



# A Quick Reference Guide to the NLI

## Signing Dates for 2010-11 Enrollment

Basketball (Early Period)  
November 11, 2009 -  
November 18, 2009

Basketball (Regular Period)  
April 14, 2010 -  
May 19, 2010

Football (Midyear JC Transfer)  
December 16, 2009 - January 15,  
2010

Football (Regular Period)  
February 3, 2010 -  
April 1, 2010

Field Hockey, Soccer, Track and Field/  
Cross Country, Men's Water Polo  
February 3, 2010 -  
August 1, 2010

All Other Sports (Early Period)  
November 11, 2009 -  
November 18, 2009

All Other Sports  
(Regular Period)  
April 14, 2010 -  
August 1, 2010

## What is the National Letter of Intent (NLI)?

The NLI is a binding agreement between a prospective student-athlete (high school, prep school, junior college) and a member institution.

- Prospect agrees to attend institution full-time for one academic year (two semesters or three quarters).
- Institution agrees to provide athletics financial aid for one academic year (two semesters or three quarters).

*Basic Penalty for not fulfilling the NLI agreement: Serve one year in residence at next NLI member institution and lose one season of competition.*

## Valid NLI

Must be accompanied by an athletics financial aid agreement (aid from an athletics source).

Must include the NCAA ID. The NCAA ID will be available to the prospective student-athlete once registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center and will be available to the institution once the prospective student-athlete is placed on the Institution's Request List (IRL). All junior college prospective student-athletes must also have an NCAA ID included on the NLI.

May not be signed prior to the signing dates.

Must include a parent or legal guardian signature if signee is under the age of 21, regardless of prospect's marital status.

## How is the NLI handled by the institution?

Institution issues an NLI and offer of athletics aid to the prospective student-athlete.

Prospective student-athlete signs two copies; returns one to institution and keeps one.

- Must be signed within 14 days of issue date (unless early signing period, deadline on final signing date).
- If prospective student-athlete is under 21, a parent/legal guardian must also sign the NLI.

Institution verifies required information and sends to conference office.

- Must be filed with conference within 21 days of final signature.

## How is the NLI handled by the Conference Office?

Conference office determines validity of NLI.

If NLI is valid, conference administrator enters prospective student-athlete information into the NLI database.

## What is the Recruiting Ban?

Institutions must respect the NLI signing by ceasing recruitment.

The recruiting ban remains in effect until the prospect enrolls at the signing institution or if the prospect does not enroll at the signing institution, the recruiting ban will be lifted after the signing institution's next academic year has elapsed.

Once enrolled the student-athlete is governed by NCAA recruiting regulations.

## Contact the NLI Office:

317-223-0706 (phone)  
317-968-5105 (fax)  
www.national-letter.org



## How is the NLI declared null and void?

Denied admission.

Does not meet NCAA, institutional or conference eligibility requirements.

One-Year Absence.

- Signee does not enroll at an NLI institution for at least one academic year and the scholarship (in its same amount) is no longer available.

Service in the U.S. Armed Forces, Church Mission.

- Signee serves in the military or on a church mission for one year.

Discontinued Sport.

- Sport is discontinued, including for student-athletes who are already enrolled.

Recruiting Rules Violations.

- The NLI shall only be deemed void if the violation is substantiated and prompts the need for reinstatement by the NCAA staff.

### How can a signee be released from the NLI?

#### Release Request.

An institution may release a student from his or her NLI obligation by selecting the "Complete Release" option on the NLI Release Request Form.

The NLI release is not the same as NCAA permission to contact (i.e., releases are not specific to schools).

#### Appeal Process.

The signee must present compelling extenuating circumstances to be granted.

4-4 Transfers are no longer prospective student-athletes. A four-year transfer shall not sign an NLI.

By completing a playing season alone does not fulfill the NLI obligation. The entire academic year at the signing institution must be completed.

Reduce and limit recruiting pressure on student-athletes.

Promote and preserve the amateur nature of collegiate athletics.

### Coaching Contact Prohibited at Time of Signing

In accordance with NCAA Bylaws 13.1.6.7 and 13.1.6.7.1, a coach or institutional representative may not hand deliver the NLI off campus or be present off campus at the time the prospect signs. The NLI may be delivered by express mail, courier service, regular mail, e-mail or facsimile machine. An NLI transmitted to an institution by facsimile machine or electronically shall be considered valid.

### 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 the sport of football during the student's first year of enrollment at an NLI member institution, and shall forfeit one season of eligibility in the sport of 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.

### Coaching Changes

Prospect signs the NLI with an institution, not with a coach. If the coach leaves, the prospect is still bound by the provisions of the NLI.

The NLI penalty does not preclude a student-athlete from receiving athletics aid or practicing while serving the one year of residence.

### Enrollment in a Junior College After Signing an NLI

A prospective student-athlete who signed an NLI while in high school or during his or her first year of full-time enrollment in a junior college must graduate from the junior college to satisfy the terms of the NLI.

If a prospective student-athlete signed an NLI while in high school or during his or her first year of full-time enrollment in a junior college, he or she may sign another NLI in the signing year in which he or she is scheduled to graduate from the junior college. If he or she graduates, the second NLI would be the binding one; otherwise, the original NLI, if not already satisfied would remain valid.

### Enrollment in a Junior College – No Previously Signed NLI

#### Division I

4-2-4 transfer may sign an NLI if he or she graduates from the junior college and never previously signed an NLI.

2-4 transfer may sign an NLI in the first year of junior college enrollment if he or she was a qualifier and never previously signed an NLI.

#### Division II

2-4 transfers who were nonqualifiers or partial qualifiers for Division II are not required to graduate from a two-year college to be eligible for athletics aid at a Division II institution. Thus, prospective student-athletes who are currently in their first year of attendance at a two-year college are permitted to sign an NLI with a Division II institution provided they have not previously signed an NLI while in high school.

#### NLI Membership...

Currently 612 NCAA Division I and II institutions are members.

Not NLI members:

Ivy League, Service Academies, Division III institutions, NAIA institutions, preparatory schools and junior colleges.

All members of the NLI program are required to offer athletics scholarships.

If NLI is declared **null and void** or a **complete release** granted, prospective student-athlete is **not permitted** to sign another NLI until the next signing year.

If NLI is declared **invalid**, prospective student-athlete **is permitted** to sign another NLI during the same signing period.

Prospects enrolling mid-year shall not sign an NLI except for a junior college transfer in the sport of football.