



**FIRST
POINT
★ USA ★**

**TALENT EVALUATION
AND ELIGIBILITY GUIDE**

THE BRIGHTEST TALENT. THE BIGGEST UNIVERSITIES. THE STRONGEST SUPPORT.

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OUR MISSION

WE ARE HERE TO HELP TALENTED
YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN
BE ALL THAT THEY CAN BE.

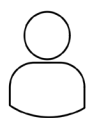
WE ARE THE WORLD LEADER IN PROVIDING
LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH
US COLLEGIATE SPORT SCHOLARSHIPS...
... REALISING FRESH POTENTIAL IN A SAFE,
SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.

PROTECTING STUDENTS' WELFARE
AND EMPOWERING THEIR FUTURES.

FIRSTPOINT USA - STAR RATING

Some US sports, mostly team sports, use star ratings to rank student recruits' coming out of US High schools and into the college game. Star ratings are a quick and easy way to convey a recruit's level of talent to college coaches.

Most commonly, student-athletes are ranked from no stars, meaning their talent is unknown, to 5 stars or elite athletes. We therefore, allocate a star rating to all of our clients for ease of evaluation and marketing to US colleges. You will fall into one of five star categories.



5-star recruits -These are the best youth players in the country, generally among the nation's top prospects. They have outstanding athleticism and ability far beyond their peers.



4-star recruits -These prospects have excellent knowledge of the game and ability. They will most likely start their freshman year in college and are the best player on their club or high school team.



3-star recruits -These student-athletes show dominance on the field and will be an impact player. They have a few areas of development and might not always be consistent, especially when competing against top-tier players.



2-star recruits - Sometimes overmatched against their peers, these student recruits have several areas of development. But the potential to compete at the college level is there and they could become reliable starters.



1 star recruits - These student recruits have several areas of development. But the potential to compete at the college level is there and they could become reliable starters.



FIRSTPOINT USA – ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Academic eligibility might be a least favourite recruiting topic, but it's one of the most important parts of the process.

We've outlined the main eligibility requirements you need to meet to be eligible for NCAA, NAIA and JUCO schools, respectively.

The best way for a student to approach eligibility is to first set academic goals based on the requirements of the University or college you would like to go to. If you can meet those standards, you will be eligible at all NCAA and NAIA division levels. If you're struggling to stay on top academically, review the standards for the specific division level you're targeting to ensure your eligible for colleges at that level.

Please note - just because you meet the minimum academic eligibility requirements to compete at that division level, doesn't mean you meet a university's entrance requirements. For example, if you are interested in a college that requires students to have a 3.0 GPA and 25 ACT or above, you also need to consider if you qualify for all colleges on your shortlist.



FIRSTPOINT USA – NCAA ELIGIBILITY

Here are the main components that determine NCAA DI & DII eligibility.

- Core course requirements - all athletes are required to pass GCSE/national 5 (or equivalent) English, maths, a science (physics, biology, or chemistry), and a social science (history, geography or modern studies). While there is a slight variation in the requirements for DI and DII colleges, if you meet the DI core course requirements, you will also be eligible at the DII level
- Core course GPA (grade point average) - when determining if your GPA meets NCAA eligibility requirements, the NCAA only looks at the GPA for core courses - that's it! If you failed a woodwork class somewhere down the line, you're in the clear. But you really can't afford to fail a core course. The core course GPA minimum is 2.3 on a 4.0 scale. For division II, the minimum is a 2.0.
- SAT & ACT scores - generally speaking, the minimum act score for DI NCAA eligibility is a 75 accumulative score, while the minimum for the SAT is a 900. For DII NCAA eligibility, you must receive an 840 SAT or a 70 ACT. The NCAA defines the sum score as the combined scores of the following four sections: English, mathematics, reading and science. You can take both the SAT and ACT multiple times and use your best score in each category to create a "super" sum score.
- NCAA sliding scale - the NCAA uses a combination of your GPA, SAT or act scores in determining your eligibility. Athletes with a lower GPA can still be NCAA eligible if they meet the ACT/SAT score requirement outlined on the sliding scale.
- NCAA division III - division III schools are responsible for setting their own academic eligibility rules. If a client is going to a DIII school, there is no reason to create a certification account with the NCAA, as they will not be reviewing their academic eligibility.



FIRSTPOINT USA – NAIA ELIGIBILITY

NAIA eligibility is much more straightforward than NCAA DI or DII eligibility. There are two main requirements every future NAIA athlete must meet.

- You must be a graduate of an accredited high school.
- You must be accepted as a regular student in good standing. In other words, you need to meet the regular entrance requirements of the NAIA university.
- In addition to these requirements, you must meet two of the three following criteria:
 - A minimum score of an 18 on your ACT or an 860 on your SAT (only in critical reading and math sections)
 - A high school GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
 - Rank in the top 50% of your graduating class



FIRSTPOINT USA – NJCAA ELIGIBILITY

Many athletes who aren't able to meet the NCAA or NAIA eligibility requirements will gain eligibility by competing at a junior college for two years. Or sometimes, athletes who unsure of their major, will attend a junior college while they decide what their four-year course of study will be.

Junior colleges simply require that a student-athlete be a high school graduate, earning an approved standard academic diploma (GCSE's, for example). Student-athletes can also be eligible if they've completed an approved high school equivalency test, like the GED.



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE DIVISIONS

Whilst nearly everyone starts out thinking DI is the ultimate goal, it really comes down to what type of university or college experience will be right for the client. The good news is that with three NCAA divisions, NAIA schools and junior colleges, there's something for every type of student-athlete.

Many of FirstPoint USA's athletes who have the physical size, athleticism, and grades to compete at the DI level may opt to go to a DII or DIII school for a variety of reasons. It maybe they just wanted to go to a smaller school or have been offered a bigger scholarship elsewhere. For some, they just don't want their college experience defined by the demanding lifestyle of a DI athlete.

According to the NCAA, there are 347 Division I schools, 309 Division II schools, and 442 Division III schools. To give you a better idea of size and how they divisions compare, about 176,000 student athletes compete at the Division I level. A little more than 118,000 student-athletes compete in Division II; and Division III has just under 188,000 student athletes on its rosters. And that's just the NCAA. There's also the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) with more than 300 schools and of course the many options at the junior college level for high school athletes. While there are some similarities, you'll find each division is somewhat unique.

While DIII schools do not offer any type of athletic scholarships, parents should know that 80 percent of DIII athletes receive non-athletics aid, often in the form of grants or need-based scholarships to academically qualified athletes. Another big plus for both parents and student-athletes is that 87 percent of all DIII athletes graduate from college. Although the other two divisions are not that far behind, that's the highest percentage of any NCAA Division.

There are plenty of facts and figures about each division, but they only tell part of the story, or may give the wrong impression. For example, the rank order of the divisions may imply to some that anything below a Division I program is somehow settling for second best. While it's true DI offers a higher level of competition and is home to some of the largest and most prestigious schools in the country, it does not mean there are not great opportunities to compete at world-class colleges in divisions II and III.



NCAA DI

For NCAA Division I athletes, the rewards are many. Competing at a large university in front big crowds against some of the best athletes in your sport. But just know the competition for your spot on the team is fierce and your time is not your own—that includes weekends and off season. Practice, training, travel, and study. There's also volunteer work. You will be tired. Internships, spring break getaways, even part-time jobs are pretty much out of the question. The DI athlete is truly dedicated to their sport for the next four years. For some, it can be overwhelming—even exhausting. But almost every one would say they would not trade their DI experience for anything.

NCAA DII

Student-athletes who want a high level of competition but a more balanced approach to sports and academics are giving serious consideration to DII schools. It's also perfect for those who may prefer a smaller campus, or the opportunity to get playing time all four years. As one recruit put it, "I'd rather be a big fish in a smaller pond." There are still the demands all student-athletes face, but it is not as intense and rigorous as the year-round total commitment of a DI athlete.

NCAA DIII

DIII programs offer a more well-rounded college experience where academics take more of the lead. Just like their DI and DII counterparts, DIII athletes also must learn to manage playing their sport while pursuing their education. The time commitment, however, for DIII athletes is not nearly as intense which gives them more opportunity to explore life outside of the classroom and outside of their sport. DIII athletes often feel they are more a part of the general college community where DI and DII athletes feel a little more separated from the rest of the college or university.

NAIA

It may come as a surprise to some but the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has actually been around longer than the NCAA. With about 303 mostly private, smaller schools, more than 60,000 student-athletes compete at NAIA colleges in a variety of popular sports. Many consider NAIA to be on par with NCAA DIII schools when it comes to life/sport balance and level of competitiveness. The NAIA awards close to \$500 million in athletic scholarships every year. That, along with more aggressive recruiting is driving more talent to these schools and bringing up the level of competition. Today, top-level NAIA schools are considered to be similar to competing on a NCAA DII team.

Junior College

There are many common misconceptions about what junior colleges can offer a student-athlete and that's why they often get overlooked. Today's junior colleges have a lot to offer when it comes to scholarships and other cost-savings. For some athletes, junior college is the best path to getting a four-year college roster.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Athletic scholarships are typically one-year agreements between the college and the athlete, although some are multi-year.

They are offered at the NCAA DI and DII levels, as well as at the NAIA and NJCAA levels. DIII colleges do not offer athletic scholarships, but many DIII student-athletes receive some kind of financial aid.

Athletic association	Number of colleges	Number of athletes	Number of scholarships
NCAA Division I	348	139,063	74,243
NCAA Division II	292	85,385	36,343
NCAA Division III	418	144,062	0
NAIA	303	56,354	25,778
NJCAA	464	53,248	41,195
Other	276	39,737	N/A
TOTAL	2,102	517,849	177,559

TALENT ID MATRIX – OUR MOST POPULAR SPORTS

Our talent ID matrix gives you a great indication of the athletic criteria each division is looking for:

Sport	NCAA DI	NCAA DII	NCAA DIII/NAIA	Junior College
Soccer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National team selection 'Academy scholar' at premier league or championship level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County & regional team selection 'Academy scholar' at lower league pro side 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting club player within a established league Pro club trialist Starting for high school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar standard required to NCAA DI, DII, DIII & NAIA. High school graduate
Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scratch to +5 handicap Competing in national events National team selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 to 2 handicap Competing in national events County team selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 to 4 handicap Competing in county events County & local events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar standard required to NCAA DI, DII, DIII & NAIA. High school graduate
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top-200 men's open ranking in UK or top-300 ranking for women Top-600 ITF junior Experience in ITF's & ATP's tournament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top 150 U18 ranking in UK National & regional competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in national or regional competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar standard required to NCAA DI, DII, DIII & NAIA. High school graduate
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro rugby academy player 'Elite' school starting XV National & regional team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting player for school XV Club level XV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squad player for school XV Club level XV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar standard required to NCAA DI, DII, DIII & NAIA. High school graduate
Rowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2k ERG 6:20 (male). 2k ERG 7:15 (female) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2k ERG 6:30 (male). 2k ERG 7:30 (female) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2k ERG 6:40 (male). 2k ERG 7:55 (female) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rowing programs in junior college
Field hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National team selection Senior women's league 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County or regional team selection Starter for high school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starter for high school Club player 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No hockey programs in junior college

And here are some other. If you cant find your sport, just give us a call on 020 3507 1632.

- Swimming - [Swimming eligibility criteria](#)
- Track and field - [Track and field eligibility criteria](#)
- Cross country - [Cross country eligibility criteria](#)
- Basketball - [Baseball eligibility criteria](#)
- Fencing - [Fencing eligibility criteria](#)

THE FIRSTPOINT USA PROCESS



Stage 1

ENGAGEMENT

Assign 'Talent Management' team consultant.



Stage 2

KICK-OFF

Catch-up call.
Outline 'scholarship journey'.
Send out 'Client pack'.
Source and secure client footage.
Create online profile.



Stage 3

PROFILE UPDATE

Eligibility flags.
SAT scores.
Educational certification.
Sporting type and level.
Study choice.
Athletic and academic balance
Financial needs.



Stage 6

ACCEPTANCE

Offer accepted.
Client informed of next steps.
Client receives form from school.
Consultant runs through application and eligibility process.



Stage 5

REVIEW

Feedback from colleges and universities and advise on best fit academically, athletically, socially and financially.



Stage 4

TARGETING

Email qualifying colleges and universities.
Final check run by clearing consultant prior to creation of recommended short-list for client.



Stage 7

ADMISSION

Client admitted on formal offer.
Documentation sent from school.
Visa booking steps.
Interview training.



Stage 8

ASSIST

Visa.
Flights.
Insurance.
Currency.
What to expect.



Stage 9

DEPART

August pre-flight check list.
Good luck call by consultant.
Q&A.

18

MONTHS

Can be done quicker, but we like to allow enough time to find the perfect match.



Stage 10

SUPPORT

Provide telephone helpline and email support to client and family during course.
Pastoral advice after course has finished.

THANK YOU

Please call the talent management team
on 020 3507 1632 if you have any questions.