What is the Recruiting Ban?

Other institutions must respect the prospective student-athlete’s NLI by ceasing all communication. The recruiting ban remains in effect until the prospective student-athlete enrolls at the signing institution. Once enrolled, the student-athlete is governed by NCAA recruiting regulations.

If the prospective student-athlete does not enroll at the signing institution, the recruiting ban will be lifted after the institution’s academic year has elapsed (e.g., prospective student-athlete signs during 2019-20, the recruiting ban applies through the end of the 2020-21 academic year).

How is the NLI declared null and void?

- Denied admission.
- Does not meet NCAA, institutional or conference eligibility requirements.
- One-Year Absence.
  - Signee does not enroll (two-year or four-year institution) for at least one academic year and the scholarship (in its same amount) is no longer available. Also applies to a signee who serves in the U.S. Armed Forces or Church Mission for one year. NLI remains binding if the scholarships (in its same amount) is available.
- Discontinued Sport.
  - Sport is no longer offered, includes student-athletes who are already enrolled.
- Recruiting Rules Violation.
  - NLI may be declared null and void if the violation is substantiated and prompts the need for reinstatement by the NCAA staff. It is the prospective student-athlete’s choice to null and void the NLI under these circumstances.
How can a signee be released from the NLI?

Release Request:
A request for release must be initiated by the NLI signee by submitting the NLI Release Request online.

An institution may release a signee from his or her NLI obligation by selecting the “Complete Release” option on the NLI Release Request. It is the institution’s discretion to grant a release or not.

The NLI release cannot include conditions to be released to specific institutions.

The NLI Recruiting Ban is lifted once an NLI signee submits an NLI Release Request.

Appeal Process:
For consideration of an appeal, the signee must present extenuating circumstances to the NLI Committee.

Coaching Contact Prohibited at Time of Signing
A coach or institutional representative may not hand deliver the NLI off campus or be present off campus at the time of signing. The NLI may be delivered by express mail, regular mail, email, fax, mobile applications or any other electronic means.

The NLI penalty does not preclude a student-athlete from receiving athletics aid or practicing while serving the one academic year of residence for the NLI penalty.

Early Signing Period Penalties
Prospective student-athletes who will participate in football are prohibited from signing an NLI during a signing date earlier then the initial signing date for Division I or II football. A student who signs an NLI during an earlier signing date in a sport other than football will be ineligible for practice and competition in the sport of football during the student’s first year of enrollment at an NLI member institution, and shall forfeit one season of competition in the sport of football.

In circumstances where a student’s primary sport is not football, but anticipates participating in football, the student should delay signing an NLI until either the football signing period or a later signing date for the other sport.

Enrollment in a Junior College (Two-Year College) - After Signing an NLI
If a prospective student-athlete signs an NLI and later attends a junior college, the prospective student-athlete must graduate from the junior college under the following conditions:

- To satisfy NCAA 2-4 or 4-2-4 transfer rules, if necessary to meet NCAA, conference or institutional regulations.
- To fulfill a previously signed NLI. In this case, the previous NLI is considered fulfilled if the prospective student-athlete graduates from the junior college. The NLI can be signed prior to graduation.

Enrollment in a Junior College (Two-Year College) - No Previously Signed NLI
If a prospective student-athlete did not sign an NLI prior to enrolling at a junior college, he or she is permitted to sign while attending a junior college.

The following rule applies for Division I:
A nonqualifier 2-4 transfer is not permitted to sign an NLI in the first year of junior college enrollment. A nonqualifier in the first year of enrollment does not meet the NCAA requirement to receive athletics aid until attending the junior college for at least three semesters or four quarters.

Athletics Aid Agreement
An NLI must be accompanied by an athletics aid agreement. A prospective student-athlete not receiving athletics aid is not permitted to sign an NLI. If the prospective student-athlete declines the athletics aid in order to receive other institutional aid, the NLI must be declared null and void. The athletics aid agreement is subject to NCAA rules.

NLI Membership
661 NCAA Division I and II institutions are NLI members. Not NLI members:
Ivy League, Service Academies, Division III institutions, NAIA institutions, preparatory schools and two-year colleges.

All members of the NLI program are required to offer athletics scholarships.

4-4 transfers are no longer prospective student-athletes. Four-year transfers shall not sign NLIs, including international college/university transfers.

The NCAA manages the daily operations of the NLI program while the Division I Collegiate Commissioners Association provides governance oversight.

If NLI is declared null and void or a complete release is granted, a prospective student-athlete is not permitted to sign another NLI in the same NLI signing year.

If a prospective student-athlete signs an NLI for enrollment in the upcoming academic year, but decides to not enroll, the NLI remains binding.