

Collegiate Opportunities in Acrobatics & Tumbling for Athletes and Judges

Today's Discussion

- Acrobatics & Tumbling overview
- Our Student-Athletes
- Future Student-Athletes
 - Scholarship Opportunities & the Recruitment Process
 - Tips for Coaches
- Judging with the NCATA



Acrobatics & Tumbling Meet Format

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTWmhXhLCBY&t=127s



Collegiate Competition

- Sponsored as a varsity sport on 31 campuses nationwide
- Varsity sport = treated like all other sports teams
- Created to provide opportunities for young women to compete who may not have a NCAA Gymnastics opportunity



Is this an NCAA Sport? Emerging Sport Process

Committee on Women's Athletics Recommendation (Made June 2019)

Each Division drafts legislation and votes (January/April 2020)

With affirmative votes, will be added as an NCAA emerging sport for the 2020-21 Academic Year

Upon reaching 40 NCAA competing members, eligible to become an NCAA Championship Sport (Currently 29 NCAA)



Our Member Institutions

Number of

NAIA - 2



Championship Opportunities

 NCATA National Championships includes team tournament and event finals.

8 team single-elimination tournament.

 5 qualifiers for each event final heat in Acro, Pyramid, Toss and Tumbling events.

Held each April on a NCATA member campus.

 Mountain East Conference (NCAA Division II) hosted the first conference championship in 2019.

Competitions sanctioned through USA Gymnastics.







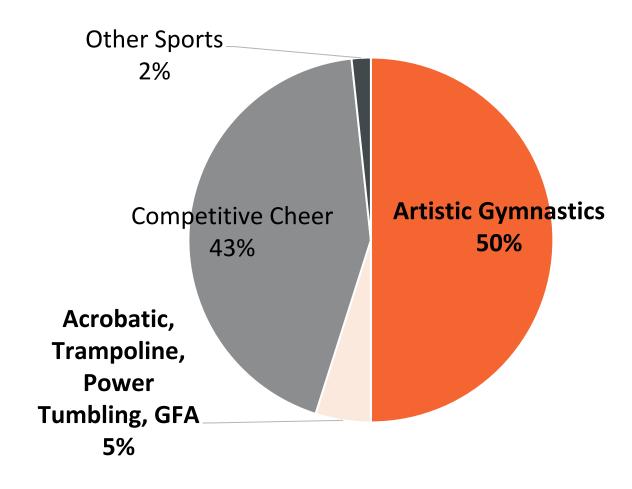




Our Student-Athletes



Student-Athlete Experience (High School)





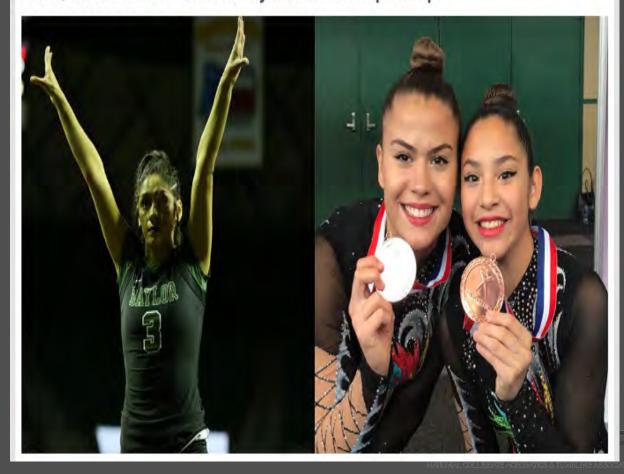
Our Student-Athletes

- Beyond competition while on campus...
 - Represented their institution academically, honors on their campuses
 - Represented their institution at the Conference and National Level on their Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
 - Represented USA through National Team competition



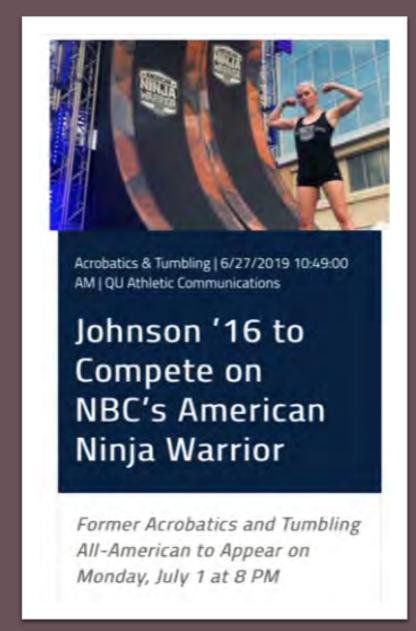
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ACROBATICS & TUMBLING ASSOCIATION

Bravo, Alonzo Shine at 2018 USA Gymnastics Championships



...And Their Future

- Post-collegiate opportunities...
 - Careers in their field of choice
 - International competition with USA Weightlifting
 - NCATA Coaches and Officials



Future Student-Athletes and the Recruitment Process



What level of gymnasts are recruited?

- Athletes include all different body types for different skill positions
- Athletes may specialize within events
- Level of gymnast in Artistic Gymnastics can vary by institution, but NCATA members have recruited:
 - JO Optional Level gymnasts
 - Xcel gymnasts (Platinum and Diamond)
- Various levels within disciplines:
 - Acrobatic Gymnastics
 - Trampoline & Tumbling
 - Gymnastics For All



Scholarship Opportunities

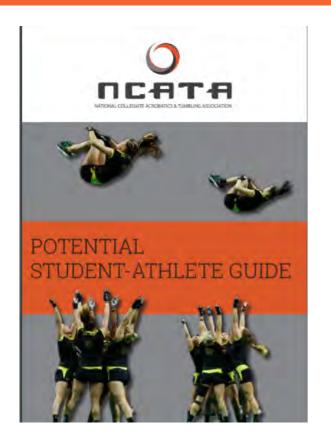
- Scholarship opportunities at member institutions may include:
 - Athletic Financial Aid
 - Academic or other aid
- Teams use equivalency scholarship model (similar to baseball, soccer, softball)
 - Example: Division I team has a maximum 12 total athletic scholarships they can provide that may be divided amongst many athletes on the team
 - Division III institutions are not allowed to offer athletic scholarships, however they have substantial academic aid to offer

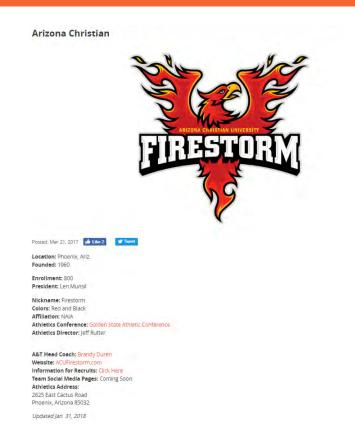


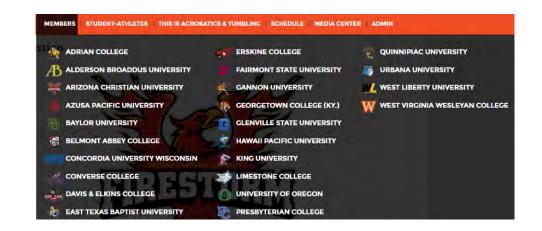


Steps in the Recruiting Process











1. Visit www.thencata.org



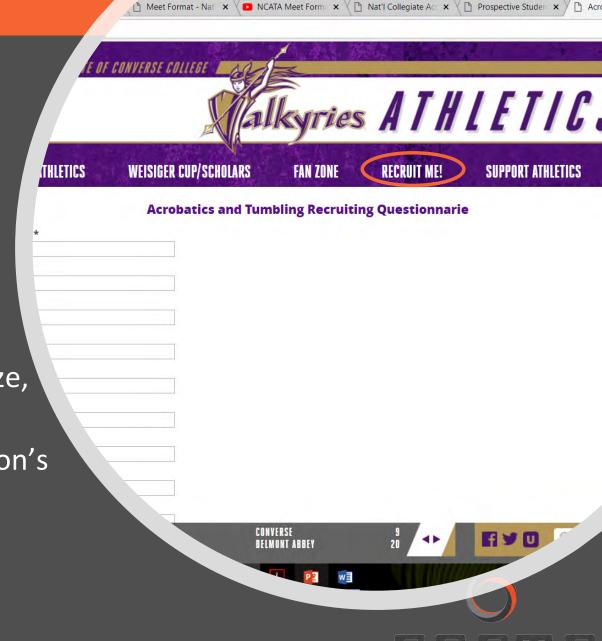
2. Initial Eligibility

- Register with the NCAA or NAIA Eligibility Center
 - NCAA Register under Gymnastics : https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/? DB_OEM_ID=9600
 - NAIA Register under Cheer/Dance: https://www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center
- Take the SAT or ACT
- Core courses required



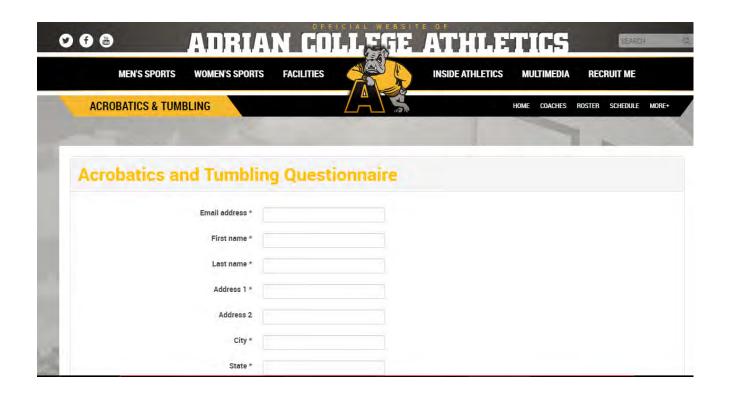
3. Research and Contact

- Research institutions of interest
 - Entrance requirements i.e. SAT/ACT/GPA requirements
 - Location, academic programs, enrollment size, etc.
- Complete a recruit questionnaire on an institution's athletic website



3. Research and Contact (Cont.)

- Athletes should reach out to coaches directly to express their interest.
 - When contacting coaches please provide your studentathlete number that the eligibility center assigns
- Each division has rules specific to when coaches can contact student-athletes.
 - If contacted by an athlete during one of those times, the coach will let them know contact is limited and can provide further information

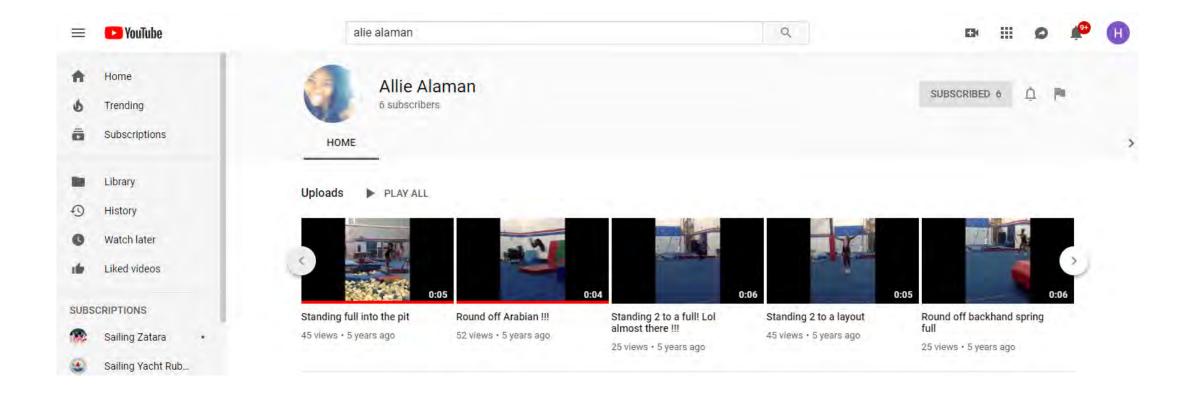




4. Share Your Skills

- Write a short biography including academics, activities, honors, as well as your competition history, team information and skill set.
- Make a Recruitment Video, Instagram profile or YouTube Page
 - Prioritize safety!
 - Contact coaches to learn which skills they would like to see you execute.
- Video may include:
 - Running tumbling passes ex. back and/or front tumbling
 - Standing tumbling ex. back handspring, standing back tuck
 - Balance skills ex. handstand hold, press handstand, pike hold
 - Any other skills or abilities you would like to highlight from practice or competition
 - Other skills requested by the coach
- Tumbling passes may be on a spring floor, trampoline, air floor, etc.





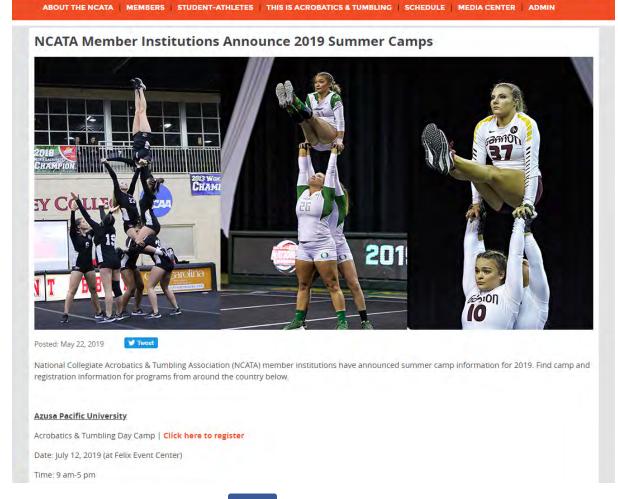
Video Format

- Recruits generally provide videos to coaches in one of a few ways
 - Athlete YouTube Page
 - Compiled highlight video (typically a few minutes in length)
 - Send series of short videos highlight skills they are working on.



5. Learn More

- Attend camps at a college:
 - Sport and skill exposure
 - Learn directly from college coaches and current studentathletes
- Follow the NCATA and NCATA member institutions social media accounts
- Attend a meet at a NCATA member institution near you
- Watch online most NCATA member institutions live stream their meets







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Tips for Coaches & Gym Owners

- 1. Invite NCATA coaches speak to your staff, gymnast, and parents reach out to teams in your area.
- 2. If your optional teams are traveling to invitationals near a member team reach out to that coach.
- 3. Become an Official learn elements and deductions.
- 4. Watch meets online.



Retention at Your Gym

- Collegiate opportunities in Acrobatics & Tumbling can assist in retention.
 - Multi-sport athletes
 - Less rigorous training schedule
 - Recovering from injury
 - Applying skill set in a new format





Judging with the NCATA



Certification Process

- Our officials pool experience is equally as diverse as our studentathletes.
- A great way to learn the sport for individuals coaching potential student-athletes or have an interest in coaching Acrobatics & Tumbling in the future
- Certification process
 - Two part training session completed on Webex
 - Completion of a written and practical test completed online
 - Certification for four years



Meets

- 3 Officials on Meet Day
 - Head Official
 - 2 Execution Officials
- Officials have the ability to be assigned to meets throughout the country.
- Opportunities to judge Conference and National Championships.





Training Timeline

Training (September-October) Testing (October -November) Assigning
(November December)

Meet Season (February – April)



Collegiate Growth

- Opportunities in Acrobatics & Tumbling
 - Student-athletes
 - Coaches
 - Officials

- Contact the NCATA
 - Coaches Janell Cook <u>janell.cook@thencata.org</u>
 - Officials & General Questions Heather Ould heather.ould@thencata.org



Questions?

www.thencata.org



