



National Letter of Intent Information etc.

What is the National Letter of Intent?

By signing a National Letter of Intent (NLI) the prospective student-athlete agrees to attend the designated university or college for *one academic year*. There is no such thing as a “four-year full-ride,” for any sport or any athlete. Each scholarship is good for one year and is up for re-signing upon continued agreement by the coach and student-athlete. Along with signing the NLI, prospective student-athletes generally also sign a scholarship/financial tender. As taken from the NLI website, “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.” Once an NLI is signed, other institutions may not pursue the student-athlete as a recruit.

Basketball has both an early signing and regular signing period. The early signing period is usually in the second week of November and goes for one week. The regular signing period takes place for about a month, generally from sometime in April to May.

There are a number of rules in regards to how an institution can deliver an NLI to you, and once you get to that point with a school, they will inform you as to their process. Since the university or college can not make any public comments about your recruitment and/or acceptance of an offer until you officially sign your NLI, most student-athletes will fax their signed agreement back to the school ASAP so that the school can make her commitment public.

After that the NLI is signed, the prospective student-athlete is no longer subject to recruiting contact and phone call stipulations, although there are many things that they need to adhere to in order to remain eligible.

For further information, please visit www.nationalletter.org

If I make a verbal commitment to a school, what does that mean?

You can make a verbal commitment at any time. While it is common practice for student-athletes to make a verbal commitment - and for colleges to ask for one - this is NOT a binding commitment for either party; the student-athlete can retract their verbal commitment and the school can also retract their offer. Not until the National Letter of Intent is signed, along with the financial aid agreement, are both parties bound to their commitments. However, it is accepted courtesy that once a student-athlete accepts an offer made by an institution, that she no longer entertains the recruiting process from other schools, and that schools no longer pursue her as a recruitable student-athlete.