

How to excel in the Recruiting Process

- Do well in school
- Improve as a player
- Select schools that you are interested in.
- Communicate well with college coaches. Recruit the coach and the school the same way you would like to be recruited.

Excel in school

- Academics are very important.
- Meet with school Counselor.
- The better they are the better chance you have of getting additional money
- Some state schools waive out of state fees for good academics.
- Some will give automatic amounts of money for certain grades or test scores

Improve as a player

- Make every practice
- Be early and stay late (work on your own)
- Improve yourself physically.
- Watch games
- Make the commitment to reach your potential

Sophomore Year

- Get organized.
- Research Schools
- Write about 30 schools
- Schools can not write specific letters back to you
- They can send general info
- A good time to write is before major tournaments.
- Good to get your name on their list of possible recruits

Get Organized & Stay Organized

- The best way to get organized and stay organized is to use a binder. Categorize your schools. Dream, Realistic, Fall Back
- Make copies of your letters and save them
- Use a spreadsheet to keep up with correspondence. Dates that you wrote schools, dates that you received letters, calls, etc.
- Spend an hour or so a week keeping up with the information.

Selecting Schools

- Academics
- Soccer
- Socially
- Geographic
- Financial
- Size of school
- Public or Private
- NCAA Div. I, II, or III
- NAIA

- Your goal should be to find schools that match you.

Academics

- Choose schools that match the academics you are looking for
- Make sure they have degrees that you think you want to study
- Do searches on the internet to find schools that have the degrees you are interested in.
- Cross reference your search academically with schools that you are interested in for soccer

Soccer

- Pick schools that are realistic for you
- Walk-on or scholarship
- Play or sit the bench all 4 years.
- The majority of the schools on your list should be midrange Div. I schools, Div. II and Div. III schools

Financial

- Do not rule expensive schools out
- Schools can use soccer money, academic money and other financial aid money to make it work.
- Local scholarships, businesses etc.

NCAA and NAIA

- Division I
- Division II
- Division III
- NAIA

In general, the higher the division, the stronger the program. However, the strongest Div. II and III programs may be tougher to play at than mid range Div. I programs.

Div. I

- Have up to 9.9 scholarships
 - On average they will have 2 a year to give to about 5 to 6 players
 - Examples: Clemson, Centenary, SMU, etc.
- Not all Div. I programs are fully funded. IVY League schools do not have scholarships

Div. II

- Have up to 9.9 scholarships
 - Average 2.5 per year to get 5 to 6 players
 - Examples: St. Edwards, Barry Univ., Incarnate Word
- Not all programs are fully funded.

Div. III

- No Athletic scholarships
- Usually high academic standards
- Some have excellent financial aid
- Use your soccer to get you an education that your academics alone could not earn
- Examples: Trinity, Southwestern, Hendrix

NAIA

- Not as many rules as NCAA

- Different contact rules
- Sometimes more financial assistance
- Examples: Berry College in Georgia

Communicate with College Coaches

- Freshman and sophomore year: write letters
- Junior year: Write and phone
- Senior year: phone
- Sell yourself. Let them know what a good person you are.
- If they like you as a person they are more likely to recruit you

How to write letters

- All letters should be personal
- ½ of the letter is the same in each letter. It should be about you and your interest.
- ½ of the letter is different for each school. It should tie in why you are interested in their school specifically.
- Attach a resume
- Sell yourself. Be open and honest

Email

- Emails are just like letters. They can send specific info on them in you Junior and senior year.

Telephone

- Prior to your senior year you may call the coach. The coach can not call you or even return your call
- Senior year they can call once a week
- Prior to your senior year you should call coaches and let them know about upcoming schedules and tournaments that you will be playing in.
- Always be honest.
- Sell yourself and your personality

Return Communication Quickly

- Return questionnaires, letters, emails and calls quickly.
- They can get away with being slow and impersonal, you can not.
- Being slow can be interpreted as a lack of interest.
- Players should respond not parents.

Junior Year

- Write letters to at least 30 schools
- Coaches can write specific info to you
 - Some coaches may ask you to call them
 - You can call them, they can not call you
 - Your goal is to gain info about the coach, program and school

Senior Year

- Writing and calling
- Narrow your list by selecting schools that you are very interested in and by schools that show the most interest in you.
- Coaches are allowed two face-to-face contacts with you off of campus during your senior year. Some coaches will do In home visits, and some may choose to talk to you after a tournament is over.
- Coaches can call you directly
 - Gain info about the program, school and coach
 - May ask you to take an official visit

Parents Role

- Sit down with your son/daughter and listen to what their goals and interest are.
- Guide them in the direction of their strengths
- Help them organize
- Give them advice when they ask.
- Help but do not write their letters or emails
- Talk with college coaches when it is time to talk about money. Do not try to negotiate.
- Parents that are too involved can scare coaches away.
- Work in the background with support and advice
- Try not to put too much stress on your son/daughter

Goals that parents should set

- Academic
- What are your financial limits
- Try to encourage your child to look at programs that are supportive off the field.
- Remember that the goal should be getting a degree
- Level of soccer should be low on your priority list

Visits

- Unofficial Visits
- Official Visits

Unofficial Visits

- Usually taken prior to your senior year
- The visit is one that you pay for
- School may invite you on one or you can ask to take one. Junior weekends
- Excellent way to see the school on your terms

Official Visit

- Taken in your senior year
- School pays for all or part of the visit
- You are allowed to be on campus for 48hrs.
- You are allowed 5 official visits
- Must have taken the SAT and have filled out the Clearing House
- Must choose them wisely
- When schools want you to take an official visit it is a good idea to know where you stand. Are you a scholarship athlete, etc.? This is the time to ask.
- I would not take an official visits to a school if I did not know where I stood.

Goals of Visits

- See School
- Watch team
- Meet players and Coach
- Observe the coach and team. See how the players respond to the coach and how the coach deals with the players.

Scholarships

- Scholarships come in ranges. Players can expect to get from 5% to 100% offers.
- Academic Scholarships can be combined at some schools to improve the package.
- Financial aid money is also available

Programs

- Average size of team is between 20 and 30
- Scholarships can be split between all or some of the players.
- Most programs have scholarship and non-scholarship athletes.
- Your bigger more nationally known conferences usually have stronger programs (ACC, Big 12, SEC, WAC, Conference USA)

What coaches look for

- Good people. Coaches are more likely to lose their job if players do not graduate and if there are problems with their program.
- Good players.
- They usually have certain needs each year
- You may be good enough to play there, but they may not have a need that year.
- Coaches do not waste time on players that do not show interest. They do not have unlimited funds and time. You must recruit the school.

Where do Coaches Recruit

- At Tournaments. CASL Shootout, Disney, Storm Showcase, Surf Cup,
- State/Region/National Cup Events
- ODP Events
- College Camps

Major Club Tournaments

- Coaches come with a list of players that have written them.
- They narrow the list based on who has shown the most interest and who plays for major clubs.
- Watch warm-ups
- Watch how parents and players react during games
- Watch for conduct in hotels

ODP

- Coaches use ODP events to recruit

- Many Region Coaches in the older age groups are college coaches.
- Many coaches attend to recruit
- They will go and watch National and Region team events.
- ODP is a standard that College Coaches recognize. High School honors are not accepted as a standard.
- I would suggest looking at it like any camp you might do in the summer.

Camps

- College Camps
- Coaches use them to make money first and recruit second. If the camp is at a school that you are interested in, it can be useful. If it is a big camp with a number of college coaches, it can be of some help.

PSAT, SAT, and ACT

- Standardize test
- PSAT is a test usually taken in the sophomore or Junior years.
- SAT should be taken in the junior year and retaken in the senior year if necessary
- ACT should be taken in the junior year and retaken in the senior year if necessary
- Some schools require the ACT some the SAT.
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Initial- Eligibility Clearing House

- NCAA requirement.
- www.ncaaclearinghouse.net
- Must fill it out before taking an official visit
- Should be done at the end of the junior year and completed at the end of the senior year.

Resources

- DOC and Staff at CESA
- <http://www.nscac.com/scoreboard.html> This shows the schedules and scores for each day. You can link to the university or college from this site.
- <http://members.aol.com/jonagrm/soccer/mens.htm> This is a state by state listing and links to colleges and university sites
- The Sports Source Official Athletic College Guide
- NCAA web site. www.ncaa.org
- Universities web sites
- US News and World Reports Ranking of Schools

CESA DOC and Staff

- We are a resource for you
- We will meet individually in your Junior and Senior years as needed.
- We will be honest
- Our ability to help players in the future demands that we be honest with you and coaches that are recruiting you

Time line for elite player

- Freshman and sophomore years write

- Junior year call coaches and take unofficial visits.
- Make decision at the end of your junior year, over the summer or early in the senior year. (September)
- First Wednesday in February of your senior year sign National letter of Intent

Time line for most Players

- Freshman and sophomore years write letters
- Junior year write, call and take unofficial visits
- Senior year take official visits
- Commit to school between October and March.
- Sign National letter of Intent first Wednesday in February of your senior year or when you commit if after February.

Ethics

- Expect honesty from coaches and be honest
- When you commit to a school notify the other schools that where recruiting you and thank them for their interest.
- Make sure that when you commit you are sure. Unless the coach changes before you sign or something major happens, this is your choice. Recruiting stops for you.

High School

- CESA Soccer Club supports high school programs
- College coaches will not recruit at high school games. There are a couple of exceptions.
- High school soccer may or may not be a good environment for you to improve as a player
- College coaches do not look at High School honors
- They look at Club and ODP honors.