




Your Winter Recruiting Checklist

Follow these steps to ensure you find the best athletic, academic, social and financial college fit.

December

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Continue applying to schools.
Keeping up with [admissions standards and deadlines can be tough](#)—by now, you should know which of the schools on your target list offer rolling admissions vs. set admissions deadlines and whether they [use the Common App](#).
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Register with the NAIA Eligibility Center.
Are you applying to NAIA programs? Every student-athlete has to [create an account with PlayNAIA.org](#) in order to play sports at an NAIA college or university.
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Compare college offers.
From knowing the difference between [verbal offers and commitments](#) to [preferred and recruited walk-on offers](#), review these terms now so you have a better understanding of the offers you may receive.


December 4

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D1 football early signing period
Football recruits can sign with D1 schools between December 4-6, 2024 ahead of the regular signing period beginning February 5, 2025.

January

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Complete your FAFSA ASAP.
If you haven't submitted your FAFSA, now is the time. [Financial aid](#) is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. This form determines your eligibility for federal grants, loans and work-study funds. The Department of Education announced that the FAFSA would have a soft launch on October 1, 2024 to allow for testing and error correction, and then gradually allow more users until the full launch on December 1, 2024.
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Become a master negotiator.
What happens if you receive multiple scholarship offers? Not all offers are the same, so it's a good idea to [learn how to negotiate](#) to maximize your total financial aid packages.

February 1

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D1 and D2 football regular signing period begins
This is just the first (not the only!) day in the regular period football student-athletes can officially sign with D1 and D2 schools. This period ends on April 1 (D1) and August 1 (D2).

February

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Complete your amateurism questionnaire.
Whether you're signing with an NCAA D1 or D2 college or still narrowing down your options, make sure you've [completed your amateurism questionnaire](#) within your NCAA Certification Account.