NCAA Division I Educational Resource

Student-Athlete Status

A Quick Guide



DEFINITION OF A PROSPECT

Anyone who has started ninth grade is considered a prospect. An individual remains a prospect until student-athlete status is triggered.



TRIGGERS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE STATUS

A prospect triggers student-athlete status when one of the following conditions is met:

- The prospect provides written commitment, completes high school or transfer academic requirements and receives permissible benefits from their school.
- The prospect participates in summer access or preseason practice.
- The prospect attends summer school or begins full-time coursework.
- · The prospect attends institutional orientation within 14 days of the first day of classes.

IMPACTS OF TRIGGERING STUDENT-ATHLETE STATUS

Triggering Student-Athlete Status by Receiving Benefits

Once a prospect provides a school written commitment and completes necessary academic requirements, a school may elect to trigger student-athlete status by providing the prospect permissible Bylaw 16 benefits or expenses (e.g., transportation to campus, apparel).

Student-Athlete Status vs. Transfer Status

Student-athlete status and transfer status are separate and distinct; there are factual scenarios where an individual could trigger student-athlete status without triggering transfer status.

Official Visits and Transportation To Enroll

A prospect may take an official visit to campus and remain on campus at the end of the visit to begin summer access, preseason practice or classes.

Outside Team Limits

An individual who has triggered student-athlete status is subject to limitations on the number of student-athletes on an outside team.



Institutional Camps and Clinics

Student-athletes are generally not permitted to attend their school's camps or clinics. If a prospect has triggered student-athlete status, they may be employed at the institutional camp or clinic but may not be a participant.

Finishing Class at Another Institution

Under limited circumstances, a prospect may trigger studentathlete status by attending summer school or participating in summer access while completing transfer academic eligibility requirements at another institution.