

College Recruiting Preparation

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Playing Soccer in College

- Well Rounded
 - Athletics / Academics / Community Service

Priorities / Goals / Actions / Dreams

- Focus on what is truly important
 - Schools that meet your Academic needs
 - Distance from Home
 - Conference Preference
 - Coaching Style

What's First...

1. Start with a wish list of 5 to 15 Colleges or Universities.
2. Create a Soccer Resume.
3. Create a Cover Letter.
4. Provide updated team information to the College Coach.

Get Organized!

Create a “College Binder”

- Wish List of Colleges (D1, D2, D3 and NAIA)
- Updated Resume (Soccer and Academic)
- Keep Copies of correspondence with Coaches
- Understand the Academic Requirements of the schools that you are interested in applying!
- Follow the Soccer Team!

Capture Everything!

- Personal Stat's (Club, High School, ODP etc.)
- Tournament Results
- Coaches Recommendations
- Awards
- Community Service
- Camps Attended

The Recruiting Process

(You should recruit your choices)

- List your choice schools and be realistic about your chances of getting into the schools academically!
- July of your Senior Year is the first time that a college coach can contact you about their interest.
- Keep a record of calls you receive and the name of the coach or assistant coach.
- There are two types of visits you can make to a school, Official Visits (these are limited to 5). On an Official Visit the school may pay for some of your expense and they can arrange for you to stay on campus with members of the team. Each Official Visit is registered with the NCAA. Unofficial Visits can be made at anytime. You may introduce yourself to the coach however the coach may not talk with you about the program.

Do your Homework!

- Know about the conference your choice participates in.
- Find out if they have a College Prospect Camp (this is different from their regular soccer camp)
- Visit the Athletic Department website for information on all sports.
- Research the Majors offered!

Division 1 Programs

- A fully financed D1 soccer team is restricted to 9.9 full scholarships for Men's teams and 12 full scholarships for Women's Teams. Not all D1 programs are fully funded. These scholarships are often given as partial awards but they may not exceed the allowed amount.
- Seldom is a Freshman awarded a full scholarship.
- Scholarships are awarded annually. You must meet the academic requirements of the school and contribute to the program (as judged by the coaching staff) to maintain or increase a scholarship.

Division 2 Programs

- Division 2 Programs are limited to 6 full Scholarships for Men's teams and 9 full Scholarships for Women's teams

College Scholarships!

- D1 & D2 stats from the NCAA show the average soccer scholarship to be around \$8500 per year, which is nowhere near a full ride. However they routinely offer partial scholarships in the range of \$2000 per year.
- Less than 2% of Men's High School Soccer Players are offered Athletic Scholarships. Less than 3.5% of Women's High School Soccer Players are offered Athletic Scholarships.

Your Role in the Recruiting Process

- Identify early schools you are interested in and send a note to the coach staff letting them know of your interest.
- Let the coaching staff know where they can see you play (club, tournaments, High School, ODP)
- Personalize any letter you send to a coach and let them know that you have done research on the school and the soccer program.
- Research the current team Roster.
- Know the Coaching staffs background.
- Coaches get hundreds of letters from prospects, make sure yours stands out!

Be Prepared!

- Take you SAT and ACT as soon as possible.
- You must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse prior to any official visit. You can do this on-line. This must be done by your senior year. The website is http://web3.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp The fee to register is about \$30.00 Check with your High School Guidance Office for more information.

Know yourself!

- It is often difficult for freshman to get playing time at the top D1 programs. Many players will be limited in their playing time until their junior or senior year.
- Scholarship players may not have the same full student experience at college due to the many requirements to maintain the scholarship.
- Scholarships are awarded annually (although a coach may promise multiple years the coach may move on to another job) therefore the player must stay academically eligible and contribute to the success of the team to maintain the scholarship.

Know Yourself!

- Be honest: Do an honest assessment of your strengths and weaknesses to identify a good fit for you.
- Compatibility: Is your personality and playing style a good fit with the team and coaching philosophy. Does the school have a certain style of player that they like to recruit
- Coaching Style: If possible observe a training session and match to see the coaching staff style.

Roles and Responsibilities of those supporting you!

- Parents Responsibilities:
 - Provide moral support, administrative help (letters, resumes, etc)
 - Help research different avenues of financial aid. Academic, community, professional organizational scholarships.
 - Discuss financial limitations of the family to support the cost of the college.

Roles and Responsibilities of those supporting you!

- Coaches:
 - Support the family and player in their search.
 - Write letters of recommendations.
 - Prepare players for showcases (everything matters from warm up to ending the game with a hand shake)
 - Contact colleges coaches directly with an honest assessment of the players abilities.
 - Make sure the player performs to their full potential in their academic achievements.

You Recruit the Coach!

- Once you have decided on your top choices your job is to recruit the coach! Make sure that you express your sincere interest in the college and the soccer program. Stay in contact with the coaching staff and be honest with them throughout the process.
- If you go on an official visit and stay with one of the current players on the team make sure you send them a Thank You note for hosting your visit. Stay in contact with them and follow their progress during the season sending notes of encouragement (coaches will ask players if the recruit would be a good fit for the program).
- Once you have made your choice, stay fit both physically and academically (the process is not over once you have made a commitment, it is just the beginning of your journey).
- Be a mentor to others during your career.

Questions?

- Coach
- Parent

Good Luck & Best Wishes!

- Carl Gray, USSF “A” Coach