

Scholarships 101

Undoubtedly one of the most confusing parts of the college recruiting process is the distribution of athletic scholarships. It varies from division to division, conference to conference and even school to school, leaving players and parents wondering what their chances are of receiving awards and assistance.

Each athletic division is allotted a predetermined number of athletic scholarships to distribute how they see fit. The maximum amount of scholarships awarded to each level of school is as follows:

NCAA Division I: 11.7
NCAA Division II: 9.0
Junior College: DI and DII: 24 DIII: 0
NCAA Division III: 0
NAIA: 12

It is a common misconception that each division is awarded the above number of scholarships PER YEAR to spend on the incoming class. In fact, this is the number of scholarships that is allocated for the entire team at any given time. For example, Division I colleges are allowed to have 11.7 total scholarships on their roster.

These numbers represent the maximum amount that each level has to distribute. Each baseball program is different depending on the level of university support. Typically the top conferences in the country are fully funded. Other conferences limit the number of scholarships each program has so that there is parity among the schools. Some Division I schools, like those in the Ivy or Patriot Leagues, do not offer athletic scholarships at all.

Although Division III schools do not offer athletic scholarships there is still hope for those who are looking for ways to defer the costs of tuition. Coaches at these schools can provide assistance with state and university grants as well as financial aid awards.

There is no equation for scholarship distribution but there are several rules that coaches tend to follow. Generally 65%-80% of a program's total athletic money is handed out to players in the middle of the field. Pitchers get the most scholarships, followed by middle infielders, catchers and centerfielders who can run.

Creativity allows coaches to make the most of their allotted scholarships. Coaches eager to get the most out of their funds will combine financial aid, academic money, grants and athletic money into a "package." For example:

Baseball University Costs \$14,000
Player X Gets a \$12,000 package
Athletic Money = \$2,000 (14.3% scholarship)
Academic Money = \$3,500
State Grant = \$2,000
Baseball U award = \$1,500
Pell Grant = \$3,000
Total = \$12,000 (85.7% total scholarship)

Keep in mind that in baseball a 30% scholarship offer is considered a major commitment on behalf of the college.

Players also have the potential to earn scholarship raises throughout their college careers. This means that someone who starts off with a 15% athletic scholarship could be receiving a 75% athletic scholarship his senior year.

For more information on scholarships or other related topics, please send emails to newsletter@baseballfactory.com or to speak with a Baseball Factory Representative call 800.641.4487.