

Recruiting Process Junior Year

Time line for the elite player

- Freshman and sophomore years write
- Junior year calls 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 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 or when you commit.

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 info.

Junior Year

- Write letters to at least 30 schools
- Go to Junior Days; Make Unofficial Visits.
- Visit as many campuses as possible.
- College Coaches can write specific info to you AFTER SEPT. 1ST
 - 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 schoolCoaches may call you once in March and have one face to face visit with you in April at your School.

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.
- 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; and work on your own
- Improve yourself physically
- Watch games
- Make the commitment to reach your potential
- Improve your team. Focus on your team success, not your own.
- BECOME COMFORTABLE OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE

Selecting Schools

- Academics
- Soccer
- Social Life
- Geographic
- Financial
- Size of school

Academics

- Choose schools that match the academics you are looking for
- Make sure they have degrees that you think you want to study
- If you are being recruited by Colleges and Universities for your academics, contact the coach and express an interest. Let them know the university is already recruiting you.

Soccer

- Pick schools that are realistic for you
- Walk-on or scholarship?
- Play or sit the bench all 4 years?
- Look at team's current roster
- Will they have a need for your position?
- How many starters are graduating?

Financial

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

Communicate with College Coaches

- Freshman and Sophomore year: write letters, email
- Junior year: Write and phone, email
- 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

NCAA and NAIA

- NCAA Division I
- NCAA Division II
- NCAA Division III
- NAIA
- NJCAA (Junior College)

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 scholarships a year to give to about 5 to 6 players
 - Examples: SMU in Texas; University of Tulsa in Oklahoma; Clemson
- 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 per year to get 5 to 6 players
 - Examples: St. Edwards University, University of the 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, University of Texas at Dallas, Hendrix

NAIA

- Not as many rules as NCAA
- Different contact rules
- Sometimes more financial assistance
- Examples: Northwood University - Texas Campus; St. Gregory's in Oklahoma, Mobile Alabama

NJCAA

- Junior Colleges offer academic alternatives
- Examples: Richland College, Tyler Junior College

Resources

- <http://www.ncaa.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
- Doc and staff

- 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 try to 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 with the coaches who are recruiting 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. What can you contribute to their program?

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.

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 AFTER JULY 1ST
 - Gain info about the program, school and coach
 - May ask you to take an official visit

Emails

- Same rules as letters.
- Emails are just like letters. They can send specific info on them in your 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
- During your junior year the military academies can call you and **(New rule)** NCAA schools are allowed 1 phone call in March/Spring.

Parents Role

- Sit down with your son/daughter and discuss with them what you would like for them.
- 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 and visits. 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 son/daughter 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, but can be taken in the 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 NCAA 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 visit to a school that I did not know where I stood.

- SCHOOL MUST HAVE A COPY OF TEST SCORES AND TRANSCRIPTS PRIOR TO VISIT

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, 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 Big Tournaments. CASL Shootout, Disney, Dallas Cup, Score at the Shore, Surf Cup Showcase
- USYSNC Events and ODP Events
- College Camps
- Division II, III, and NAIA schools may ask you to come and train with their team.

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

- Standardized tests
- 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. In most cases the SAT is all that is required

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.

Ethics

- Expect honesty from coaches and be honest yourself
- 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 SoccerClub supports high school programs
- College coaches will not generally recruit at high school games. There are a few exceptions.
- High school soccer can be a good environment for some players to improve, and it may be a bad environment for others. Make a choice that will help you.
- College coaches do not look at High School honors
- They look at Club and ODP honors.

Questions to ask on official/unofficial visits:

Soccer

- Where do I fit into your program/expectations of me as a player
- What position do you see me playing?
- What is your style of play?
- What is a typical week composed of for one of your players/ Fall and Spring?
- What athletic facilities do you have?

Academics

- Do you offer summer school/5th year scholarships?
- Tutors/Study hall availability or requirements?
- Team policies/ maintaining specific G.P.A.

Social

- What is the housing situation, roommates, athletic dorm, etc?
- Team relationship off the field?
- Team rules/ discipline policies?