields - Point Park (Pa.)**
- "Competing in the NAIA can be so competitive so stepping up to that next level has been great."  
- **Kayla Inlay - Morningside (Iowa)**
- "Getting your hand raised and getting a team trophy. Being in the atmosphere and being around all the great competitors is amazing. I want to put my school and name on the map. I want to show all the hard work that we and our coaches have put in the whole year."  
- **Tanner Irwin - Williams Baptist (Ark.)**
- "I was blessed to be a part of Grand View's program with guys from different places all over the world. They established a unique team culture. We have a saying 'one team, one family' and it's something that we really believe in."  
- **Tim Johnson - Grand View (Iowa)**



# Where are our schools located?



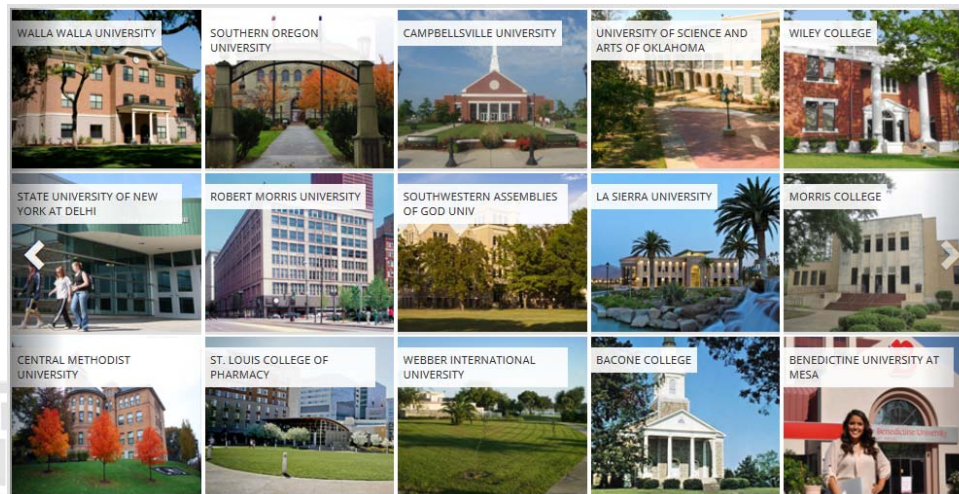
**PLAYNAIA**  
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**PLAYNAIA**

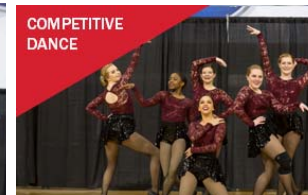
# Attending an NAIIA School

- Visit our [homepage](#) to search for schools that fit your needs





# 27 Championship Sports







# Emerging & Invitational Sports



- Men's Lacrosse
- Women's Wrestling
- Women's Beach Volleyball
- In partnership with the NFL – the NAIA is the first collegiate organization to start [Women's Flag Football](#)





## Recruiting in the NAIA

- NAIA recruitment rules **encourage** coach-student mentoring and development of a personal relationship
- Have direct connection with NAIA coaches at official NAIA Showcase events
- No communication restrictions between NAIA coaches and HS athletes
- Coaches can connect with student-athletes using texting, email, phone, Twitter, Facebook and any other social media



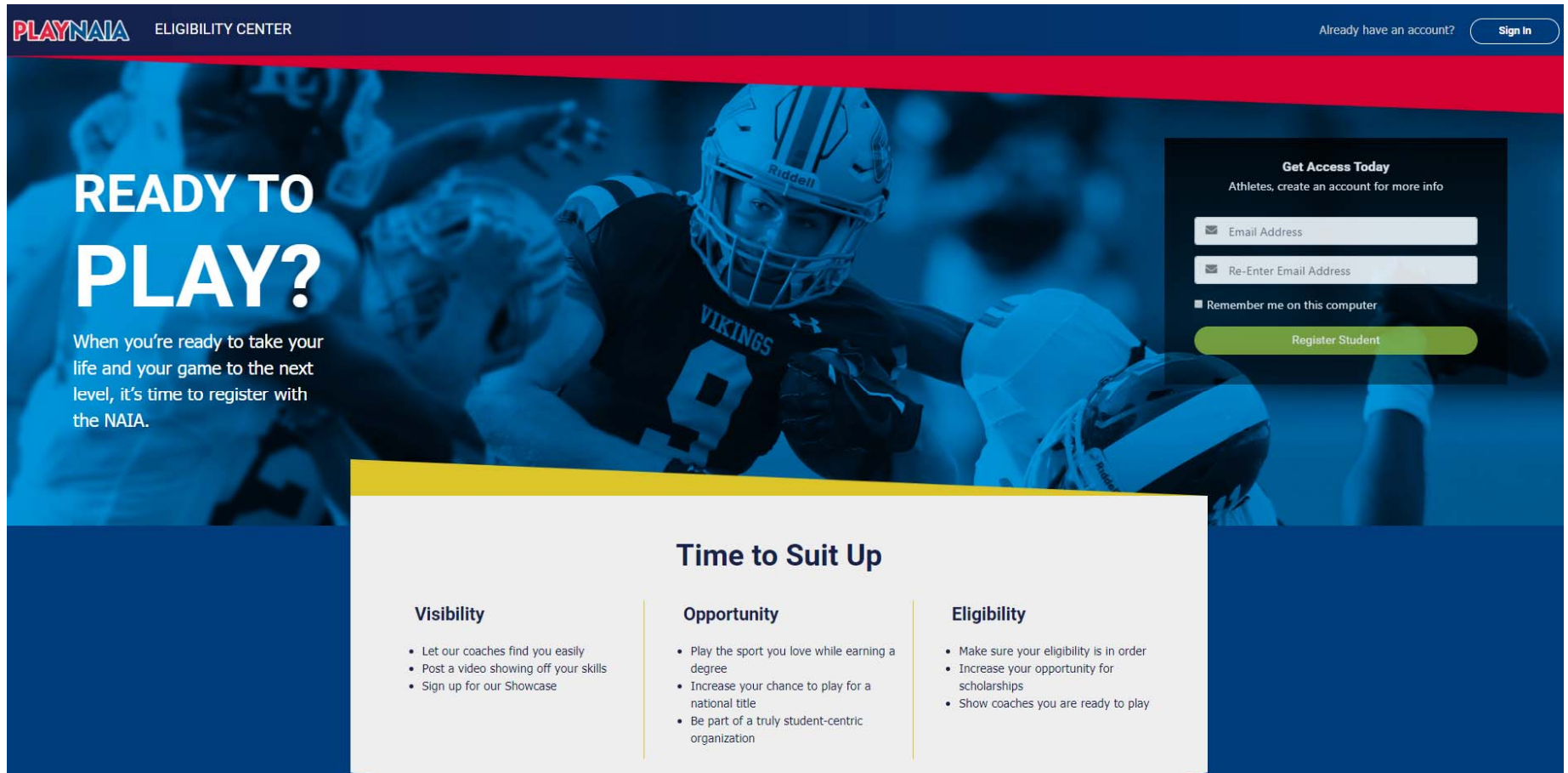


## Recruiting in the NAIA

- No recruiting calendar restrictions
- **2 days** of tryouts per NAIA school
- High academic achievers are exempt from the scholarship limits; high grades make students more recruitable
- Scholarship stacking allowed; multi-sport athletes can get scholarships in more than one sport to maximize school's counting of aid
- Casting a wide net in athletic recruitment increases recruitment pool and increases the student's chance to find a program with the right fit



# Register at PlayNAIA.org



**PLAYNAIA** ELIGIBILITY CENTER Already have an account? [Sign In](#)

## READY TO PLAY?

When you're ready to take your life and your game to the next level, it's time to register with the NAIA.

**Get Access Today**  
Athletes, create an account for more info



Remember me on this computer

Register Student

## Time to Suit Up

**Visibility**

- Let our coaches find you easily
- Post a video showing off your skills
- Sign up for our Showcase

**Opportunity**

- Play the sport you love while earning a degree
- Increase your chance to play for a national title
- Be part of a truly student-centric organization

**Eligibility**

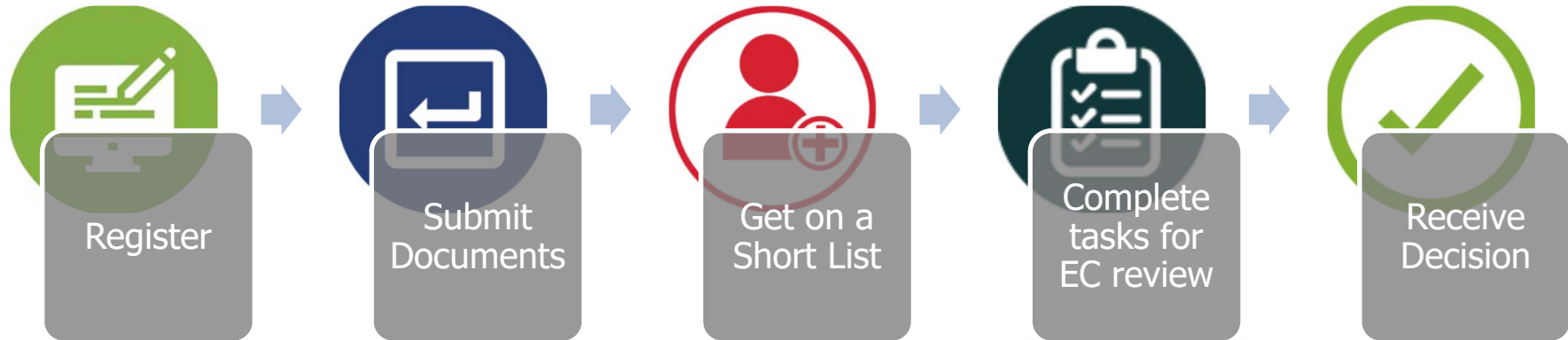
- Make sure your eligibility is in order
- Increase your opportunity for scholarships
- Show coaches you are ready to play



## Student Registration Fees

- Students pay a one-time fee:
  - \$90 Freshmen from the US & Canada
  - \$135 Transfers from the US & Canada
  - \$150 International Students
- *Waivers are available based on need:*
  - ACT/SAT fee waiver *or* Free/reduced school lunch
  - HS counselors must review the waiver request through the Portal

# Student Registration



## 1. Registration

- Create account
- Confirm email address
- Pay registration fee

## 2. Complete Your Profile

- Enter all academic and athletic information
- Submit your profile

## 3. Send Documentation

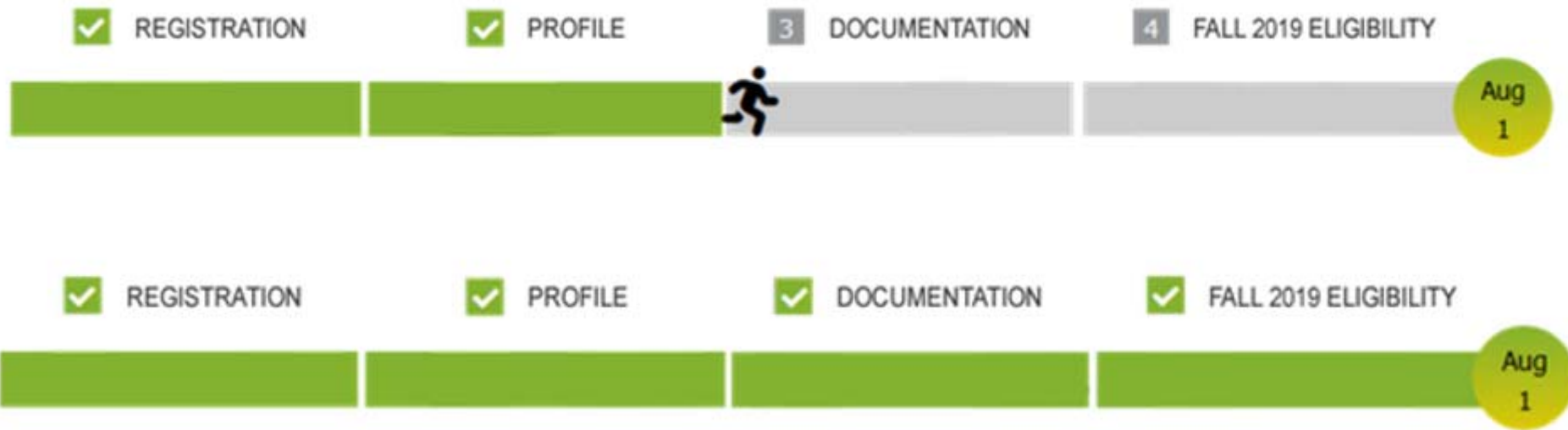
- Complete tasks – get your file ready
- NAIA Eligibility Center staff review your eligibility

## 4. Decision Complete

- Play in the NAIA once eligible



# Student Registration





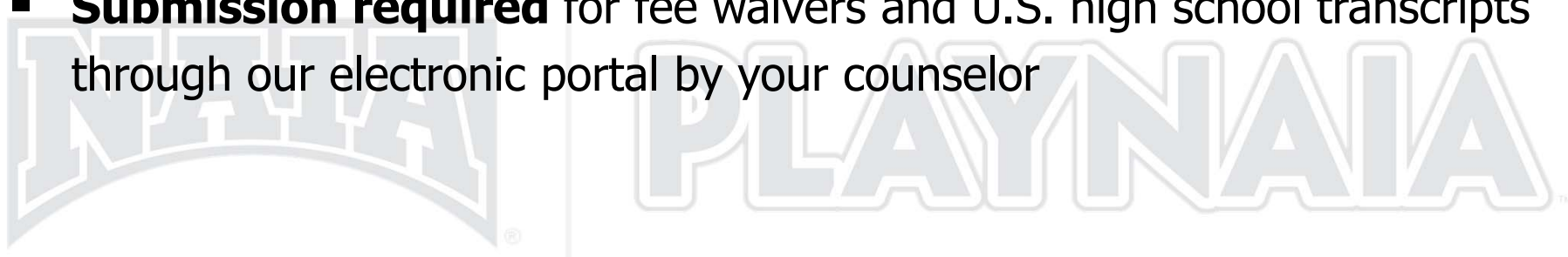
# Submit Documents

- **High school documents**
  - Required through the [NAIA High School Portal](#)
- **Post-secondary transcripts**
  - NAIA Registrar Portal
  - Parchment & National Student Clearinghouse
  - Mail
  - Send after completion of your attendance at each school
- **International documents**
  - Required through [www.InCredEvals.org](http://www.InCredEvals.org)



# Sending High School Transcripts

- Transcripts must be official and come *directly* from the school
- The eligibility center only requires a high school transcript from the school from the student graduates
- Send transcripts after high school graduation, unless the student qualifies for an Early Decision:
  - 3.0 GPA – send after junior year (not earlier than junior year)
  - 2.5 GPA – send after 1<sup>st</sup> semester senior year
  - 2.0 GPA – send after HS graduation
- **Submission required** for fee waivers and U.S. high school transcripts through our electronic portal by your counselor





# U.S. High School Portal



- Do you, or another valid user at your school, have an NAIA portal account setup already (separate registration from the NCAA's portal)?

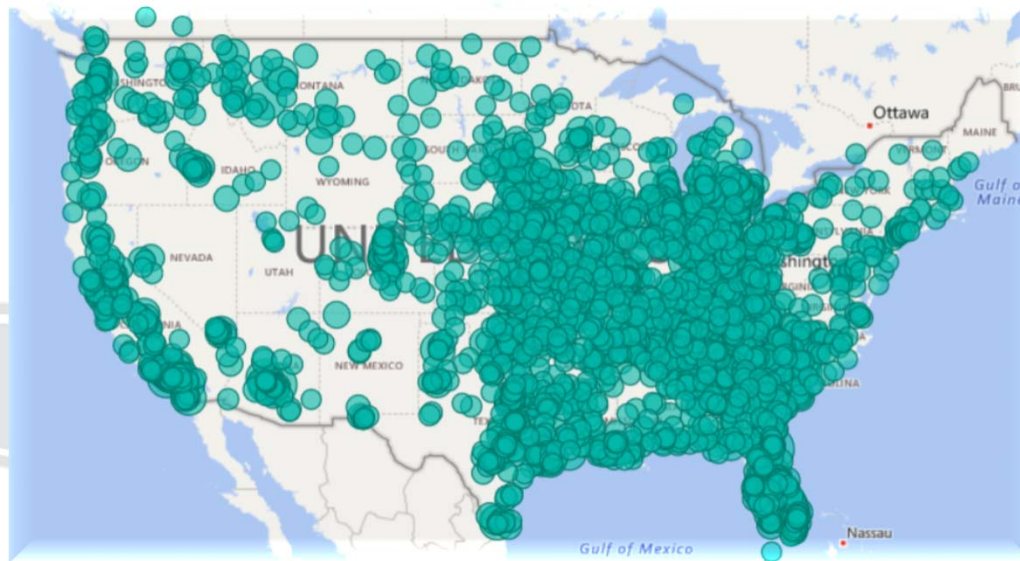
- Yes
- No
- Not sure



# U.S. High School Portal



- Counselors are required to submit student transcripts through the portal
- First step: create an account on [www.PlayNAIA.org](http://www.PlayNAIA.org)
- [This resource guide](#) can assist you setting up a profile
- Transcripts and fee waivers are processed through the portal



# Submitting ACT and SAT Test Scores



- Test scores must be sent *directly* from the testing service
- Test scores CANNOT be taken from high school transcript
- Contact [ACT](#) or [The College Board](#) directly to send your scores
- Use our test code: 9876

9 8 7 6





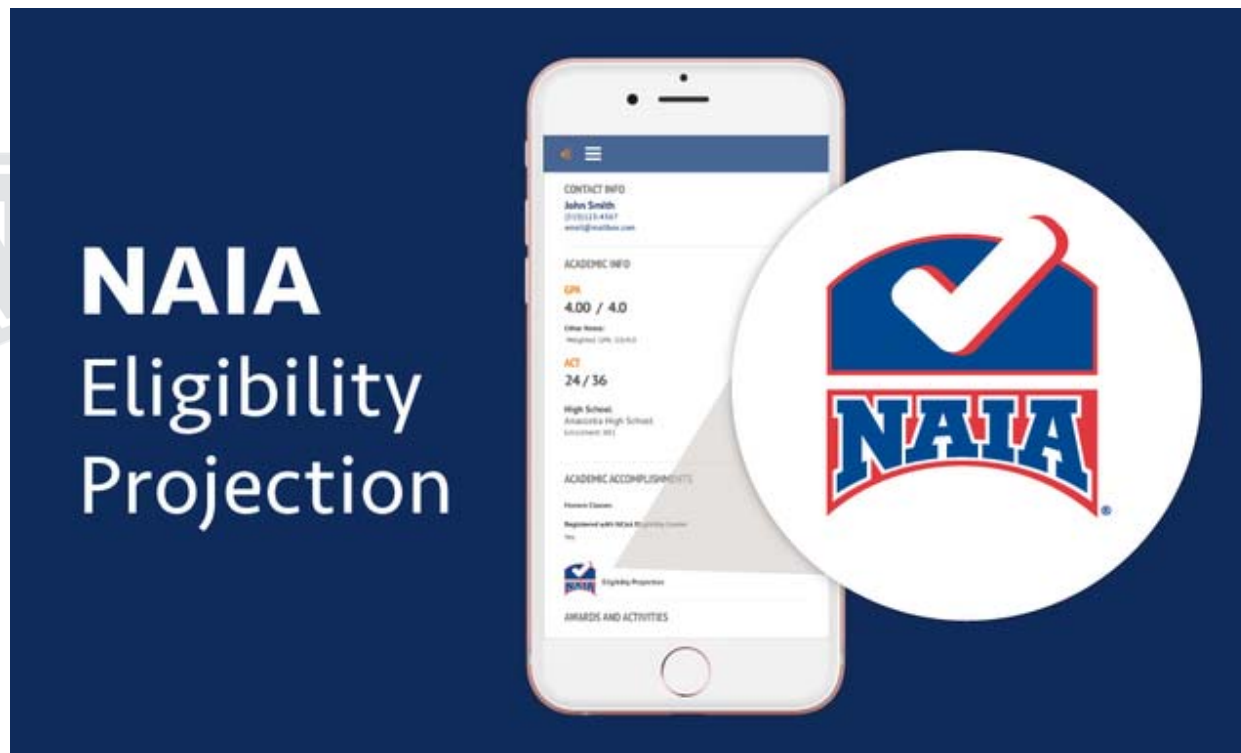
# Sending Transcripts for Transfer & International Students

- **U.S. post-secondary transcripts**
  - Official transcripts required from all schools attended and must include final grades
  - Preferred through the [NAIA Registrar Portal](#), also accepted through approved e-vendors or through snail mail
    - Registrars can create their account on [PlayNAIA.org](#)
- **International documents**
  - Required via InCred beginning January 2021
  - Students order an evaluation on [www.InCredEvals.org](#)



# NCSA Pre-Eligibility Indicator Drill

- [Students can create a free NCSA profile](#) to test their NAIA eligibility with our partner, NCSA's pre-eligibility projection drill





# Eligibility Differences NCAA vs. NAIA

- No core courses in the NAIA
- GPA requirement is 2.0 cumulative for all courses
- No sliding scale; meet two of three (GPA, ACT/SAT or top 50% of class)
- NAIA Eligibility Center reviews transfer students and requires transcripts from all previous colleges/universities attended
- Decision of eligible required to compete in the NAIA; can receive scholarships and practice prior to a determination
- Receive final eligibility decision as early as junior year so get started early
- Do not need to be on a coach recruit list to get an eligibility decision if coming straight from high school to college
  - Use this as a recruiting advantage – students stand out to coaches when proactive about their eligibility – help students get engaged early

# Standard Entering Freshmen Eligibility Requirements



After completion of junior year

GPA of 3.0+  
&  
ACT 18+ or SAT 970+

If not met...

After completion of 7 semesters

GPA of 2.5+  
&  
ACT 18+ or SAT 970+

If not met...

After graduation

GPA of 2.0+  
ACT 18+ or SAT 970+  
Top 50% Class Rank

## Test Score Requirements:



Date test was taken	ACT	SAT
Before 3/1/2016	18	860
Between 3/1/2016 & 5/1/2019	16	860
After 5/1/2019	18	970





# Standard Entering Freshmen Class Rank Exception

- Starting in fall of 2020 NAIA membership passed an exception to the class ranking requirement
- Students who meet the GPA or standardized test score but do not meet the class rank requirement can meet an exception by:
  - Earning 9 institutional credit hours prior to enrollment
  - College credit can be earned via summer credits, dual credit or AP hours accepted as earned on a college transcript







# COVID-Related Exceptions for Entering Freshman

## Entering freshmen exceptions arising out of the Spring of 2020

Please note these are a collection of some of the most important scenarios arising out of the COVID pandemic. To find out more information please go to [naia.org/covdi19](https://naia.org/covdi19).

### WHO

- **Entering Freshmen**  
A freshman is anyone who has not been identified for at least two semester terms of attendance or three quarter terms of attendance.

### WHAT

#### Initial Eligibility Requirements

- Generally, entering freshman have to meet two out of three initial eligibility requirements: ACT/SAT test score; high school GPA; and/or high school class rank.
- Freshman seeking a decision for the **fall of 2020** or **spring of 2021** are able to meet initial eligibility requirements by having only a 2.000 final high school GPA.

### HOW

- The NAIA Eligibility Center will apply the exception automatically.

### WHEN/WHERE

- If a student utilizes this exception, then they would be eligible to compete in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- However, before they compete in their next season of competition, they have to have at least a 2.000 cumulative collegiate GPA.

Check out these [Updates](#), [PDF Infographic](#) and [FAQs](#) for more info

# COVID-19 Eligibility Impacts

## A Flexible Response



- Cancelled 2020 spring seasons:
  - NAIA and college transfers receive an extra year of both in terms of a season of competition and receive two extra terms of attendance (equivalent of one year)
  - Not charging for outside competition from May 2019 to May 2020
- Distance/e-learning courses are acceptable
- Pass/fail grades are acceptable. Note: Only if a student was relying on a grade to advance GPA above the 2.0 threshold will going pass/fail impact eligibility
- No negative impact to future eligibility if a student delays high school graduation as a result of COVID-19

# COVID-19 Eligibility Impacts Cnt'd



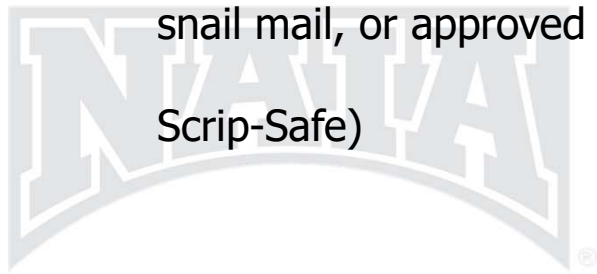
- High school graduation still required
- International students must still meet US high school graduation
  - Requirement to have comparability evaluated by InCred Evaluations  
([InCredEvals.org](http://InCredEvals.org)) delayed until January 2021
- Homeschooled students can still meet automatic eligibility of elevated test score or apply to the Homeschool Review Committee
- Successful completion of a GED meets the 2.0 minimum & automatic eligibility exception granted



# Sending Transcripts During COVID-19



- HS transcripts are still required through the NAIA Portal but individual exceptions will be evaluated on case-by-case basis
- High school transcripts should be sent once high school graduation date is posted (now)
- Official transcripts are required from all post-secondary institutions a student has attended (College registrars can send through an NAIA Portal account, snail mail, or approved e-vendors of Parchment, National Student Clearinghouse or e-Scrip-Safe)







# How To Help

- HS counselors – register for the [online portal account](#) and familiarize yourself with the transcript upload process; the NAIA's required submission process
- Encourage early engagement to minimize eligibility review delays
- Promote awareness of the opportunities in the NAIA
- Visit [updates](#) and [FAQ](#) pages for specific & detailed scenarios
- Registrars – create [online portal account](#) for easy upload of transcripts or send through approved e-vendors or snail mail

# Helpful Resources



- **Sending Transcripts: setting up secure portal profiles**
  - [HS Counselors](#)
  - [College Registrars](#)
- **COVID-19 Updates**
  - [Updates](#)
  - [FAQs](#)
  - [COVID Freshmen Rules Updates Graphic](#)
  - [COVID Transfer/Current Rules Updates Graphic](#)
- **Student Resources**
  - [Decision Progress Guide](#)
  - [Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete](#)
  - [Guide for the International College-Bound SA](#)
- **Freshmen Eligibility Rules**
  - [https://play.mynaia.org/media/1138/early\\_decision\\_freshman\\_requirements.pdf](https://play.mynaia.org/media/1138/early_decision_freshman_requirements.pdf)
- **Transfer Eligibility Rules**
  - [24/36 hr rule](#)
  - [Progress rule and seasons of competition](#)

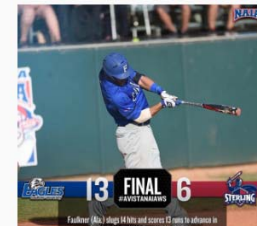
# Connect with the NAIA on Social



**PLAYNAIA**  
THE NAIA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

ABOUT PLAY NAIA

PlayNAIA  
The Experts in the Business of Small College Athletics!  
[See More](#)



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## Questions?

- Visit: [www.PlayNAIA.org](http://www.PlayNAIA.org)
- Email: Fill out the [Contact Us form](#)
- Phone: 816.595.8300

