

ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® Program
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TOP OF THE LIST-- We do a lot for student athletes in our profession, but the most important "duty" may be nominating for Academic All-America. The ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® program is unique to sports information directors and presents us the chance to honor our student-athletes.

EASY DOES IT--The recent change to on-line nomination and voting has made it easier than ever to participate in the CoSIDA Academic All-America Program. There's no excuse not to nominate and vote. The more participation, the stronger the program.

ANOTHER DEADLINE?-- Deadlines are daily occurrence in our offices. At the beginning of each school-year, print out the AA deadlines and post it by you desk. Deadlines are firm, with the "automatic" shutoff of nominations and voting.

NOMINATE-- Easy? Follow the easy on-line nomination process. Some choose to create the "bio" part in word, spell check, and then paste in the nomination form. Include information you feel would impress voters. President of the senior class is impressive--A member of the campus dog-walking club is not.

REMEMBER:

- 1) Starter or important reserve who has played in at least 50% of team's games.
- 2) 3.20 GPA or better, 3.19 is not 3.20. 3.19999 is not 3.20. Grad students must have a 3.2 GPA in both undergrad and grad courses.
- 3) Sophomore athletic and academic standing and at least one academic year at your institution.

VOTE--Make sure you vote on the district ballot. Some people find it easier to print the ballot out or if you want to save trees, open it as a PDF file on your desktop. Please consider all of the nominees. Don't just vote for your own athlete and then check off the rest of the players from your conference.

UPDATE--Be prepared to update your nomination if your athlete makes the national ballot. There is a small window of opportunity to do this, take advantage. Also, many national voters question nominations that are not updated.

ANNOUNCE--When you receive word on a selection to the District or National team, make sure you release the information. It sounds simple, but there are a lot of times it's not done.

PROMOTE--Every chance you get, promote the program. It helps CoSIDA as an organization and ESPN The Magazine as a sponsor.