

# Important Recruiting Terms

**Celebratory standardized signing form (a form used by Division III schools):** A standard NCAA-provided, nonbinding athletics celebratory signing form after you have been accepted for enrollment at a Division III school.

**Contact:** Any time a college coach says more than “Hello” while face-to-face with you or your family off the college’s campus.

**Contact period:** Your division, sport and grade level determine when permissible recruiting activities (such as when college coaches may call, watch you compete, visit your high school, have face-to-face contact with you and your family, etc.) may occur. For more information regarding recruiting activity periods visit [on.ncaa.com/RecruitCalendars](https://on.ncaa.com/RecruitCalendars).

**Dead period:** Your division, sport and grade level determine when permissible recruiting activities (such as when college coaches may call, etc.) and non-permissible recruiting activities (such as when college coaches may watch you compete, visit to your high school, have face-to-face contact with you and your family, etc.) may occur. For more information regarding recruiting activity periods visit [on.ncaa.com/RecruitCalendars](https://on.ncaa.com/RecruitCalendars).

**Evaluation:** When a college coach observes you practicing or competing.

**Evaluation period:** Your division, sport and grade level determine when permissible recruiting activities (such as when college coaches may call, watch you compete, visit to your high school, etc.) and non-permissible recruiting activities (such as when college coaches may have face-to-face contact off the college’s campus with you and your family, etc.) may occur. For more information regarding recruiting activity periods visit [on.ncaa.com/RecruitCalendars](https://on.ncaa.com/RecruitCalendars).

**Financial aid (scholarship):** Any money you receive from a college or another source, such as outside loans or grants. Financial aid may be based on athletics ability, financial need, scholarships or academic achievement.

**Five-year clock:** In Division I, you have five calendar years in which to play four seasons of competition. Your five-year clock starts when you enroll full-time at any college. Thereafter, your clock continues, even if you spend an academic year in residence as a result of transferring, decide to redshirt, do not attend school or attend school part time during your college career.

**Full-time student:** Each school determines what full-time status means. Typically, you’re a full-time student if you’re enrolled for at least 12 credit hours in a term.

**Institutional request list:** A list of college-bound student-athletes who an NCAA school is interested in recruiting. This informs the Eligibility Center of the school’s interest in having an academic and/or amateurism certification decision for you.

**International student:** In Divisions I and II, an **international student** is any student who is enrolled in a secondary school outside the U.S., U.S. territories or Canada. In Division III, an **international student** is any student who attended high school outside of the U.S. or U.S. territories or competed individually or as part of a team based outside of the U.S. or U.S. territories; or whose permanent residence is outside of the U.S. This does not apply to U.S.-based students who study abroad unless they also compete while living abroad.

**Official commitment:** When you sign a **National Letter of Intent**, agreeing to attend a Division I or II school, for one academic year.

**Official visit:** Any visit to a college campus paid by the NCAA school you’re visiting.

**Quiet period:** Your division, sport and grade level determine when permissible recruiting activities (such as when college coaches may call, have face-to-face contact on the college’s campus with you and your family, etc.) and non-permissible recruiting activities (such as when college coaches may watch you compete, visit to your high school, etc.) may occur. For more information regarding recruiting activity periods visit [on.ncaa.com/RecruitCalendars](https://on.ncaa.com/RecruitCalendars).

**Recruited:** When a college coach contacts you off campus, pays your expenses to visit the campus, or (in Divisions I and II) issues you a **National Letter of Intent** or a written offer of financial aid.

**Recruiting calendar:** NCAA Division I and II **recruiting calendars** promote your well-being and ensure fairness among schools by defining certain periods during the year in which recruiting may or may not occur in a particular sport.

**Recruiting shutdown:** A period when no forms of recruiting (e.g., contacts, evaluations, official or Division I unofficial visits, correspondence, or making/receiving calls) are permissible.

**Season of competition/participation:** Generally, NCAA rules say any competition in a season (regardless of the amount of time) counts as having played one season in that sport. If you play any time during a season (regardless of the amount of time) it counts as having played for an entire season in that sport. A season starts when you spend one second in competition on the field, court, gym or track. In Division III, you use a season if you practice or compete after the first contest. NCAA schools may have sport-specific exceptions to this general rule, so check with the compliance office at the NCAA school you may attend before participating.

**Ten-semester/15-quarter clock:** In Divisions II and III, you have the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which you’re enrolled as a full-time student to complete your four seasons of competition/participation. You use a semester or quarter any time you attend class as a full-time student or are enrolled part time and compete for the school. You do not use a term if you only attend part time with no competition or are not enrolled for a term.

**Two-year college:** Any school from which students can earn an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or Associate of Applied Science within two years. (AKA: Community or junior colleges.)

**Unofficial visit:** Any visit to a college campus paid for by you or your family.

**Verbal commitment:** When you verbally agree to play sports for a college before you sign or are eligible to sign a **National Letter of Intent**. The commitment is not binding on you or the school.

**Walk-on:** Someone who is not typically recruited by a school to participate in sports and does not receive a scholarship from the school, but who becomes a member of one of the school’s athletics teams.