NAIA Eligibility Center Presentation Script

About the NAIA: The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics exists to advance character-driven college sports. The NAIA provides high school and transfer student-athletes the opportunity to keep playing sports while receiving an outstanding education. Every student-athlete matters and receives the personal attention they need to succeed. As an NAIA student-athlete, you'll find NAIA institutions intentionally teach character-driven athletics through the *Champions of Character* program, which provides the opportunity not only to improve yourself, but your team, school, and community. The NAIA prepares student-athletes to be tomorrow's leaders.

Keep playing: The NAIA has 60,000 student-athletes at colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada. Student-athletes have the chance to compete in 23 national championships. Not only do NAIA student-athletes get to keep playing their sport at the collegiate level, but many do it while receiving a portion of the more than $450 million in athletic scholarships offered at NAIA colleges and universities.

NAIA sports: The NAIA offers the opportunity to compete in a wide variety of championship sports, including baseball, softball, volleyball, football, basketball, tennis, swimming and diving, track and field, cross country, soccer, wrestling, and golf. Last year, student-athletes traveled the country to be a part of national championships, competing on a national stage in places like Vancouver, Washington; Rome, Georgia; Lewiston, Idaho; Gulf Shores, Alabama; and Kansas City, Missouri.

NAIA schools: NAIA schools are located throughout the United States and Canada, so you won't need to travel far to find a school close to you. You can see the full list of NAIA member schools by visiting NAIA.org.

Connect: If you want to learn more about what it's like to be an NAIA student-athlete or see pictures from games and national championships, check out the NAIA on Facebook and Twitter. Follow them and let them know why you want to PlayNAIA. *(QR code links to more info about NAIA and Game On video)*

Ch. Of Char.: Champions of Character provides training to ensure NAIA student-athletes know, do and value the right thing in all areas of life. The five core values of the program are: integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. These values are put into play, accounted for and measured at all NAIA schools.

NAIA EC: But before you can step onto the playing field, you've got to make sure you're eligible, and that's where the NAIA Eligibility Center comes in! Anyone who wants to play at an NAIA school for the first time will need to register with the NAIA Eligibility Center at PlayNAIA.org. Keep in mind the NAIA and the NCAA are two separate associations. They have different rules and different processes, so you still need to register with the NAIA even if you have already registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center. The first step to registering is to visit the website: PlayNAIA.org. Once you're on the homepage, click "Register Now to Play." You'll need to provide some basic information so they can send you an email confirmation, and then you're on your way.

Start Profile: First, get started with your online profile by giving the NAIA some general information about yourself such as who you are, where you're from, and what sports you plan to play in the NAIA—basic background information. This is also where you can sign up to receive text reminders from the Eligibility Center so you don't forget to send your test scores or transcripts later and so you get an alert as soon as your eligibility determination is available.

Fees/waivers: The next step is to pay the registration fee or apply for a fee waiver. U.S. students pay $70 and international students pay $120. This is the fee for making sure you're eligible, and for connecting you directly with NAIA coaches, but we'll get back to that in a minute. If you are a high school student, you can get the registration fee waived if you qualify for a waiver for the ACT or SAT or if you qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. If you're a college transfer, you can qualify for a fee waiver if you get a Pell Grant of at least $4,500. Fee waivers must be confirmed by your high school counselor or college financial aid office. Be sure to print out the instructions for how to submit fee waivers when you select that as your payment option. Please note, you need to register before you can receive a fee waiver, but you do not need to pay before you get the waiver. You should select "Fee waiver" as your payment option.

Create profile: Once the payment is done, you'll be taken to the rest of your student profile to tell your story, and from there it only takes a few minutes to get yourself registered online. You'll need to tell the NAIA about your school, whether you've been to more than one school, when you'll graduate—a general academic history. Then, if you've already graduated from high school, provide a full picture of what you've been doing since your high school graduation: whether you're a veteran, if you took any breaks from school, if you've played any sports, where you've been playing, what leagues, for how long, etc. The NAIA needs your complete story.

Check profile: Once you've finished your profile, check your work on the Profile Summary page before clicking "Submit" because once you do, you won't be able to change any of your information without first contacting the NAIA Eligibility Center. After completing the online registration, the NAIA Eligibility Center will still need a couple more pieces of information before they have everything they need to make an eligibility determination.

Eligibility: First-time college freshmen must meet two of three eligibility criteria and graduate high school to be eligible to play. Those criteria are: A minimum GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, a minimum test score of 18 on the ACT or 860 on the SAT, and graduation in the top 50% of your high school class. To see if you are eligible, the NAIA needs your transcripts and test scores. They may also need a letter from your principal or headmaster on school letterhead stating your class rank if it's not on your transcripts. Send these documents as soon as they are available!

ACT/SAT: If you're a high school student, make sure you put the NAIA on the list of places where you want your scores sent when you register for the SAT or ACT. The NAIA number is 9876. The test scores have to come straight from the testing service, so if you have already taken the exam you'll need to contact ACT or the College Board to have them send your test scores to the NAIA Eligibility Center.

ACT/SAT 2: The SAT score used is the combined reading and math sections of the SAT. The writing score is not used to determine eligibility. The ACT score is a student's composite score; again, they do not use a writing score in making a determination. Keep in mind that the NAIA does <u>not</u> combine scores from different testing dates. The SAT or ACT score used for determining eligibility must be achieved in one sitting.

Transcripts: In addition to your test score, the NAIA Eligibility Center also needs your transcripts. If you are in high school, ask your high school guidance counselor to send an official transcript after high school graduation. The NAIA only needs one transcript to make your determination, so don't have your school send a transcript before you graduate unless you meet the qualifications for an Early Decision.

Early Decisions: If you have the minimum required test score of 18 on the ACT or 860 on the SAT and you have earned at least a “B” average GPA after junior year or at least a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale midway through senior year, you can receive an Early Decision. In this case, have your high school send official transcripts after your junior year or after your first semester of senior year and you will get an eligibility determination before you graduate from high school. Home school, transfer and international students are not able to receive Early Decisions.

Attending school: Remember that your admission to college is separate from the NAIA Eligibility Center determination. The NAIA Eligibility Center uses transcripts and test scores only to make decisions on whether students meet minimum NAIA eligibility standards. They do not make these documents or the information in them available to anyone outside the NAIA Eligibility Center. Check with the schools you are interested in attending to find out what information they need for admission. NAIA schools are also responsible for deciding who gets a scholarship, not the Eligibility Center. NAIA schools provide students with hundreds of millions of dollars in sports scholarships every year, so talk to the coaches and admissions offices at the school you are interested in to find out more about whether you are able to receive a scholarship.

Connections: Once you’re registered, you’re encouraged to check out NAIA Connections. I mentioned earlier that as part of your registration, you will have the opportunity to connect directly with NAIA coaches. NAIA Connections is an optional service that lets you create a customized Sport Resume with your athletic achievements and any other academic or community involvement you think a school might be interested to know about you.

Search schools: You will be able to use the advanced search feature in NAIA Connections to find NAIA schools that match-up to exactly what you want in a college. Things like location of the school, its size, whether it’s public or private and much more. Once you’ve found up to five schools that match your interests, you can send your Sport Resume directly to the coaches and admissions offices at those schools. NAIA schools can also use NAIA Connections to search all the resumes students have entered and contact you directly if they want. NAIA Connections is a great way to connect with NAIA coaches, get your face in front of them and let them know you’re out there.

Short List: If you already know what school you plan to attend, you don’t have to create a Sport Resume in NAIA Connections. If a school is particularly interested in you as a recruit, it is likely they will add you to the school’s Short List. The Short List is made up of coach’s most serious recruits, and only registered students may be added to a Short List. Students on a Short List receive priority in receiving eligibility determinations, but it is up to each individual coach and school to decide who goes on the Short List. If you want to be on a school’s Short List, you will need to talk to the coach at that school, and the coach will decide if he or she wants to add you.

After registering: Once you have registered with the Eligibility Center, your online status will be updated on your To Do List, which can be viewed from your Status Page when you log in at PlayNAIA.org. Your file will not be reviewed until the NAIA Eligibility Center has received all necessary information and documents to make a determination on your eligibility. The time it takes to receive a determination can vary, but keep in mind you don’t need a final determination to accept a scholarship or a place on a school’s team. You should register early and submit all your documents as soon as they are available to avoid any delays in receiving a determination.

More info: So that's basically it! Once you show up at your NAIA school, someone called a Faculty Athletics Representative will be in charge of making sure you stay eligible each year you play. If there's anything else you want to know about the NAIA Eligibility Center or how you'll get your eligibility determination, just visit PlayNAIA.org and take a look around. You can also contact them directly by email at ECinfo@naia.org or by phone at 1-866-881-6242. The NAIA hopes to see you on the playing field! *(QR code links to student registration page)*