

# Balancing Excellence

Playing Competitive Sports in University



**REGIONAL INSTITUTE**  
**Europe 2025**

# Panelists

## Canada

Shannon Bracken  
Ontario Tech University

## The Netherlands

Carolyn Barr  
Universiteit Leiden

## United Kingdom

Hayley Iovannelli  
University of the West of England  
(UWE Bristol)

## United States

Molly Witt  
University of Vermont

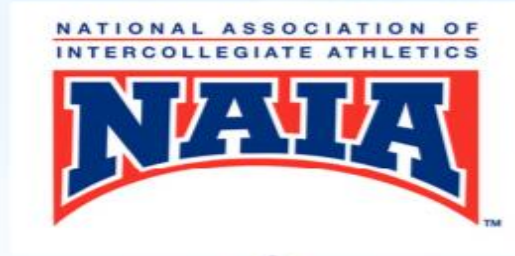
# United States

## \*What Are the Options?

NAIA, NJCAA, and NCAA institutions may have intramural and club teams. These do not offer athletic scholarships.

**Club:** Compete against club teams from other schools.

**Intramural:** Compete internally within an institution.



- Division I
- Division II
- Division III

# United States

## ***Division I***

Division I schools generally have the biggest student bodies, manage the largest athletics budgets and offer the highest number of athletics scholarships.

### **PARTICIPATION**

**204,000**

Student-Athletes

**355**

Active Schools

### **ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS**

**59%**

of athletes receive athletics aid.

## ***Division II***

Division II schools provide growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in high-level athletics competition and a focus on service to the community.

### **PARTICIPATION**

**133,000**

Student-Athletes

**293**

Active Schools

### **ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS**

**64%**

of athletes receive athletics aid.

## ***Division III***

Division III schools offer participation in a competitive athletics environment that pushes college athletes to excel on the field and build upon their potential by tackling new challenges across campus.

### **PARTICIPATION**

**202,000**

Student-Athletes

**425**

Active Schools

### **FINANCIAL AID**

**80%**

of athletes receive nonathletics aid.

# United States

## FALL SPORTS

### MEN:

Cross  
Country  
Football  
Soccer  
Water Polo

### WOMEN:

Cross  
Country  
Field Hockey  
Soccer  
Volleyball

## WINTER SPORTS

### MEN:

Basketball  
Fencing  
Gymnastics  
Ice Hockey  
Indoor Track  
and Field  
Rifle  
Skiing  
Swimming  
and Diving  
Wrestling

### WOMEN:

Basketball  
Bowling  
Fencing  
Gymnastics  
Ice Hockey  
Indoor Track  
and Field  
Rifle  
Skiing  
Swimming  
and Diving

## SPRING SPORTS

### MEN:

Baseball  
Golf  
Lacrosse  
Outdoor Track  
and Field  
Tennis  
Volleyball

### WOMEN:

Beach  
Volleyball  
Golf  
Lacrosse  
Outdoor  
Track  
and Field  
Rowing  
Softball  
Tennis  
Water Polo

## EMERGING SPORTS

### WOMEN:

Acrobatics  
and Tumbling  
Equestrian  
(Divisions I and II only)  
Rugby  
Stunt  
Triathlon  
Wrestling

## Recruiting periods defined

### QUIET PERIOD

A quiet period is that period of time when it is permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts only on the member institution's campus. No in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts or evaluations may be made during the quiet period.

### DEAD PERIOD

A dead period is that period of time when it is not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on or off the member institution's campus or to permit official or unofficial visits by prospective student-athletes to the institution's campus.

### RECRUITING SHUTDOWN

A recruiting shutdown is a period of time when no form of recruiting (e.g., contacts, evaluations, official or unofficial visits, correspondence or making or receiving telephone calls) is permissible.

# United States

## Men's Soccer

Nov. 11-14, 2024, Monday through Thursday of the initial week for the fall signing date for athletics aid agreements.

DEAD PERIOD

Dec. 13-16, Friday through Monday of the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship. A coaching staff member may attend an event conducted in conjunction with and in the host city of the championship.

DEAD PERIOD

Dec. 23-25

QUIET PERIOD

## Swimming and Diving

Aug. 19-25, the third Monday in August through the following Sunday.

RECRUITING SHUTDOWN

Nov. 11-14, 2024, Monday through Thursday of the initial week for the fall signing date for athletics aid agreements.

DEAD PERIOD

Dec. 18-Jan. 7, 2025

RECRUITING SHUTDOWN

Feb. 9-22, 14 consecutive days beginning with the Sunday that is 38 days before the first day of the NCAA Division I Women's Swimming Championship.

RECRUITING SHUTDOWN

# United States

## Estimated Probability of Competing in Athletics Beyond High School

	<b>Baseball</b>	<b>Men's Basketball</b>	<b>Women's Basketball</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>Men's Ice Hockey</b>	<b>Women's Soccer</b>	<b>Softball</b>
High School Student-Athletes	478,451	537,438	373,366	1,028,761	33,013	377,838	344,952
NCAA Student-Athletes	38,849	19,213	16,668	77,204	4,388	29,959	21,646
Drafted NCAA Student-Athletes	444	46	33	259	69	47	24
Percentage High School to NCAA	8.1%	3.6%	4.5%	7.5%	13.3%	7.9%	6.3%
*Percentage NCAA to Major Professional	5.1%	1.1%	0.9%	1.5%	7.1%	0.7%	0.5%

*Note: High school and college participation data are from the 2022-23 academic year.*

*\*The percentage of NCAA student-athletes moving on to major professional leagues is based on the number of draft picks in the 2023 MLB, NBA, WNBA, NFL, NHL, NWSL and WPF drafts.*



USA - 16  
Germany - 6  
Canada - 2  
Gibraltar - 1

Israel - 1  
Hungary - 1  
Hong Kong - 1





# Canada



- U SPORTS is the national governing body, and each region has a conference (ie. OUA in Ontario)
- Several universities will have national sport development facilities (ex. PanAm Centre at UofT)
- In general, most Canadian university athletic programs would be an equivalent level to low D1/high D2
- System is moving towards high performance development with aim to keep more Canadian athletes at home

# Canada

## Women's Sports



- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Curling
- Field Hockey
- Hockey
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball
- Wrestling



## Men's Sports

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Curling
- Football
- Hockey
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball
- Wrestling



## Other High Performance Sports

- Rowing
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Water Polo
- Nordic Skiing
- Figure Skating
- Fencing

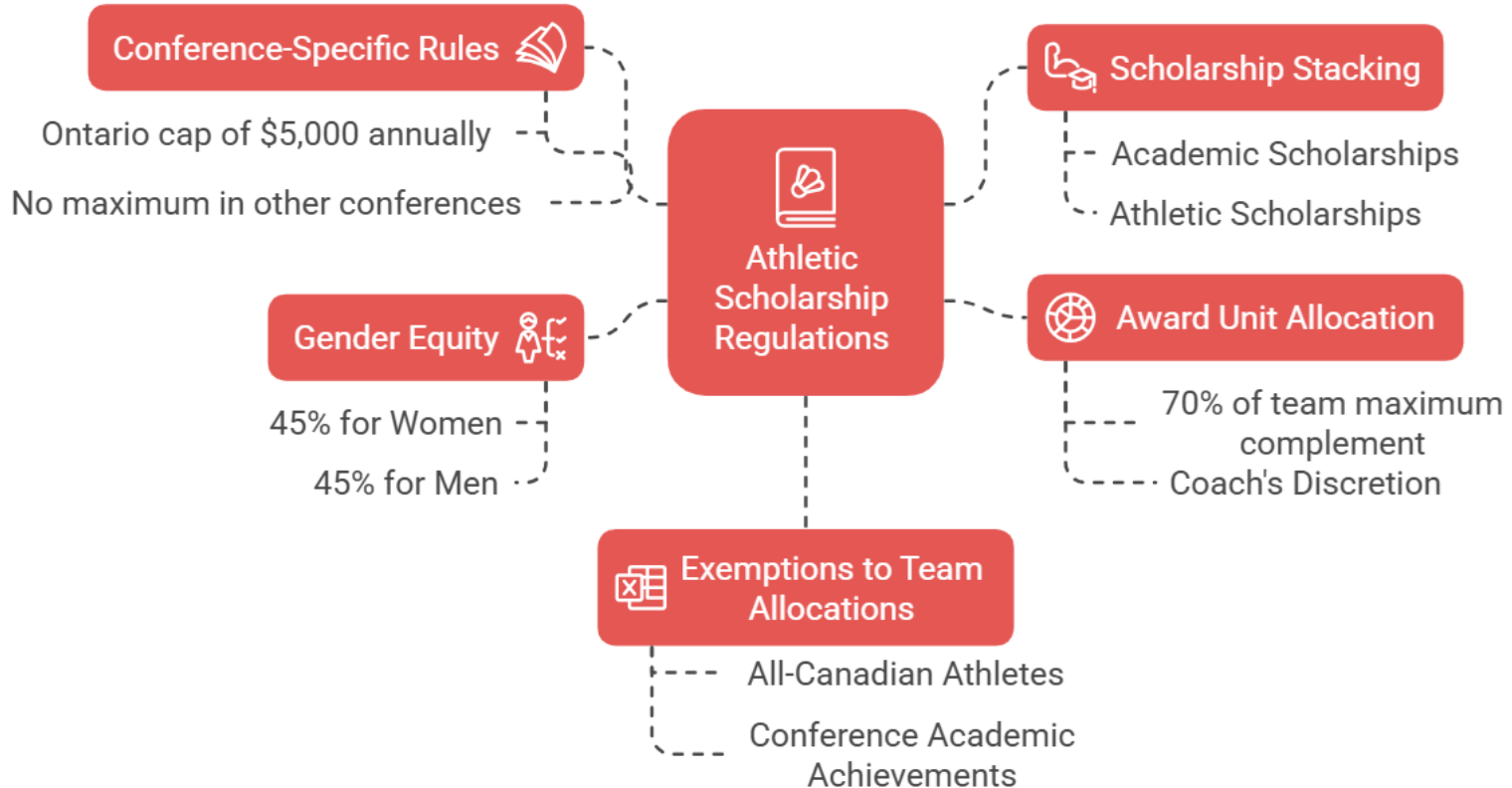
# Canada

## Recruitment Process

- Primarily handled by the coach. International recruiting is less aggressive.
- For students not playing in Canada, video and highlight reels are critical
- Some sports may also have walk-on tryouts in August/September
- No restrictions on when schools can talk to prospective athletes
- Restrictions are placed on athlete transfers within Canada



# Canada



# Canada

## Student-Athlete Supports - Ontario Tech Case Study

### Academic Success Program

Assists with  
university transition  
and provides  
workshops

### Strength and Conditioning Training Centre

### Ridgeback Leadership Council

Engages in  
community outreach  
and leadership  
development

### Athletic Therapy

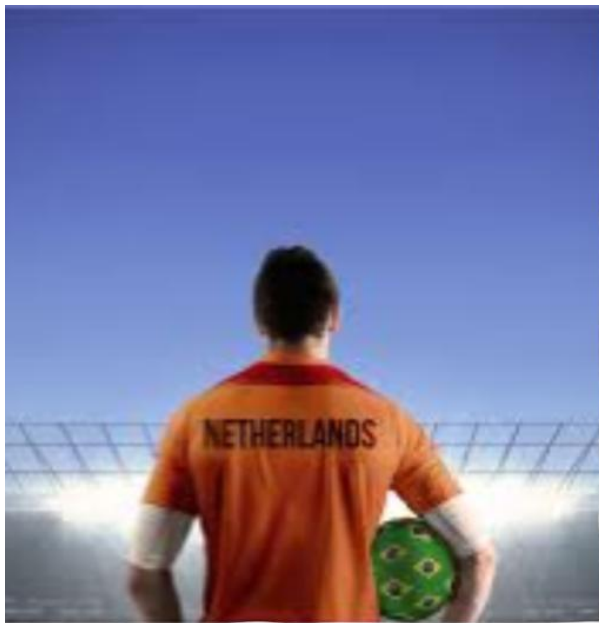


# The Netherlands

Elite athletes  
at Dutch  
Higher  
Education  
Institutions

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# In general

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- The Netherlands does not have the (semi-)professional/elite sports teams – sports are recreational.
- Competitions are more academic in nature – i.e. solar team competitions.
- University sports centers are quite extensive – the Dutch are focused on physical health as a value.
- As a result, Dutch universities are home to many national players/champions and Olympians.
- Popular sports in the Netherlands: field hockey, speed-skating, track and field, equestrian-related events, volleyball, cycling, football, sailing, judo, swimming.

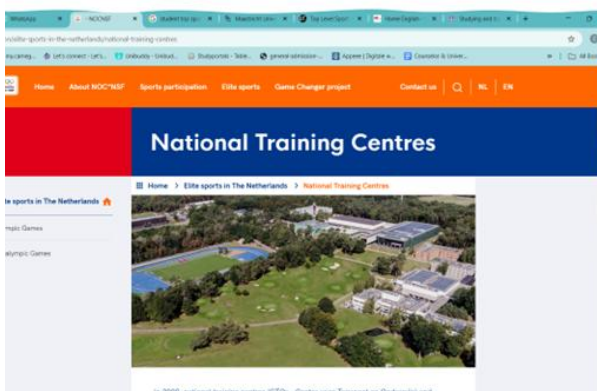


# Top-level athletes

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There are arrangements for students who play sports at a high-level:

- Typically, these are students who play at an international level in their home country.
- For example: Dutch, European and World Champion and Olympic athletes
- Students can qualify as an elite athlete if they have a particular elite athlete status, for example:
  - NOC\*NSF status
  - Regional status: i.e. The Hague Top Sport, Limburg Sport



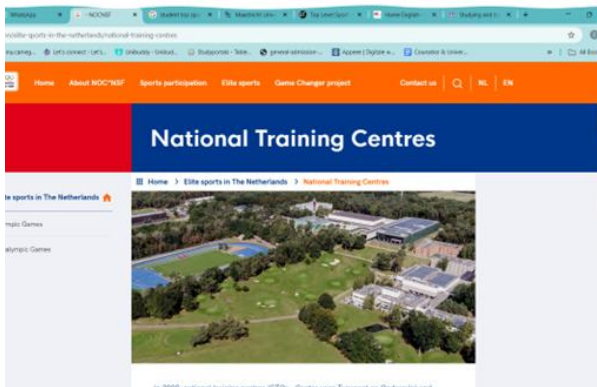




# Support

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- No scholarships attached to sport
- Each university has a dedicated contact person and may have slightly different processes and titles (case manager, counselor, elite sports coordinator etc.) – some may have even been an elite athlete themselves!
- The decision to award extra facilities and support is always at the discretion of the student counselor for top-level sport.
- Planning is custom to the student - At the beginning of each academic year, students and their study adviser should sit down together to look at the upcoming academic and sporting obligations and draw up a clear plan.
- Accommodations may be possible - permission to take longer to graduate, deadline extensions, (partial) exemptions from compulsory attendance requirements, additional re-takes, alternative educational assignments, flexibility in terms of binding study advice, financial assistance etc.



# Nation-wide student network

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**Student Sports the Netherlands (SSN)** is the umbrella organization for student sports in the Netherlands.

- SSN is a national organization that represents the interests of the approximately 200,000 student athletes in the Netherlands.
- Links to sports groups in specific cities or by sport
  - Student Sport Leiden
  - Student Sportsboard The Hague
  - Sportraad Utrecht
  - Sports Umbrella Twente
  - Erasmus Sport Foundation
- More than 50 national student championships are organized annually
- Provide registration and guidance for the European University Championships, European University Games, World University Championships, World University Games or University World Cups.



# Athletics in College: A UK perspective

Hayley Iovannelli: UWE Bristol



## How does the UK differ?

- Governance body: The British Universities and College Sports (BUCS)
- Premier North and Premier South Divisions
- Different to other countries
- Sport Scholarships
- Academics first
- Not a gateway to a professional career



## Why the UK?

- Open and transparent UK Admissions
- Performance and Non-Performance Sport options
- Nationally ranked players wanted
- No cap on how long you can play
- Non-NCAA registered sports a good option in the UK





UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**



The University of  
**Nottingham**



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BIRMINGHAM

**UWE**  
**Bristol** | University  
of the  
West of  
England



**Newcastle**  
University

University of  
**Kent**

 Loughborough  
University



**Durham**  
University

# ALUMNI

EAIN YOW 

AMEESHEN CHANDARAN 

YASSHMITA JADISHKUMAR 

WAI YHANN 

MARWAN ELSHORBAGY 

YOUSSEF SOLIMAN 

MOHAMMED ELSHORBAGY 

LUCAS SERME 

JAMES PEACH 



# ALUMNI

MALCOLM DELPECHE

MARCUS DELPECHE

COREY SAMUELS

CHRIS TAYLOR

DAN EDOZIE

JAMES CLaar

SOL ROLLS-TYSON



Thank you.



# Questions



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