



## What are My Chances of Getting a Softball Scholarship?

As softball players start deciding which gold teams to aim for, they'll start asking themselves what their chances are for a softball scholarship. And if they aren't, I'm sure as parents start to pull out their checkbooks to pay for playing on these teams, they're considering the question. After all, it would be nice if there was some financial return on all their investments in lessons, teams, and travel. However, if you're planning on using softball to pay for college, you might want to develop a plan B option because the odds aren't great.

The first step is being able to get on a college softball team. We're not even talking scholarships yet. According to the [National Federation of State High School Associations](#), there are 15,067 high schools in 2013-14 with girls softball. In 2013, the [Office of Postsecondary Education](#), there were only 1,669 colleges offering women's softball—that's both two and four-year institutions. That means that there's a little more than one college program for every nine high school programs.

The same sources tell us that there were 362,488 high school players and 30,733 participants at the college level. That means there are over 11 high school players for every college player. Of course, not all high school players will even make it to the varsity team but still, the odds aren't great.

As for those who make it to the college level, the chances of getting a softball scholarship are even smaller. Let's start with the fact the largest group of schools in the NCAA, D3, doesn't even offer athletic scholarships. Not all divisions of the NAIA and NJCAA offer scholarships either.

Division	Maximum Allowable Scholarships
D1	12
D2	7.2
D3	0
NAIA	10
NJCAA	24

Then there is the fact the softball is an equivalency sport. That means that one scholarship can be divided among several players. For example, one player may receive a 30% scholarship and another will get the remaining 70%. Given that the average team size exceeds that number of allowable scholarships, it's not surprising that few softball players receive full-ride scholarships.

2013 Classification	Number of Colleges with Softball	Total Number of Participants	Average Number of Participants Per School
NAIA D1	83	1,646	19.8
NAIA D2	107	2,226	20.8
NAIA D3	3	51	17.0
NCAA D1	292	5,964	20.4
NCAA D2	284	5,549	19.5
NCAA D3	395	7,105	18.0
NCCAA D1	5	80	16.0
NCCAA D2	2	28	14.0
NJCAA D1	185	3,433	18.6
NJCAA D2	88	1,361	15.5
NJCAA D3	70	936	13.4
Other	155	2,354	15.2
Grand Total	1,669	30,733	18.4

Furthermore, the NCAA limits the maximum number of scholarships. That doesn't mean that the school has to provide that number. Not all scholarships may be fully funded.

According to the 2007 Big 12 Coach of the Year, [Ehren Earleywine](#) of the University of Missouri Softball Team, "lot of kids have this expectation that

[they're] going to get a full ride, [but] it's just not the case in most instances. Most kids are getting partial scholarships. It's very hard to get a full ride, and I think kids should understand the reality of that. "

Ultimately, even if players are good enough to play at the [college level](#), chances of getting a softball scholarship are not good. And players who are [recruited](#) before starting high school still have to keep in mind the possibilities of [injuries](#). Make sure you have an alternative plan for [paying for college](#) than just softball.

Find the colleges that will recruit you to play in college

- [DIY College Rankings Softball Spreadsheet](#)
- [PDF of All NCAA/NAIA Colleges offering Baseball and Softball Programs](#)