

Athletes Need to Make The Grade to Play

College athletes soon will have to work harder in the classrooms if they want to stay on their teams.

Starting in December, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) expects college coaches to keep better track of students' progress in the classroom. The NCAA is worried that too many athletes are leaving college without getting a diploma. Most college athletes do not end up playing professional sports, so they need to be prepared for careers in other fields.

To keep track of how well players on college teams are doing, the NCAA will start using a point system. A perfect score for any college will be 1,000 points. Each player on a team is worth two points. A player who stays in school and keeps up his or her grades earns two points. If a player leaves school early or gets failing grades, the team loses one point. Every team must have at least 925 points or they will face penalties from the NCAA.

MORE FACTS ABOUT THE NEWS

- Most of the 360,000 student athletes who are in the NCAA will enter careers other than sports.
- If the new rules were in effect today, more than half of the NCAA Division I colleges would have at least one team that would fail to earn 925 points.



NEWS WORD BOX

diploma	system
NCAA	progress
career	penalty

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

- Do you think the new rules are a good idea? Why or why not?
- If you want to play sports in college, how can you start preparing yourself now to be a good student-athlete?