

About the National Letter of Intent (NLI)

The NCAA Eligibility Center manages the daily operations of the NLI program while the Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA) provides governance oversight of the program. Started in 1964 with seven conferences and eight independent institutions, the program now includes 612 Division I and II participating institutions.

The NLI is a voluntary program with regard to both institutions and student-athletes. No prospective student-athlete or parent is required to sign the National Letter of Intent, and no institution is required to join the program.

By signing a National Letter of Intent, a prospective student-athlete agrees to attend the designated college or university for one academic year. Pursuant to the terms of the National Letter of Intent program, participating institutions agree to provide athletics financial aid for one academic year to the student-athlete, provided he/she is admitted to the institution and is eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules. An important provision of the National Letter of Intent program is a recruiting prohibition applied after a prospective student-athlete signs a Letter of Intent. This prohibition requires participating institutions to cease recruitment of a prospective student-athlete once a National Letter of Intent is signed with another institution.

The National Letter of Intent has many advantages to both prospective student-athletes and participating educational institutions:

Once a National Letter of Intent is signed, prospective student-athletes are no longer subject to further recruiting contacts and calls.

Student-athletes are assured of an athletic scholarship for one full academic year.

By emphasizing a commitment to an educational institution, not particular coaches or teams, the program focuses on a prospective student-athlete's educational objectives.

For Prospective Student-Athletes Enrolling in the 2011-2012 Academic Year

Sport	Initial Signing Date	Final Signing Date
Basketball and All Other Sports Not Listed (Early Period)	November 10, 2010	November 17, 2010
Football (Midyear JC Transfer)	December 15, 2010	January 15, 2011
Football (Regular Period)	February 2, 2011	April 1, 2011
Field Hockey, Soccer, Track and Field, Cross Country, Men's Water Polo	February 2, 2011	August 1, 2011
Basketball (Regular Period)	April 13, 2011	May 18, 2011
All Other Sports Not Listed (Regular Period)	April 13, 2011	August 1, 2011

NLI Provisions

1. Initial Enrollment in Four-Year Institution. This NLI applies only to prospective student-athletes who will be entering four-year institutions for the first time as full-time students. It is also permissible for 4-2-4 transfer student-athletes who are graduating from a two-year college to sign the NLI. No prospective student-athlete enrolling at midyear shall sign an NLI, with the exception of midyear two-year college transfer student-athletes in football, who must graduate at midyear for this NLI to be valid.

2. Financial Aid Requirement. At the time I sign this NLI, I must receive a written offer of athletics financial aid for the entire 2010-11 academic year from the institution named in this document. The offer must list the terms and conditions of the athletics aid award, including the amount and duration of the financial aid. (A midyear football two-year college transfer student-athlete must receive a written offer of athletics financial aid for the remainder of the 2009-10 academic year.) In order for this NLI to be valid, my parent/legal guardian and I must sign the NLI and I must also sign the offer of athletics aid (see institutional policy for parent/legal guardian signature) prior to submission to the institution named in this document, and any other stated conditions must also be met. If the conditions stated on the financial aid offer are not met, this NLI shall be declared null and void.

NOTE: Professional Sports Contract. If I sign a professional sports contract in the sport in which I signed the NLI, I remain bound by the NLI in all sports, even if NCAA rules prohibit the institution named in this document from providing me with athletics financial aid.

3. Provisions of Letter Satisfied.

a. One-Year Attendance Requirement. The terms of this NLI shall be satisfied if I attend the institution named in this document for one academic year (two semesters or three quarters) as a full-time student.

b. Two-Year College Graduation. After signing this NLI while in high school or during my first year of full-time enrollment at a two-year college, the terms of this NLI will be satisfied if I graduate from the two-year college.

4. Basic Penalty. I understand that if I do not attend the institution named in this document for one full academic year and I enroll in another institution participating in the NLI program, I may not compete in intercollegiate athletics until I have completed one full academic year in residence at the latter institution. Further, I understand I shall be charged with the loss of one season of intercollegiate athletics competition in all sports. This is in addition to any seasons of competition expended at any institution.

5. Early Signing Period Penalties. Prospective student-athletes who will participate in football are prohibited from signing an NLI during the early signing period. A student who signs an NLI during the early period in a sport other than football will be ineligible for practice and competition in football during the student's first year of enrollment at an NLI member institution and shall forfeit one season of competition in football. In circumstances where a student's primary sport is not football, but the student anticipates participating in football, the student should delay signing an NLI until either the football signing period or during the regular signing period for all other sports.

6. Release Request and Appeal Process. In the event I wish to be released from my NLI obligation, the NLI release request form and appeal process information can be reviewed on the NLI Web site at www.national-letter.org. I understand that the NLI Policy and Review Committee has been authorized to issue interpretations, settle disputes and consider petitions for complete release from the provisions of the NLI when extenuating circumstances are determined to exist and the signing institution denies my request for release. I further understand the Committee's decision may be appealed to the NLI Appeals Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding.

7. Letter Becomes Null and Void. This NLI shall be declared null and void if any of the following occur: a. Admissions Requirement. This NLI shall be declared null and void if the institution named in this document notifies me in writing that I have been denied admission or, by the opening day of classes in fall 2010, has failed to provide me with written notice of admission, provided I have submitted a complete admission application. It is my obligation

to provide, by request, my academic records and an application for admission to the signing institution. If I fail to submit the necessary academic credentials and/or application to determine an admission decision prior to September 1, the NLI shall be declared null and void.

This NLI shall be rendered null and void if I am eligible for admission, but the institution named in this document defers admission to a subsequent term. However, this NLI remains binding if I defer my admission.

b. Eligibility Requirements. This NLI shall be declared null and void if, by the opening day of classes in fall 2010, I have not met (1) the institution's requirements for admissions; (2) its academic requirements for financial aid to student-athletes; or (3) the NCAA requirements for financial aid (NCAA Bylaw 14.3) or the two-year college transfer requirements, provided I have submitted all necessary documents for eligibility determination.

(1) This NLI shall be rendered null and void if I become a nonqualifier (per Bylaw 14.3). NLI remains valid if I am a partial qualifier per NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.3.2.1.

(2) It is my obligation to register with and provide information to the NCAA Eligibility Center. If I fail to submit the necessary documentation for an initial-eligibility decision and have not attended classes at the signing institution, the NLI shall be declared null and void.

(3) This NLI shall be rendered null and void if I am a midyear football two-year college transfer and I fail to graduate from two-year college at midyear (only for Division I nonqualifier). The NLI remains binding for the following fall term if I graduated, was eligible for admission and financial aid and met the two-year college transfer requirements for competition for the winter or spring term, but chose to delay my admission.

c. One-Year Absence. This NLI shall be declared null and void if I have not attended any institution for at least one academic year, provided my request for athletics financial aid for a subsequent fall term is denied by the signing institution. I may still apply this provision if I initially enrolled in an NLI member institution but have been absent for at least one academic year. To apply this provision, I must file with the appropriate conference office a statement from the director of athletics at the institution named in this document that such athletics financial aid will not be available for the requested fall term.

d. Service in the U.S. Armed Forces/Church Mission. This NLI shall be declared null and void after serving active duty with the armed forces of the United States or an official church mission for at least 12 months.

e. Discontinued Sport. This NLI shall be declared null and void if the institution named in the document discontinues my sport.

f. Recruiting Rules Violation. If eligibility reinstatement by the NCAA student-athlete reinstatement staff is necessary due to NCAA and/or conference recruiting rules violations, the institution must notify me that I have an option to have the NLI declared null and void due to the rules violation. It is my decision to have the NLI remain valid or to have the NLI declared null and void, permitting me to be recruited and not be subject to NLI penalties.

8. Recruiting Ban After Signing. I understand all participating conferences and institutions are obligated to respect my signing and shall cease to recruit me after my signing this NLI. I shall notify any recruiter who contacts me that I have signed an NLI. Once I enroll in the institution named in this document, the NLI Recruiting Ban is no longer in effect and I shall be governed by applicable NCAA bylaws.

9. 14-Day Signing Deadline. If my parent/legal guardian and I fail to sign this NLI and accompanying offer of athletics financial aid (see institutional policy for parent/legal guardian signature) within 14 days after the date of issuance, it will be invalid. In that event, another NLI may be issued within the appropriate signing period. Signing Deadline (November Only). The NLI must be signed between the dates of November 11-18, 2009 (the 14-day signing deadline is not applicable during the November signing period). Additionally, the institution must file the NLI with its conference office within 21 days of the date of final signature; otherwise, the NLI is invalid.

10. Statute of Limitations. This NLI is in full force and effect for a period of four (4) years, commencing with the date I sign this NLI.

11. Coaching Changes. I understand I have signed this NLI with the institution and not for a particular sport or coach. If a coach leaves the institution or the sports program (e.g., not retained, resigns), I remain bound by the provisions of this NLI. I understand it is not uncommon for a coach to leave his or her coaching position.

12. Coaching Contact Prohibited at Time of Signing. A coach or an institutional representative may not hand deliver this NLI off campus or be present off campus at the time I sign it (NCAA Bylaws 13.1.6.7 and 13.1.6.7.1). This NLI may be delivered by express mail, courier service, regular mail, e-mail or facsimile machine. An NLI transmitted to an institution electronically shall be considered valid.

Membership

Currently 612 Division I and II institutions are NLI members. No Division III institutions, NAIA institutions, preparatory schools, junior colleges or community colleges are members of the NLI program. All members of the NLI program are required to offer athletics scholarships. For a list of member institutions, please see the searchable list of institutions. If an NCAA Division I or Division II conference would like to participate in the NLI program, the conference commissioner should notify the NLI office of the conference's desire to join and include a listing of the member schools. Each member school is then required to complete and file with its conference office a National Letter of Intent Institutional Commitment Form, thereby agreeing to abide by the provisions and rules of the NLI program.



If an institution wishes to participate in the NLI program independent of its conference, the institution must first find a NLI member conference to administer the National Letter of Intent on its behalf. Once the institution secures a sponsoring conference, the institution and conference should notify the NLI program that the institution desires to join the program.

Once a conference becomes a member of the NLI program, its participating institutions are given access to the National Letter of Intent via the Internet. While participating institutions are responsible for the actual preparation and dissemination of the NLI, the conference office is responsible for ensuring the NLI is executed in compliance with NLI provisions, is valid and is filed within 21 days of final signature. The conference office is responsible for NLI data entry of prospective student-athletes who have signed an NLI with one of its member institutions.

For answers to additional questions about an institution joining the NLI program, please contact the NLI office at (317) 223-0706.

References:

NOTE: This information has been taken from the NCAA's official website. To find out more information about college recruiting, please go to www.NCAA.org.