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# NAIA Eligibility

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**India Johnson - Customer Relations Manager**  
**September 29, 2020**



## About the NAIA

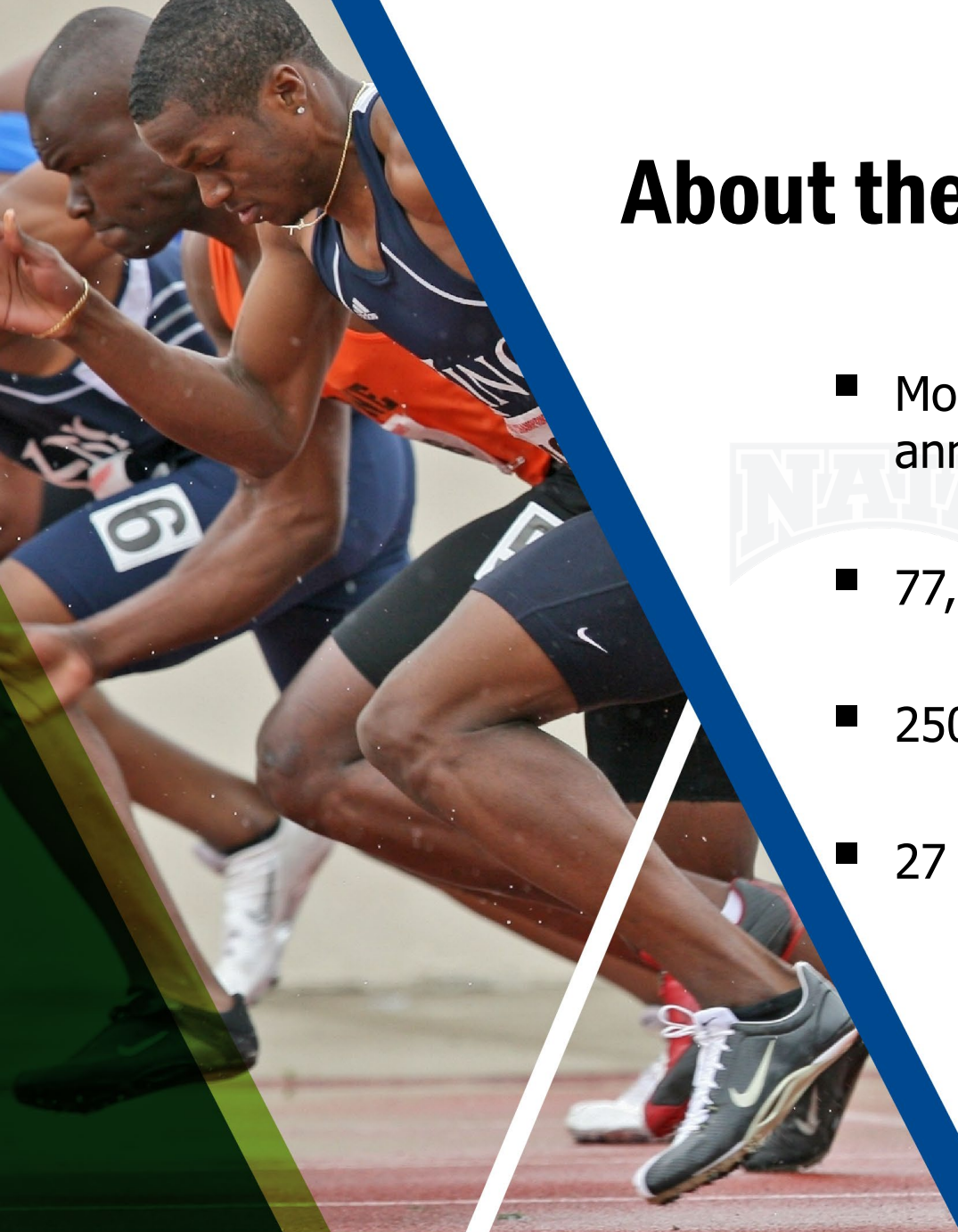
- The NAIA are the experts in the business of small college athletics.
- We intentionally teach character and prepare student-athletes to be tomorrow's leaders.
- We develop Champions of Character® through our core values:

Integrity · Respect · Responsibility  
Sportsmanship · Servant Leadership



# About the NAIA

- More than \$800 million in scholarships annually
- 77,000+ student athletes
- 250+ schools; 21 conferences
- 27 national championships



# Eligibility Differences NCAA vs. NAIA

- No core courses in the NAIA
- GPA requirement is 2.0 cumulative for all courses
- No sliding scale; meet two of three (GPA, ACT/SAT or top 50% of class)
- NAIA Eligibility Center reviews transfer students and requires transcripts from all previous colleges/universities attended
- Decision of eligible required to compete in the NAIA; can receive scholarships and practice prior to a determination
- Receive final eligibility decision as early as junior year so get started early
- Do not need to be on a coach recruit list to get an eligibility decision if coming straight from high school to college
  - Use this as a recruiting advantage – students stand out to coaches when proactive about their eligibility – help students get engaged early

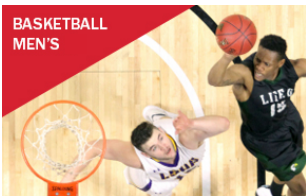
# Reasons to choose the NAIA

- High caliber competition
- Play the sport you love
- Take part in \$800M in athletic scholarships
- Higher percentage of athletes competing in post-season; 17% post-season participation in the NAIA vs. 14% in NCAA DII and 10% in NCAA DIII
- Character development as our guide
- Tight-knit campus communications mean closer interaction, stronger relationships and personalized attention
- Expand your search to find the program that fits – NAIA schools offer you more opportunities



PLAYNAIA

# 27 Championship Sports



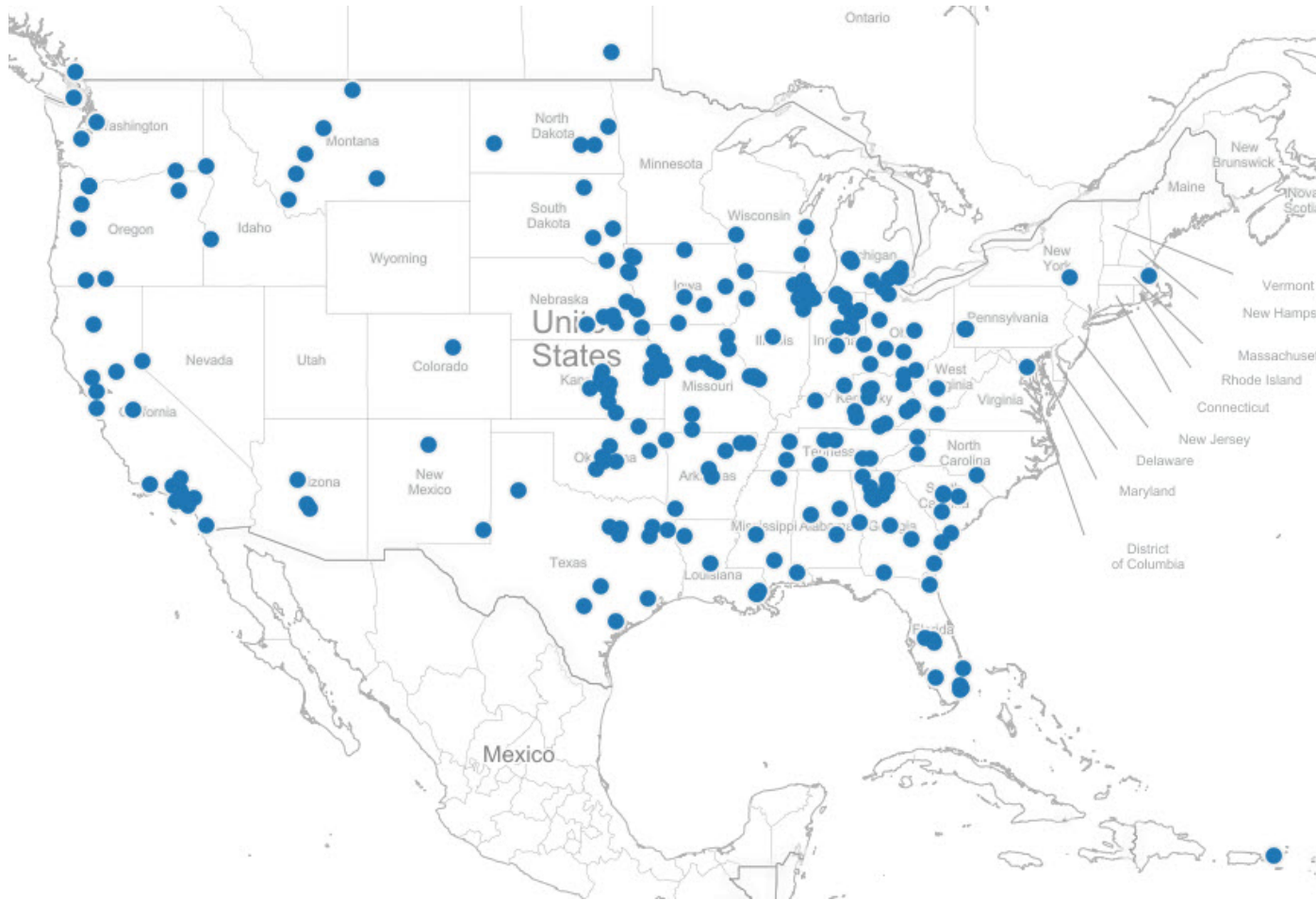
# Emerging & Invitational Sports



- Men's Lacrosse
- Women's Wrestling
- Women's Beach Volleyball
- In partnership with the NFL – the NAIA is the first collegiate organization to start [Women's Flag Football](#)



# Where are our schools located?



### Quick Search

Find an NAIA school near me:

GO

Member Institutions



Interactive Member Map



## Search for NAIA Colleges, Universities, Conferences and Sports.

Men's Sports

☐ Baseball
☐ Basketball
☐ Bowling \*\*
☐ Competitive Cheer
☐ Competitive Dance
☐ Cross Country
☐ Football
☐ Golf
☐ Indoor Track & Field
☐ Lacrosse \*
☐ Outdoor Track & Field
☐ Soccer
☐ Swimming/Diving
☐ Tennis
☐ Volleyball \*
☐ Wrestling

Women's Sports

☐ Basketball
☐ Bowling \*\*
☐ Competitive Cheer
☐ Competitive Dance
☐ Outdoor Track & Field
☐ Soccer
☐ Softball
☐ Swimming/Diving

## Recruiting in the NAIA

- NAIA recruitment rules **encourage** coach-student mentoring and development of a personal relationship
- Have direct connection with NAIA coaches at official NAIA Showcase events
- No communication restrictions between NAIA coaches and HS athletes
- Coaches can connect with student-athletes using texting, email, phone, Twitter, Facebook and any other social media



# Register at PlayNAIA.org

## READY TO PLAY?

When you're ready to take your life and your game to the next level, it's time to register with the NAIA.

### Get Access Today

Athletes, create an account for more info

✉ Email Address

✉ Re-Enter Email Address

☐ Remember me on this computer

Register Student

## Time to Suit Up

### Visibility

- Let our coaches find you easily
- Post a video showing off your skills
- Sign up for our Showcase

### Opportunity

- Play the sport you love while earning a degree
- Increase your chance to play for a national title

### Eligibility

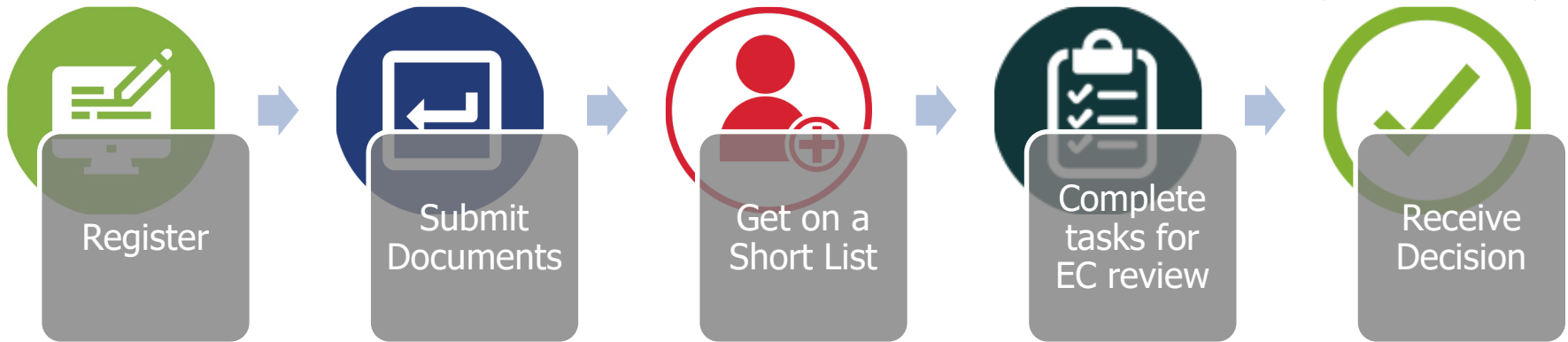
- Make sure your eligibility is in order
- Increase your opportunity for scholarships
- Show coaches you are ready to play



# Student Registration Fees

- Students fee:
  - \$90 High school/recent high school graduates from the US & Canada
  - \$135 College students from the US & Canada
- *Waivers are available based on need:*
  - ACT/SAT fee waiver *or* Free/reduced school lunch
  - HS counselors must review the waiver request through the Portal

# Student Registration



## 1. Registration

- Create account
- Confirm email address
- Pay registration fee

## 2. Complete Your Profile

- Enter all academic and athletic information
- Submit your profile

## 3. Send Documentation

- Complete tasks – get documents submitted
- NAIA Eligibility Center staff review your eligibility

## 4. Decision Complete

- Play in the NAIA once eligible

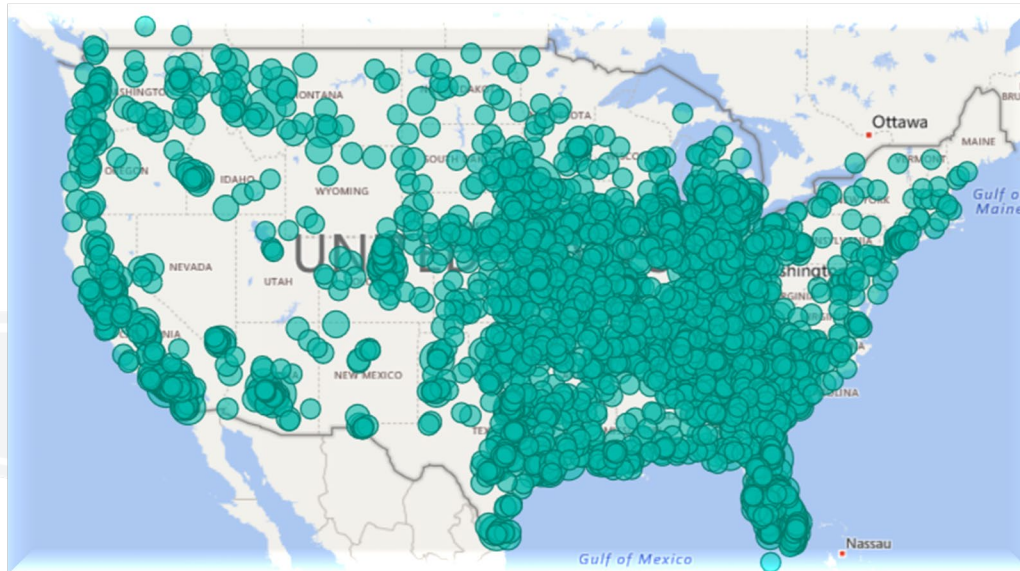
# Student Registration



# U.S. High School Portal



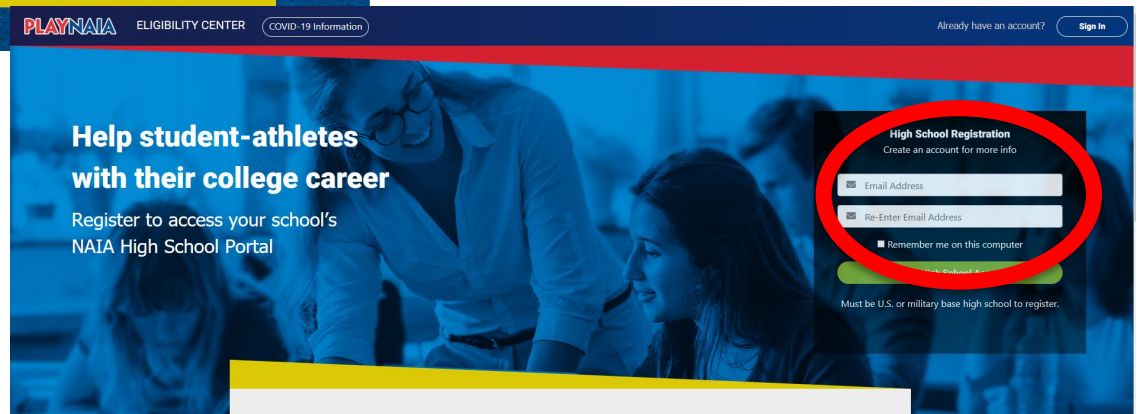
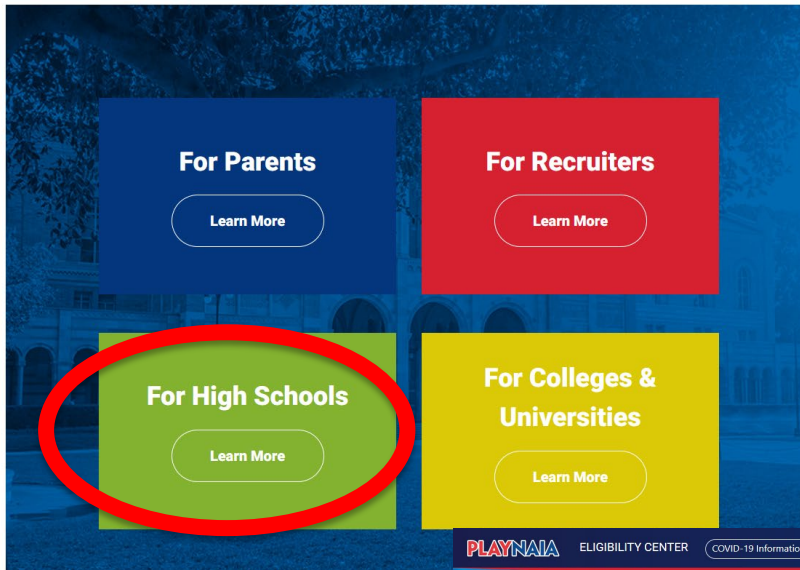
- Counselors are required to submit student transcripts through the portal
- First step: create an account on [www.PlayNAIA.org](http://www.PlayNAIA.org)
- [This resource guide](#) can assist you setting up a profile
- Transcripts and fee waivers are processed through the portal



# Register at PlayNAIA.org



Are you supporting a college-bound athlete?



## Benefits for Your School

### Create your school's profile

- Include key information, grading scale and contact information
- Track your students' eligibility progress

### Send student documents

- Upload transcripts and class rank information
- Approve fee waivers

### Find student resources

- Access the Guide to the Student-Bound College Athlete
- Learn about upcoming NAIA Showcases

# Submit Documents

- **High school documents**
  - Required through the [NAIA High School Portal](#)
- **Post-secondary transcripts**
  - NAIA Registrar Portal
  - Parchment & National Student Clearinghouse
  - Mail
  - Send after completion of your attendance at each school
- **International documents**
  - Required through [www.InCredEvals.org](http://www.InCredEvals.org)

# Sending High School Transcripts

- Transcripts must be official and come directly from the school through the high school portal
- The eligibility center only requires a high school transcript from the school the student graduates from
- Send transcripts after high school graduation, unless the student qualifies for an Early Decision



# Standard Entering Freshmen Eligibility Requirements

After completion of junior year

GPA of 3.0+  
&  
ACT 18+ or SAT 970+

If not met...

After completion of 7 semesters

GPA of 2.5+  
&  
ACT 18+ or SAT 970+

If not met...

After graduation

GPA of 2.0+  
ACT 18+ or SAT 970+  
Top 50% Class Rank

## Test Score Requirements:

Date test was taken	ACT	SAT
Before 3/1/2016	18	860
Between 3/1/2016 & 5/1/2019	16	860
After 5/1/2019	18	970

# Submitting ACT and SAT Test Scores



- Test scores must be sent directly from the testing service
- Test scores CANNOT be taken from high school transcript
- Contact [ACT](#) or [The College Board](#) directly to send your scores
- Use our test code: 9876

9 8 7 6





# COVID-Related Exceptions for Entering Freshman

## Entering freshmen exceptions arising out of the Spring of 2020

Please note these are a collection of some of the most important scenarios arising out of the COVID pandemic. To find out more information please go to [naia.org/covdi19](https://naia.org/covdi19).

### WHO

#### • Entering Freshmen

A freshman is anyone who has not been identified for at least two semester terms of attendance or three quarter terms of attendance.

### WHAT

#### Initial Eligibility Requirements

- Generally, entering freshman have to meet two out of three initial eligibility requirements: ACT/SAT test score; high school GPA; and/or high school class rank.
- Freshman seeking a decision for the **fall of 2020** or **spring of 2021** are able to meet initial eligibility requirements by having only a 2.000 final high school GPA.

### HOW

- The NAIA Eligibility Center will apply the exception automatically.

### WHEN/WHERE

- If a student utilizes this exception, then they would be eligible to compete in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- However, before they compete in their next season of competition, they have to have at least a 2.000 cumulative collegiate GPA.

Check out these [Updates](#),  
[PDF Infographic](#)  
and [FAQs](#) for more info

# COVID-19 Eligibility Impacts

## A Flexible Response

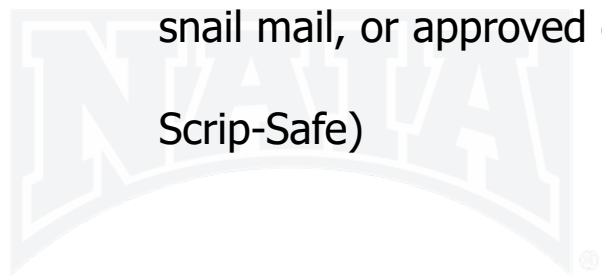


- Cancelled 2020 spring seasons:
  - NAIA and college transfers receive an extra year in terms of their season of competition and receive two extra terms of attendance (equivalent of one year)
  - Not charging for non-collegiate competition from May 2019 to May 2020
- Distance/e-learning courses are acceptable
- Pass/fail grades are acceptable. Note: Only if a student was relying on a grade to advance GPA above the 2.0 threshold will going pass/fail impact eligibility
- No negative impact to future eligibility if a student delays high school graduation as a result of COVID-19

# Sending Transcripts During COVID-19



- HS transcripts are still required through the NAIA Portal but individual exceptions will be evaluated on case-by-case basis
- High school transcripts should be sent once high school graduation date is posted
- Official transcripts are required from all post-secondary institutions a student has attended (College registrars can send through an NAIA Portal account, snail mail, or approved e-vendors of Parchment, National Student Clearinghouse or e-Scrip-Safe)



# How To Help

- HS counselors – register for the [online portal account](#) and familiarize yourself with the transcript upload process; the NAIA's required submission process
- Encourage early engagement to minimize eligibility review delays
- Promote awareness of the opportunities in the NAIA
- Visit [updates](#) and [FAQ](#) pages for specific & detailed scenarios

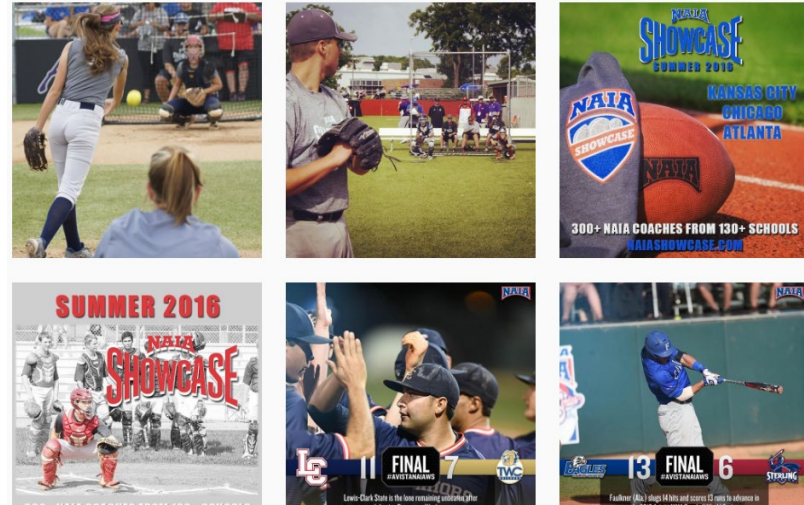


# Helpful Resources



- **Sending Transcripts: setting up secure portal profiles**
  - [HS Counselors](#)
  - [College Registrars](#)
- **COVID-19 Updates**
  - [Updates](#)
  - [FAQs](#)
  - [COVID Freshmen Rules Updates Graphic](#)
  - [COVID Transfer/Current Rules Updates Graphic](#)
- **Student Resources**
  - [Decision Progress Guide](#)
  - [Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete](#)
  - [Guide for the International College-Bound SA](#)
- **Freshmen Eligibility Rules**
  - [https://play.mynaia.org/media/1138/early\\_decision\\_freshman\\_requirements.pdf](https://play.mynaia.org/media/1138/early_decision_freshman_requirements.pdf)
- **Transfer Eligibility Rules**
  - [24/36 hr rule](#)
  - [Progress rule and seasons of competition](#)

# Connect with the NAIA on Social



■ PlayNAIA



■ @playnaia



# Questions?

- Visit: [www.PlayNAIA.org](http://www.PlayNAIA.org)
- Email: Fill out the [Contact Us form](#)
- Phone: 816.595.8300

