

COLLEGE RECRUITING TIPS



The recruiting process has general similarities but is at the same time, unique to every individual. While it is helpful to discuss your experience with other players and parents, your experience will not be the same.

In the recruiting process, the Spring of your sophomore year and Fall of your junior year really begins the formal process. It is the time when **you** need to be most proactive.

1. **Send Initial cover letter and player profile.** This should be sent in hard copy as well as email. Express your interest in the school and the soccer program. The cover letter should include basic information about you, your academic and high school and club team accolades. The letter should also include a schedule of upcoming tournaments.
2. **Follow up periodically with an updated version of the cover letter and player profile.** This should be sent via email to the coaches. It should highlight any major changes to your profile. The letter should also include a tournament schedule inviting the coach to watch you play. The information should be as specific as possible, including game times and field number.
3. **Keep a file of all correspondence with coaches.** It is important to keep all the correspondence to and from college coaches.
4. **Return questionnaires and emails promptly.** You should return questions and emails promptly. It shows you are interested. The more dialogue you can create with coaches, the more it will help you. Ask questions.
5. **Be honest in your communication.** If you are not interested in attending a particular college, say so. A coach appreciates knowing that you really are or are not interested in his/her program. If you are not, it allows the coach to put time and effort into recruits who are interested. Be sure to thank the coach for the interest.
6. **Contact coaches via phone, mail or email.** You may contact coaches via phone, mail or email your Sophomore and Junior years. . Coaches can send Sophomores general information about the school and a questionnaire for completion. However, college coaches are only permitted to contact prospective recruits directly via mail or email **after** September 1st of your Junior year. Coaches are only permitted to call you **after** July 1st after your Junior year.
7. **Arrange unofficial visits.** The more campuses you visit the better able you will be to make a decision. You are permitted unlimited unofficial visits. Arrange visits before or after a tournament, not during a tournament.
8. **Bring your "A" game.** Remember, your biggest sell is your playing ability. You must concentrate on playing well and improving. Don't get wrapped up in who's watching you and wasting energy walking across campuses when you should be resting and preparing for the next game.
9. **Arrange official visits.** You are allowed a maximum of five expense paid visits beginning after the first day of classes of your senior year. You must be registered with the NCAA

Clearinghouse and have completed the necessary paperwork before an official visit can be taken.

10. **Make a list of priorities in choosing a school.** Questions you should ask yourself include:
 - a. What balance do I want in academics, athletics and social life?
 - b. Will I be happy at this school if I don't play soccer?
 - c. Am I going to be challenged?
 - d. How large or small a school do I want?
 - e. Where in the U.S. do I want to be? How far from home?
 - f. What level of soccer program do I want? Be realistic!
 - g. What type of coach do I want to play for (personality)?
 - h. What conference do I want to play in?
 - i. What are the facilities like?
 - j. What are the living arrangements?
11. **Ask questions.** Questions you should ask the coach include:
 - a. What is your coaching style and philosophy?
 - b. What is your vision of the program?
 - c. What is your style of play?
 - d. What is the scholarship allotment?
 - e. What is a good offer?
 - f. What will my role be on the team?
 - g. What are my chances of playing?
 - h. What academic support is provided (tutors, study hall).
 - i. What academic support is provided while on the road? (study hall, proctoring exams, tutor)?
12. **Use available resources.** Use your coach, Directors of Coaching or a coach who has experience in the process. It can be a very stressful process if you don't know what you are doing or are asking the wrong questions.
13. **Keep coaches updated.** Timing is also very important. Keep coaches updated with your process. The more they know the better they can serve and assist you.
14. **Provide references.** Provide supportive, but honest, references. Don't be afraid to ask your references to call college coaches on your behalf. This is extremely important when getting close to a commitment or if you don't fully understand what the coaches are telling you.