

Clarifying the National Letter of Intent Signing Process

Know what to expect during this exciting process!

As the second Wednesday of November approaches thoughts turn to the early signing period for golf. This early signing period runs for eight days each fall with the regular signing period beginning in mid-April and lasting through early August. Check nationalletter.org for additional information.

The National Letter of Intent (NLI) is a binding agreement between the institution and the student-athlete. (It is also specific to the NCAA Division 1 and 2 schools.) Upon signing the NLI the student-athlete agrees to attend the institution for one academic year. In turn, the institution agrees to provide athletic financial aid for one academic year. The financial aid is laid out within the framework of the NLI. Remember also that you are signing an agreement with an institution meaning that the document is still binding if the coach departs before your first semester.

Once you have accepted a verbal offer the NCAA Division 1 or Division 2 institution will send you a NLI package prior to the official signing dates. Review the package carefully before you sign (Division 3, NAIA, and NJCAA do not participate in the NLI - NAIA and NJCAA have their own Letter of Intent process.). Review the "Quick Reference Guide to the NLI" for information specific to the NLI process. This can be found by using the search engine on NCAA.org. Below are some additional basic guidelines to the process and what to expect.

- The NLI packet will include two copies of the NLI and an Athletics Financial Aid Agreement. Sign both copies.
- Your parent or legal guardian must sign the documents if you are under the age of 21.
- The documents must be signed together. Do not sign before the official signing period begins.
- They must be signed within 14 days of when they were issued by the institution. Return one copy to the institution.
- The Athletics Financial Aid Agreement must include the NCAA ID number from the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- The college coach (or an institutional representative) cannot be present at the signing of the NLI.
- Signing a NLI means you must fulfill your agreement to attend one full academic year at the institution.
- All other institutions attempting to recruit you must cease all recruiting efforts.

Signing a NLI is a great achievement! Your academic and athletic success has been officially recognized and the marketing efforts you put forth during the college golf recruiting process have been rewarded. You should be both proud and excited (and, maybe even a little nervous!). Your next step in life is right in front of you! Now keep working hard in the classroom and on the golf course to prepare yourself for this next step!

Congratulations! *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

2012 Early Signing Period for Golf

Starts: November 14
Ends: November 21



2013 Regular Signing Period for Golf

Starts: April 17
Ends: August 1