



Does Your Child Want to Play a Sport in College?

Here are 10 Tips to Help Him/Her Get Recruited

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If your son or daughter is interested in playing a sport at the NCAA or NAIA level of competition, it's important for him/her as a student-athlete (or you, as a parent of a student-athlete) to begin planning for academic eligibility during or prior to his/her Freshman year in high school. Such planning absolutely is necessary, as the NCAA requires an incoming student-athlete to have completed a specific number of CORE classes.

For example, the following levels of play have the following requirements:

NCAA:

Division 1: 4 Years – English
3 Years – Math (Algebra 1 or higher)
2 Years – Natural or Physical Science (1 lab, if offered)
1 Year – Additional in English, Math, or Natural/Physical Science
2 Years – Social Science
4 Years – Additional in any of the areas above or in Foreign Language, Philosophy, or Comparative Religion

Division 2: 3 Years – English
2 Years – Math (Algebra 1 or higher)
2 Years – Natural or Physical Science (1 lab, if offered)
3 Year – Additional in English, Math, or Natural/Physical Science
2 Years – Social Science
4 Years – Additional in any of the areas above or in Foreign Language, Philosophy, or Comparative Religion

Division 3: Schools set their own admission standards.
There are no eligibility requirements.

NAIA:

Basic eligibility requirements:

- The student must be a high school graduate or be accepted as a regular student in good standing, and
- Meet 2 of the 3 following requirements:
 1. Score a minimum of 18 on the ACT or 860 on the SAT;
 2. Obtain an overall high school GPA of 2.0; and/or,
 3. Graduate in the top half of his/her high school class.

Academic scholarships may be added to an award package that includes an athletic scholarship; however, the combination of the award amounts may not exceed 100% of the total cost-of-attendance. As there are no athletic scholarships at the D3 level of competition, academic scholarships become much more important.

As you'll see, there are a very limited number of athletic scholarships available. Doing well in the classroom can greatly increase your son's/daughter's chances of funding a college education and, in many cases, increase his/her chances of playing a sport at a higher level.

Now that you've seen and you know that your son/daughter can meet the CORE academic requirements in order to be certified to play at the next level, and you know that he/she is talented enough to compete at that level, how will he/she get recruited?

Here are 10 tips to follow that will help your son/daughter get recruited to play his/her sport at the next level:

1. **Be Proactive.** College coaches are subject to limitations on when and how often they may contact recruits. Players, however, can contact coaches at any time. It certainly can help your son/daughter to let a coach (and school) know that he/she is interested in the program (and the school) with a reminder of where he/she will be competing.
2. **Be Studious.** The higher your grades and standardized test scores, the more options your son/daughter will have. Don't let him/her reduce or eliminate opportunities just because grades aren't up to par.
3. **Be Aware of Eligibility Requirements.** Two key elements play a significant part in certifying NCAA athletic eligibility – academic achievement and amateur status. Review the requirements to understand what classes are needed and what standardized tests your son/daughter should take.
4. **Be a Character Player.** Coaches constantly make tough recruiting decisions between equally talented players. The tiebreaker? Quite often it's what they see about a player's character during a game. Is he/she a good teammate? How does he/she respond to a bad shot, a bad call, etc.? Always assume that someone is watching – someone always is.
5. **Be Committed to Improving.** Many young players get wrapped up into playing every showcase available. Coaches recognize, however, that true development comes through practice, not games. Rather than signing up for every showcase, he/she should spend time working on parts of his/her game that can be improved. Then, he/she can show off the improved skills when they are back in the spotlight.
6. **Be Consistent.** Colleges have only so many coaches and they can see only so many recruits. They can't be at every game and, unfortunately, might see your son/daughter on an off night. He/she should do his/her best to give

consistent effort, as coaches usually see recruits many times before making any decisions.

7. **Be Our Guest.** The best way to decide whether a school is right for your son/daughter is through an unofficial visit (official visits are paid for by the school and currently only available once your son/daughter is a high school senior). An unofficial visit will allow your family to see the campus, tour the facilities, and even see a game. Your son/daughter should reach out to the coaching staff to let them know when he/she will be on campus.
8. **Be Inquisitive.** As much as a coach wants to find the right fit for his/her program, he/she also want to be sure the recruit will be comfortable where they end up. They want to hear recruits asking questions – insightful questions – of the coaching staff, players, professors, and others around their program.
9. **Be a Supportive Parent.** Never forgotten in this process are the parents and their significant role. However, the part you play shouldn't be too significant. Your son/daughter should be the one sending emails, writing letters, making phone calls to coaches (there's nothing wrong with helping them craft their communications!) Coaches want to know it's the player's ambition, not the parents'. Be supportive, but not overbearing – coaches have to be sure they want you (the parents) in their program for 4 years as well.
10. **Be Patient.** The last and, quite often, the most difficult piece of advice – be patient!! The recruiting process takes time, quite a bit of it actually. Don't get frustrated if your son/daughter isn't one of those selected right away.

We wish you and your son/daughter the best of luck with his/her recruitment!

We know the entire ordeal is a very long process, even without the added pressure of the recruitment process. For assistance with your family's college planning campaign, and with the recruiting process (if needed), please contact College Planning Strategies today.