

FOR PARENTS

YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN YOUR ATHLETE'S PATHWAY.

THE RECRUITMENT CONVERSATION DOES NOT START IN JUNE OF GRADUATION YEAR. IT STARTS IN FORM 2. AND IT STARTS AT HOME.

WHAT YOU CAN DO — STARTING NOW

1. START THE PATHWAY CONVERSATION EARLY

- Ask your child's coach this question this week: 'What does the pathway look like for my child, and what do we need to be doing right now?'
- Do not wait for graduation to discover the answer. The decisions that determine scholarship eligibility are made in Form 2 or 3
- Connect with your child's federation and ask the same question

2. PROTECT YOUR ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- **NCAA** — the primary US governing body for college sport. Three divisions. Strict academic eligibility requirements. Requires registration at eligibilitycenter.org
- **NAIA** — 250+ smaller US colleges offering athletic scholarships. More accessible than NCAA Division I. Awards over \$1.3 billion in scholarships annually. Fewer recruiting restrictions. Register at play.mynaia.org
- **NJCAA** — junior and community college sport. A viable route for athletes who need to build academic credentials before transferring to a four-year institution
- **UK Universities** — actively recruit international athletes. Partial scholarships available. Particularly accessible for athletes competing at national level

3. REINFORCE THE STUDENT-ATHLETE MODEL AT HOME

- Check your child's GPA every term — not just at exam time
- Reinforce that the classroom matters as much as the court, the field, or the pool. Coaches can develop talent. Only grades open scholarship doors
- Encourage your child to take academic eligibility seriously from the beginning of high school — not the end

4. SUPPORT THEIR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING

- If your child is showing signs of performance anxiety, loss of confidence, or difficulty recovering from setbacks — virtual sport psychology support is available globally via Zoom through platforms like peaksports.com
- Ensure your child is eating well, sleeping adequately, and recovering between training sessions — these are not luxuries, they are performance requirements

5. BUILD THEIR RECRUITMENT PROFILE NOW

- Help your child create a free profile at NCSA Sports (ncsasports.org)
- Begin recording highlight footage — consistent, well-lit, clearly showing your child's ability in their sport
- Ensure your child's passport is current and valid

KEY RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- NCSA Sports — ncsasports.org (free profile)
- NAIA for Parents — naia.org/findyourpath/parents
- NCAA Eligibility Centre — eligibilitycenter.org
- Virtual Sport Psychology (youth-specific) — kidsportspsychology.com
- NAIA Pre-Eligibility Indicator Tool — play.mynaia.org