

The National Letter of Intent and What It Means

Understanding When and What You Will Sign is an Important Piece to the Recruiting Puzzle

The early signing period for NCAA Golf is November 11 - 18, 2009 with the regular signing period beginning April 14, 2010 and ending August 1, 2010. With these dates in mind, then, it is important to review the National Letter of Intent as this is an important step in the junior golfer's career and questions may occur. Read on to find out about the NLI.

The NLI is a *binding* agreement between a prospective student-athlete and an institution. By signing the NLI a prospective student-athlete is eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules *provided* he or she has been admitted to the institution. Once a prospective student-athlete has signed the NLI, the player is committed to attending the institution for one year; leaving early or not enrolling may result in penalties such as loss of eligibility. Upon completing the first year, however, a student-athlete may transfer institutions without losing eligibility provided a release is granted by the original school. Without a signed release permitting the player to transfer, however, loss of eligibility may occur.

The NLI guarantees financial aid for one year with annual financial aid/scholarship decisions determined on a year-to-year basis. It is important to note that there is a *potential* for a student-athlete to have his or her scholarship not renewed for the following academic year. Institutions must provide a written notice each year if a scholarship is being reduced or revoked and the student-athlete in question can petition the decision. However, a student-athlete *may not* have financial aid reduced, cancelled, or increased during the period of the award. Additionally, once a letter is signed, remaining schools must cease their recruiting efforts.

The institution issues two copies of the NLI to the student-athlete. Both copies must be signed and one copy must be returned to the institution within 14 days of issue date. Student-athletes under the age of 21 must have a parent or guardian signature on the NLI. A great suggestion is to take the time to review the NLI website (nationalletter.org) as you progress towards this all important step. This website has several sections that will help answer all the questions you may have about signing your NLI. If you need help, however, please feel free to contact me via phone or email!

Good luck

Dr. Fleming

Dr. Bruce Fleming is the founder of Play Collegiate Golf, created to mentor young women and men interested in continuing their competitive golf careers at institutions that support their academic, athletic, and personal goals.

For more information please visit playcollegiategolf.com

Find a Study Group That Works For You

College Survival Tip



Take time to introduce yourself to several students in each of your classes in an effort to create a study group as you progress through the semester's assignments and tests. Study groups can provide the necessary support and encouragement when academics are difficult. A study group can also be helpful when you are trying to learn new concepts and ideas as you ready for a class test. More about this integral part of student success in college in the December article on the Play Collegiate Golf website. Check it out next month!