What is the National Letter of Intent (NLI)?

The NLI is a binding agreement between a prospective student-athlete and NLI member institution.

- Prospective student-athlete agrees to attend the institution full-time for one academic year (two semesters or three quarters).
- Institution agrees to provide athletics financial aid for one academic year (two semesters or three quarters).

*Penalty for not fulfilling the NLI: Serve one year in residence (full-time two semesters or three quarters) at the next NLI member institution and lose one season of competition in all sports.*

DID YOU KNOW?

If I am not attending an NLI member institution for the upcoming academic year, can I sign an NLI?

No. If signing an NLI, it is intended you will be attending the signing institution for the academic year as noted on the NLI. This means when you sign an NLI, attendance is for the upcoming academic year.

What happens if I sign an NLI and later decide to delay enrollment to participate in Junior Hockey?

If delayed enrollment was initiated by the signing institution’s coach or admissions, the NLI must be declared null and void by the institution. If the delayed enrollment was initiated by you, the NLI remains binding.

If I sign an NLI and initiate the delayed enrollment, is the athletics aid for the next academic year guaranteed by the signing institution?

No. The athletics aid signed with the NLI is only for the upcoming academic year and not for the year after the NLI signing year. If you delay enrollment, the signing institution is not obligated to provide athletics aid to you for the next academic year unless a multiyear aid agreement was signed. If the institution does not have the athletics aid for the next academic year, the NLI would be declared null and void.

What is the NLI Recruiting Ban?

Once you sign an NLI, it is impermissible to have other coaches continue recruiting you. All communication from other coaches with you and your parents must cease after you sign the NLI.

Is the NLI Recruiting Ban in effect if I delay enrollment?

Yes. If you initiate the delayed enrollment, the NLI Recruiting Ban would be in effect for the upcoming academic year that you were supposed to be attending the signing institution (e.g., the year you are participating in Junior Hockey).

**KNOW THE RULES BEFORE YOU SIGN!**

If considering signing an NLI, ask these questions during your college recruitment:

- Is it my decision to delay college enrollment to participate in Junior Hockey?
- Should I sign an NLI if I will be delaying my college enrollment?
- Will athletics aid be available to me after I participate in Junior Hockey?