

Assisting Student-Athletes with the College Search Process

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To Preface...

- Goals...Presentation/Website
- NCAA is the governing body, but rules vary depending on the sport, division, conference, institution, etc.
- Division III- fewer guidelines, but similar recruiting timeline

First and Foremost...

- If there is any possibility you will be playing at the Div. I or II level (in any sport) you must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Register online AND have transcript sent from Ms. Tessari (the earlier the better!)
- Background
- Be aware of changes to Div. I and II guidelines, now three possible categories
- Initial vs. Final clearance
- See CCHS Counseling website for more info on this.

Eligibility Center (cont.)...

- As part of this process- make sure you have taken the necessary CORE COURSES (approved by NCAA)- 2 layers to this...
- Summer school, VHS, previous high schools, etc.
- See guidance counselor with questions, to review transcript if necessary

Eligibility Center (cont.)...

- Send SAT scores to Eligibility Center (code= 9999)
- Minimum test scores (only CR+M)
- GPA- only core courses included
- Sliding Scale (GPA and test scores)

If Not Registered with Eligibility Center...

- Cannot go on official visit to colleges as a high school senior.
- Cannot practice or compete with the collegiate team upon arrival to campus as a college freshman.

Consider These Questions:

- Do you really want to play sports in college? What experience do you want?
- Do you understand the time commitment college athletics entail?
- Can you balance the academics and athletics?
- Do you understand how being a recruited athlete will affect your college process?
- Are you simply using your athletic ability as a “lever” or will you fully commit to the college team once you arrive on campus?

Also...

- *Be realistic and honest with yourself (ability, what you can handle, etc.).
- *The earlier you begin the process the better.

It is important to find the right match- Academically, Socially, Athletically:

- Don't settle based on athletics
- Career ending injury test!

ACADEMICS

- What majors/areas of study are you considering?
- What does your academic profile look like (GPA, SAT scores, etc.)
- What are you looking for in a school academically?
- Liberal arts, Math/Science/Tech, Research University, etc.

Keep in Mind...Admissions offices admit students, coaches do not:

- Highly selective colleges often have admissions requirements far above the NCAA guidelines. Some of these schools are regulated by the league rules/agreement:
 - The Ivy League Academic Index
 - The NESCAC banding system
 - Institutional Standards

SOCIAL/ENVIRONMENT

- Both school and athletic program
- What type of school are you looking for?
- Size, culture, location, distance from home, diversity, religious affiliation student-body, setting (rural, suburban, urban, college campus)?

Furthermore...

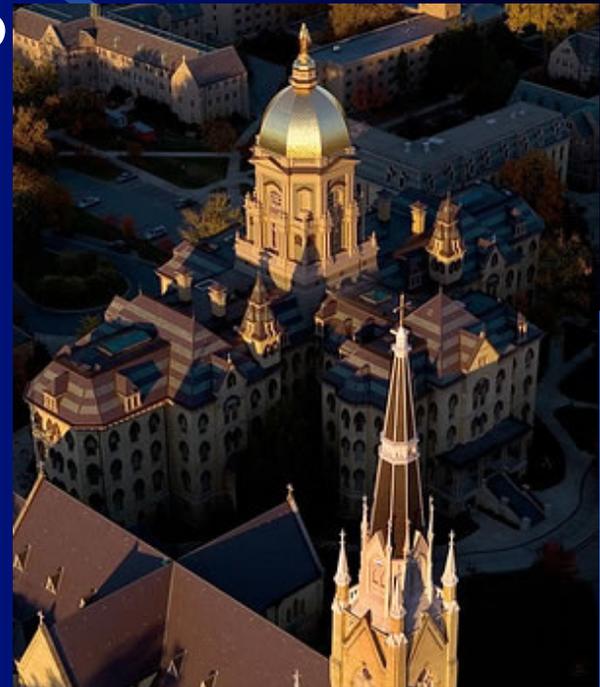
- What role do sports play at particular schools and what do you want to get out of your experience (study abroad, clubs, etc.)?
- Athletic/academic ratio?
- Where will you feel comfortable?

ATHLETICALLY

- Level? Intensity (this may differ within a division)?
- Resources/support (academic/medical) available to athletes
- Success of team, coach (if this is important to you)
- Potential open spots on team for your position (check roster online, look for positions, graduating seniors, etc.- if you are a goalie you don't want to go to a school with 5 underclassmen goalies!)

Division I, II, III

- Size of school
 - Time commitment (Div. III= no practice outside of season, Div.I year round commitment)
 - Scheduling requirements
 - Number of sports
 - Amount of scholarships
 - Funding
-
- *Ivies = Div. 1 in most sports, but do not offer scholarships



Scholarships

- Offered at the Div. I and II level.
- No Scholarships at the Div. III level or in the Ivy League- but still the more you have to offer (academically and athletically) the more likely they can “help” you out, merit money, etc. .

Other Options

- Walk-On opportunities may be available at schools in all divisions- Still start process early!
- Intramurals

Determine “recruit-ability”

- Talk to people that know you as a player and whom you trust: high school coaches, club team coaches, private instructors, etc.
- What is your “market value”?
- Div. I, II, or III ability?
- Walk-on vs. Scholarship athlete?
- Determine what type of role you want on the team (want to start as freshman, or content to be a role player, or just part of the team).

Coordinate lists of schools with coaches and college counselor:

- Talk with your coaches about potential schools that might fit your ability/needs athletically. Then bring list to your counselor to discuss the academic fit of these schools.
- Make sure there are safeties on the list both for academics and athletics (and financially if necessary). If playing athletics is important to you, make sure you have at least one or two schools that are a safety for both academics and athletics.

Establish Contact Early...and Often!

- Initiate contact with college coaches as early, and as often as possible! As soon as you have schools in mind- start notifying the coach that you are interested in their school and program.
- Coaches are busy, often on the road or athletic arena, and Div. III coaches generally have other responsibilities/are part time, so be persistent.
- Coaches start compiling their data base early, and think years down the road in terms of crafting their team.
- Get out and be seen, make effort (club teams, attend camps, clinics, showcases, etc.)!

Also Keep in Mind:



- The more you have to offer in all realms (high GPA, test scores, intangibles, work ethic, athletic skills, etc.) the more coaches have to work with...
- And Remember: Coaches are always watching (and they talk to each other)- we want coach-ability!!
- Note to parents...

Initiating Contact with Coaches:

- Develop boilerplate email- then personalize it for each school (interested in their school, as well as making their sport a part of college experience, why their school, what do you want to major in, etc.)
- Call, email, send info to coaches (large pool early, will narrow down as time goes on)
- Return questionnaires promptly
- Typically assistant coaches are doing recruiting piece
- Create spreadsheet of coach contact info
- Produce athletic resume/profile, video
- Follow-up- The squeaky wheel gets the grease!
- You need to go to them, they are not going to come to you.

What to Email/Send Coaches:

- Athletic Resume
- GPA, test scores
- Transcripts – ask if you are within the range for their school academically (and keep this question on the table, as well as what tier recruit are you).
- High school and club team info, schedule, and follow-up before important games and showcases.
- Put skills video up online.

Be Easily Identifiable:

- Always indicate on everything- name, year of graduation (affects what rules go into place), team, uniform number, position, email, etc.

Athletic Resume:

- Your Name and Contact Info
- Academics: Courses, GPA
- Standardized Test Scores
- High School, Team names, info
- Link to skills video
- Athletic achievements
- Times, splits, handicap, etc.
- Contact info for high school/travel coaches and guidance counselor
- Google examples for your sport

Video/DVD/YouTube:

- Display your skills- individual, game footage
- Short and sweet
- Utilize internet to post
- Outsourcing not necessary

When Researching Schools and Athletic Programs:

- Visit schools- among many things, assess environment, location, academics, coach, players, athletic facilities, supports.
- Schedule appointment with coach- have questions ready...student should be doing most of talking...ask timeline questions
- If unable to reach, stop by office to try to meet them and express your interest (but be respectful of their time)
- Ask the coach if you can speak with members of the team (if not now, via email, etc.)

The Athletic Program Specifically:

- How long has head coach been there?
- What is team's style of play?
- How do players speak about coach, experience, academic value, team morale?

Continued...

- What value does the coach place on academics
- What supports are available to athletes (medical, academic, etc.)?
- How many players are in your position on the team and in the recruiting process?
- What have players majored in? Are there majors that are discouraged?
- What has the graduation rate been over the last five years?
- How much school does the team miss due to their travel schedule (different schools, conferences have different rules around this)?

What types of academic support is available to athletes?

- Academic-Athletic Advisor
- Tutoring
- Coach monitored study halls on road trips
- Mandatory weekly study halls
- Life Skills Program

Things to ask members of the team:

- How their coach views academics.
- What life is like on the road with the team.
- What are their experiences like with professors in terms of their support for athletes.
- Get a sense for the chemistry of the team and a sense of how the team views/respects their coach.
- Do they have a chance to make other social connections outside of the team.
- What is a typical day like in the off-season, in season.
- What other schools they looked at and why they ultimately made the choice that they did.

Compliance (NCAA Rules)

- Refer to CCHS Guidance Website for more information.





Contact (Div. I and II)

- Face to face encounter between college coach and student (or student's relatives) where dialog exceeds greeting- OFF CAMPUS
- For most Div. I sports- Permissible July 1st following Jr. year- Division II - Permissible June 15th
- No more than 3 in Div. I and II
- Only occur at the completion of a day of play (in tournament or high school game)
- Camps- great way to get to know coach, team
- Club coaches are the way around this rule!
- Restrictions around number of evaluations

Contact (Division III)

- Not permitted until the conclusion of a prospect's junior year of high school (but coach can talk with parents any time)
- No restrictions on number of off-campus contacts with prospect following junior year.
- Only occur at the completion of a day of play (in tournament or high school game)
- Camps!
- Also, no restrictions on number/timing of observation/evaluation of prospect participating in practice or competition

Phone Calls (Div. I and II)

- Permissible July 1st after Jr. Year
- Only 1 per week (Sun-Sat)
- Family members count
- Left message - may call again
- Unlimited on day of home visit, five days before Official Visit, and during and after NLI signing
- Student and Parents have no limitations



Phone Calls (Div. III)

- There are no restrictions on the frequency or timing of telephone calls, emails, and text messages to prospects.
- The use of instant messaging or social networking sites by athletic departments for purpose of recruiting is permissible

Official Visits (Div. I and II)

- Occur senior year
- Must have initial clearance through Eligibility Center
- Expenses paid by institution
- 48 hours maximum
- One per institution
- Maximum of 5 per prospect
- Test Scores & Transcripts
- Pre-read of application done beforehand
- Recent Trend - Decrease Official and Increase Unofficial



Official Visits (Division III)

- Can still happen at these institutions, but only at schools with athletic dept. who have the money to do so.
- Occur senior year
- One per school
- Pre-read is often done beforehand

Unofficial Visits: Nonpaid, Division I, II, III

- Visit to campus
- Some more formal than others
- Expenses paid by PSA
- Occur anytime
- Unlimited
- With recruiting timeline and college deadlines starting earlier, these are becoming increasingly popular



Senior Year:

- Sign NLI if offered athletic scholarship
 - ✓ Early Signing: Begins 2nd Wed. in November
 - ✓ Late Signing: Begins 2nd Wed. in April
- ◆ Less formal version offered at Div. III schools
- ◆ Often expect top recruits to apply Early Decision or Action, and sometimes verbal even earlier



Early Verbal Commitments



Beware of online footprint!

The image features a solid blue background with a subtle gradient. At the top, there is a horizontal bar with a white-to-blue gradient. The text "Beware of online footprint!" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a blue outline, centered within this bar. The rest of the image is a solid blue field with a slight gradient from top to bottom.

Remember:

- So much of recruiting is out of your control and often times involves being in the right place at the right time.
- Therefore, focus on what you CAN control and do all that you can to make yourself as attractive to coaches as possible (academics, versatility in your athletic abilities, looking at appropriate schools, continuing to improve athletic skill, coachability, attitude, effort, demeanor, etc.).