



Questions to Ask When Recruiting International Student-Athletes: For Coaches

Purpose

This document contains important questions to ask when recruiting international student-athletes. For more information about international academic standards, please visit NCAA.org/international.

1. Has the prospective student-athlete created a Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center?

Both Certification Accounts and Profile Pages provide students with NCAA ID numbers. However, only Certification Accounts are viewable by staff members on your campus. In order for student to make an official visit to campus, or sign a National Letter of Intent, they must be registered with a certification Account. If a student created a Profile Page but wants to play DI or DII sports, they must transition their [Profile Page to a Certification Account](#).

2. When did the student initially enroll in year nine of school?

This is not what the student feels is the equivalent of ninth grade, but year nine of education in that student's country. Make sure that when the student begins registration, they are accurately recording when year nine occurred and at which school. Visit our [NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#) for background information on over 170 countries, including academic calendar years, what year nine is typically referred to as and the length of education.

3. Has the student attended school in more than one country?

Students who have attended secondary school in more than one country may have missed, skipped or repeated portions of schooling that could impact the outcome of their academic and amateurism evaluations.

4. Has the student ever repeated a term or year of school since the initial start of year nine?

Repetition of one or more academic terms or years may result in an unanticipated academic or amateurism decision. It is important for you and your institution to determine if the student had repeated one or more academic terms and to investigate with your compliance staff the basis for the repeated academic term(s).



5. Did the student stop his/her schooling at any point after the initial start of year nine, other than normal school breaks (school closing for all students at designated times)?

For the same reasons as questions three and four, it is important to know if a student discontinued their schooling for any period of time. In Division this can affect the core-course time limitation and for DII and it can affect the expected date of high school graduation.

6. Has the student ever taken longer than the normal calendar school year (normal for the country the student is in) to finish a school year?

For example, a student who takes two years to complete year eleven. This could also impact the outcome of their academic and amateurism evaluations, resulting in delayed enrollment issues and delayed coursework completion outside of the core-curriculum time limitation.

7. Has the student taken the ACT/SAT before attending a university full time (either inside or outside the United States)?

Many international students who have not been recruited previously are unaware of the SAT/ACT tests. As a reminder, only SAT/ACT test score taken prior to full-time collegiate enrollment can be used towards NCAA initial eligibility.

Important Note

Answering “yes” to any of the above questions could be a reason for concern. This is all information you will want to provide your compliance officer with and have him/her contact the NCAA Eligibility Center’s International department to discuss what impact, if any, the above information may have on the prospective student-athlete’s initial eligibility and what additional tasks may need to be assigned to the student’s NCAA Eligibility Center account. (As a reminder, only compliance officers or designated university staff may call the NCAA Eligibility Center to discuss a prospective student-athlete. Please make sure all questions are directed through the compliance office.)