



## Capital One Academic All-America® Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated August 2011

**NOTE:** The majority of this information can be found on [CoSIDA.com](http://cosida.com/Awards/allamerica.aspx) on this page of information:  
<http://cosida.com/Awards/allamerica.aspx>

### What is the official name/sponsor of the Academic All-America® (AAA) program?

As of January 2011, Capital One became the sponsor of the AAA program and the official name of the program is: **the Capital One Academic All-America® program, as selected by CoSIDA.**

Many times during the year we find that our own membership uses "Academic All-America" in releases that they prepare for student-athletes receiving academic achievement awards from other organizations - when in fact those organizations refer to their awards as "All-Academic," "Scholar-Athlete," "Academic All-Star," etc. **We ask that CoSIDA members be cognizant of only using "Academic All-America®" in relation to CoSIDA's program. Please use the trademark sign as well.**

### For 2011-12, the Capital One Academic All-America® program has doubled in size and the old "University Division" and "College Divisions" have been eliminated. What is the new awards setup?

For the 2011-12 academic year, the CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-America® program **has expanded from two teams to four team.** Previously, there was a University Division (Division I) and a College Division (Divisions II, III, NAIA, two-year and Canadian schools).

The breakdown of the "divisional" categories will now be:

**Division I**

**Division II**

**Division III**

**College Division** (comprised of NAIA, two-year colleges and Canadian schools)

### What sports are covered in the Capital One Academic All-America® program?

**Men's & Women's Soccer:** Academic All-District nominations open Tue., Oct. 4

**Football:** Academic All-District nominations open Tue., Oct. 11

**Volleyball:** Academic All-District nominations open Tue., Oct. 11

**Men's & Women's Basketball:** Academic All-District nominations open Tue., Jan. 3

**Baseball & Softball:** Academic All-District nominations open Tue., April 3

**Men's & Women's At-Large:** Academic All-District nominations open Tue., April 17 (*sports listed below*)

**Men's and Women's Track & Field/Cross Country:** Academic All-District nominations open Tue., May 1

**At-large eligible sports:** Women's Bowling, Women's Crew, Men's and Women's Fencing, Women's Field Hockey, Men's and Women's Golf, Men's and Women's Gymnastics, Men's and Women's Ice Hockey, Men's and Women's Lacrosse, Men's and Women's Rifle, Men's and Women's Skiing, Men's and Women's Swimming, Men's and Women's Tennis, Men's Volleyball, Men's and Women's Water Polo, Men's Wrestling

## What are the timelines/schedules for nominating and voting?

Check the 2011-12 Capital One Academic All-America MASTER SCHEDULE here:

[http://cosida.com/media/documents/2011/8/CO\\_Academic\\_All\\_America\\_master\\_schedule\\_2011\\_12.pdf](http://cosida.com/media/documents/2011/8/CO_Academic_All_America_master_schedule_2011_12.pdf)

## When are the teams announced?

Previously, the Academic All-America Teams for both a University and Division sport (ex: volleyball) were announced together. **This year, with the four programs, each Divisional Team per sport will be announced on a separate day. Please see the key on the master schedule which indicates these national team release dates.**

For example: In men's and women's soccer - the national AAA COLLEGE awards for both men and women will be announced on Mon., Nov. 28; the DIVISION III men's and women's soccer teams will be announced the next day (Tue., Nov. 29), followed by the DII teams (Wed., Nov. 30) and the Division I teams (Thr., Dec. 1).

## What are the District alignments for the AAA program with the expansion to four teams?

District alignment varies from AAA Division to Division. See the district alignments here (pp. 3-6, right-hand side):

[www.cosida.com/media/documents/2011/8/AAA\\_Committee\\_district\\_alignments\\_1112\\_July\\_18.pdf](http://www.cosida.com/media/documents/2011/8/AAA_Committee_district_alignments_1112_July_18.pdf)

## Who is eligible for Capital One Academic All-America® honors?

See more information on criteria at: <http://cosida.com/Awards/allamerica.aspx> under "Nomination Criteria" **CURRENT CoSIDA members only – those who have memberships for 2011-12** - may nominate student-athletes only from their own institution. Non-CoSIDA members cannot nominate or vote in the program.

- To be nominated, a student-athlete must be a starter or important reserve with at least a 3.30 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) at his/her current institution.
- Nominated athletes must have participated in at least 50 percent of the team's games at the position listed on the nomination form (where applicable). In baseball and softball, pitchers must have at least 10.0 innings pitched. Athletes who have not participated in at least 50 percent of their team's contests are not eligible.
- No student-athlete is eligible until he/she has completed one full calendar year at his/her current institution and has reached sophomore athletic eligibility.
- In the cases of transfers, graduate students and two-year college graduates, the student-athlete must have completed one full calendar year at the nominating institution to be eligible.
- Nominees in graduate school must have a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or better both as an undergrad and in grad school.
- With the exception of the at-large program, there are no limits in the number of athletes an institution may nominate. However, please make sure the student-athlete is either a starter or an important reserve.
  
- **At-large program** nominations are limited to three per school per gender (a total of three men's at-large candidates and three women's at-large candidates). If an institution participates in both the college and the university divisions, it may nominate a total of three men and three women between the two divisions. There is no limit to the number of candidates that may be nominated for a particular sport within the at-large program.

## Where do I log into CoSIDA.com to nominate?

To nominate student-athlete(s) for the Capital One Academic All-America® program, visit the Academic All-America® web page at <http://www.cosida.com/aa> and log in with your CoSIDA user name and password. Or, you can access this page by going to CoSIDA.com and under the "Membership" link, find the drop down menu and select "Nominate/Vote for Academic All-America."

## What if I am not a current CoSIDA member?

**Only current 2011-12 CoSIDA members can nominate for vote for AAA honors; the membership drive and regular dues fees end on September 15, 2011. After that date, there is a \$30.00 late fee attached to dues payments.**

To join CoSIDA, please visit this link and follow instructions on how to gain membership (by signing up online via credit card payment or via a mail-in form): <http://cosida.com/About/memberbenefits.aspx>

## Once I log in, what is the nomination format?

The online system automatically pulls in your institution and district (I-VIII) from the CoSIDA database. Completing most of the rest of the nomination form is a matter of choosing the sport and position and filling in the blanks. There is a data field for additional supporting nomination which is limited to 500 characters. This data can be copied and pasted from other applications. When finished with the nomination form, hit "submit" and the system will e-mail a receipt for the nomination. Repeat as necessary.

## How do I nominate? How is an Academic All-America nominations done? Can it be edited?

All nominations for the Capital One Academic All-America® program must be done online through the CoSIDA Web site. Nominations will be accepted only from current CoSIDA members. **WHEN SUBMITTING A NOMINATION, PLEASE PROOF CAREFULLY. ONCE YOU SUBMIT A NOMINATION, YOU CANNOT GO BACK AND EDIT IT. Check your District affiliation carefully and** make sure that your student-athlete's name, major(s) and hometown are listed correctly. If incorrect information is not corrected prior to the national team announcement, your institution will be responsible for the cost of reproducing a corrected award.

When you do review each nominee after you place it in the system, CoSIDA and AAA Committee members can - in advance of producing the ballot - make necessary changes/edits. Please do not wait until the ballots are open to submit changes, since wrong information might penalize your student-athletes or others and skew voting.

## What if my District information is incorrect?

Once you are on the "CoSIDA Academic All-America Nomination Form" page (<http://www.cosida.com/aa/default.aspx>), check the "Demographic Information" where CoSIDA District is listed. If it's incorrect or blank, it means that you did not provide this information in your CoSIDA Directory personal/organization account. You can do one of two things:

1. Check the link "Having trouble with your nomination? [Contact Technical Support](http://www.cosida.com/aa/problem.aspx)" (<http://www.cosida.com/aa/problem.aspx>) and make sure describe the issue and place your CORRECT DISTRICT information in the "Problem/Question" area. It will be changed for you by Barb Kowal, CoSIDA's Director of External Affairs who receives that email.

**Or**

2. Log out of this page and go to the CoSIDA.com main page; under the "Membership" link and in the drop-down menu, select the "Update Your Directory Information"; go to the blue box, log in with your user name and password and you'll be brought to your directory information where you can update the District information.

Then, refresh your browser and log back into CoSIDA.com and re-enter the AAA nomination/voting system.

## What if I see an error on my nomination after I submit it (nominee placed in wrong category, wrong district, GPA error, etc.)?

On the "CoSIDA Academic All-America®" nomination form, you'll see a link that says: **Having trouble with your nomination? Contact Technical Support – fill in that form as completely as possible**; it is then sent to the AAA internal operations manager (AAA Vice Chair Mark Beckenbach), CoSIDA Director of External Affairs Barb Kowal and selected SIDEARM website IT staffers who will address your issue.

## What if I do see an error once the ballots are made live?

We understand that nomination errors happen, and if this situation arises, IMMEDIATELY contact the Technical Support personnel; and, you may also directly contact Barb Kowal ([barbkowal@cosida.com](mailto:barbkowal@cosida.com)) and Mark Beckenbach ([mlbecken@owu.edu](mailto:mlbecken@owu.edu)).

## What if there is reason to remove a student-athlete from a ballot once I have submitted the information?

CoSIDA understands that these circumstances may arise, and in order to be fair to the other candidates and voters, please contact Barb Kowal and Mark Beckenbach (above) so corrections can be immediately made.

## I have a student-athlete(s) who earned All-District honors. What happens next?

First, congratulations on the AAA All-District honor for your student-athlete and school. All First Team All-District honorees advance to the national ballot. Second Team and Third Team (if named) do not.

If you have an All-District selection, you will receive an email stating this and informing you that the Academic All-District teams are for immediate release. **CoSIDA members with student-athletes on the Academic All-District® First Team LIMITED TIME should log back in to the CoSIDA Academic All-America® Web site to update their nominees' statistics and supporting data for inclusion on the Academic All-America® ballot.**

To update your nominations for the AAA national ballot, log in to:

<http://www.cosida.com/aa>

with your CoSIDA user name and password.

If you do not have your user name and password, click the link next to "Forget your login information?" and your user name and password will be sent to the e-mail address that appears in the CoSIDA directory.

Once you have logged in, if you have a First Team All-District selection in the current program, there will be an option to "Update Statistics for a District Winner." Click on that and you can access the statistics and data fields (the 500-character limit still applies, though).

Please check to make sure that your student-athlete's name, major(s) and hometown are listed correctly. If incorrect information is not corrected prior to the national team announcement, your institution will be responsible for the cost of reproducing a corrected award.

## How do Academic All-America awards get sent to my student-athlete(s)?

CoSIDA works with an awards vendor to produce the awards, taking ALL award information off your nomination form. The awards are sent to the athletic communications/SID who did the nomination, except in the case of All-District certificates which are sent to one contact in the office.

***Please PROOF your nomination carefully; for your mailing address, please DO NOT use a P.O. Box number; we CANNOT send awards to P.O. Boxes; instead, use your proper street address/overnight delivery mailing address.***

## What Academic All-America Awards are distributed?

For the full description of the AAA awards, please see: <http://cosida.com/Awards/allamerica.aspx>

In the middle of that page, find the information under the "Academic All-America Awards" header. Certificates are given for All-District honors; 2 acrylic plaques with gold-seal certificates are given to each Academic All-America recipient; all First Team Academic All-Americas receive another award. For each sport category, a Team Member of the Year is selected (one for University Division, one for College Division). They receive a crystal engraved desk award. At the end of the year, one University AAA Team Member of the Year and one College AAA Team Member of the Year are chosen as prestigious Academic All-Americas of the Year; they receive an engraved plaque/desk award.

**I see the trademark symbol on the Academic All-America name. What if I see another group or coaching association using the term "Academic All-America" to describe an award they are giving out?**

The Board and Academic All-America® Committee leadership remind CoSIDA members that CoSIDA's "Academic All-America®"mark is federally registered. As such, CoSIDA members must help the Board and AAA Committee monitor the wrongful use of this registered trademark. If you see any other organizations, including coaching associations, using this registered trademark, immediately contact AAA committee member **Dick Lipe (Bentley University)** at [rlipe@bentley.edu](mailto:rlipe@bentley.edu) and **CoSIDA Executive Director John Humenik** ([jhumenik@bellsouth.net](mailto:jhumenik@bellsouth.net)). We will have our legal counsel, Collegiate Images, follow up with a letter regarding infringement of our federally registered mark and they will be asked to "cease and desist" from future use of that mark. Many times during the year we find that our own membership is using "Academic All-America" in releases that they prepare for student-athletes receiving academic achievement awards from other organizations - when in fact those organizations refer to their awards as "All-Academic," "Scholar-Athlete," "Academic All-Star," etc. **We ask that CoSIDA members be cognizant of only using "Academic All-America®" in relation to CoSIDA's program. There are NO exceptions.**

***FINAL NOTE: The Academic All-America team release dates are subject to change depending on Capital One promotional availability.***

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