



National Association for
College Admission Counseling

STATEMENT ON

Recruitment and Admission of Student Athletes

Revised September 2002

In 1981, the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) responded to the questionable practices used in recruiting student athletes by taking a firm stance to protect both students and institutions. NACAC remains informed of recent measures instituted by the NCAA as they relate to the education, evaluation, recruitment and retention of student athletes. Secondary and postsecondary institutions play an integral role in ensuring the success of students who wish to become student athletes. The association has joined other professional organizations to recognize that intercollegiate athletics represent an important element of the total educational program of our nation's colleges and universities, while recognizing the need to maintain a careful balance between collegiate athletics and the academic mission of these institutions.

School and college admission counselors are in a position to support the college application and admission activities of prospective college student athletes. In the secondary schools, the counselors play an important role in advising the student about college selection. In the colleges, the admission officers and counselors who assist in the recruitment should ultimately oversee the admission of the student athlete to the institution.

Counselors recognize the realities of intense competition for a limited number of outstanding athletes, which often result in pressure to modify admission standards and procedures. When the modification of standards and procedures takes place, both students and institutions suffer. Therefore, the probability of a successful academic experience for the student athlete should always be the overriding consideration in the admission decision.

The following guidelines are designed to assist individual counselors, admission officers, and other educators involved in the recruitment process as they work to ensure the proper advisement of prospective student athletes:

A. Colleges and Universities Should:

1. Adhere to the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice in all dealings with student athletes.
2. Fully inform prospective student athletes of the academic, admission, and graduation requirements of the institution and of the specific guidelines set forth by the respective athletic association.
3. Work closely with coaches and others recruiting student athletes in the field to inform them of admission criteria and procedures, academic standards, graduation requirements and the contents of the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice.
4. Ensure that procedures for the recruitment and admission of student athletes conform to those practices established for all other candidates for admission.
5. Stay abreast of all rules and regulations governing the recruiting, eligibility, and financial aid of student athletes as interpreted by NCAA and/or other applicable athletic associations and other similar regulatory organizations.
6. Adhere to the guidelines of NCAA and/or other applicable athletic associations in all dealings with student athletes.

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7. Communicate to the highest levels of the institution the harm to individuals, which can come from the improper and unethical treatment of recruited athletes and the misunderstandings that are generated when recruited athletes do not follow guidelines of the applicable athletic association or the stated institutional application and admission procedures.
8. Develop accurate and current studies of academic performance, retention, and graduation experience of student athletes and distribute them to recruited athletes and the public.
9. Consider the prospective student athlete's entire educational record (academic grade point average, test scores, class rank, course selection, etc.), as well as other relevant personal characteristics and demonstrated talent evaluations in all admission decisions.

B. Secondary Schools Should:

1. Provide accurate information to students, parents, and fellow educators regarding the college admission and financial aid process.
2. Work toward reducing the pressure on highly recruited athletes by assisting the student athletes in assessing a full range of educational opportunities offered by various institutions.
3. Stay abreast of the rules and regulations governing the recruiting, eligibility, and financial aid for student athletes as interpreted by respective athletic associations and other similar regulatory organizations.
4. Apprise student athletes of NCAA regulations, procedure for submitting materials to the NCAA Clearinghouse, or any regulations established by other applicable athletic associations.
5. Report recruitment and/or admission violations to the appropriate authorities, including, but not limited to, the following: chief admission officer, college president, respective athletic associations, and the NACAC Admission Practices Committee.

In the recruitment of student athletes, educational outcomes are often over-shadowed by the need to procure the student's athletic talents. As school and college admission counselors, we must ensure that the academic rules of our institutions are not devalued. Cooperation among school agencies, athletics, admission, administration, and faculty, must be coordinated before any student, including student athletes, will be best served. Counseling and admission professionals should strive to foster the cooperation that will result in the proper matching of the student athlete, thereby benefiting both the student and the institution.