

How to get Recruited and get an Athletic Scholarship

Too many recruits are waiting for college recruiting letters to just show up in their mailbox. They think, "Once my senior year comes around, coaches will begin recruiting me." For 95 percent of college athletes, recruiting is not what you see on the major recruiting websites. Coaches count on interested athletes to contact them as early as eighth grade or freshman year of high school. With over 1,200 college programs and 35,000 college coaches, the recruiting process has become a responsibility for the athlete. The athletes who are being recruited and finding scholarships are actively seeking out coaches, visiting, and calling colleges. It is ideal to start before their junior year and ultimately know where they will be playing college sports years before graduating high school. It is certainly possible to still play college sports if you start recruiting yourself as a junior or senior but you will have to do a lot of work in a much smaller amount of time.

College coaches will always want to hear from qualified student athletes who want to play for their team. However, unless they have all of the information they need to quickly evaluate you, your e-mail and phone calls might hurt you as a prospect because it will show the coach you don't know "your stuff." College recruiting can be done by you for free, but the recruiting process is not free. You should be spending time each week actively communicating with coaches to ensure you are remaining high on their recruiting boards.

Athletic scholarships are awarded by coaches based on their program's needs. This guideline will help you learn how to get recruited and be in a position to receive scholarship offers. By closely following these steps, you will better your opportunity for a scholarship.

Create a Target a List of Schools

Compile a list of schools that you are interested in attending. Keep in mind your academic level, athletic talent, and school preferences.

- Always start with a wide range of schools, and then narrow it down as you move along in the process.
- If your list of schools is too small, your chances of earning a scholarship will be very low.
- **ACADEMICS ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER SPORTS... PLAYERS GET INJURED/HURT AND CAN NO LONGER PLAY AND NOW THEY ARE STUCK AT A UNIVERSITY SPENDING LOTS OF \$\$\$ FOR AN EXPERIENCE THEY DON'T ENJOY AND GROW IN.**

Gather All the Contact Information for the Coaches

Collect the e-mail addresses and phone numbers for all coaches on your school list. Then e-mail the following information:

- Resume – Write a professional resume with very detailed statistics on all of your past seasons. Also include a copy of your high school transcripts and test scores. Calculate your GPA here.
- Video – Have a high quality skills tape or highlight video created and put it online. This can and should be done by the athlete as it helps the athlete identify strengths and weaknesses, saves money, and you know what the coach is seeing. Include a link to that video as a part of your resume.

Start the Communication with the Coaches

- If you do not hear from a coach after two weeks, call the coaches to express your interest in their university.
- Respond to every coach that replies to your e-mail.
- Research the school and the program . . . be prepared then communicate with coaches, ask informed questions and explain why you are interested in their school.
- If you can arrange a phone call with a coach, make sure to prepare for it ahead of time. Learn about their most recent season, have answers to potential questions coaches may ask, and have a list of questions for the coach.
- Do not ignore any e-mails or phone calls from a coach – you never know how your recruiting process will unfold. A school you were not as interested in attending at one point may end up being one of the few options you have to choose from at the end.

Attend Summer Camps and Showcases

- You can't rely on being 'discovered' at a camp or showcase.
- Camps and showcases can help with gaining exposure, but only if coaches are there to watch you specifically. These are golden opportunities . . . take full advantage of them.
- The majority of coaches who attend camps and showcases are there only to watch players they have already had contact with.
- If a coach talks to you or your parents at a camp or showcase, make sure to follow up with that coach at a later date by phone call or email. Be sure to follow-up consistently.

Know the NCAA and NAIA Rules and Regulations

- Know all the rules that apply to you based on your year in high school.
- Know exactly how coaches can contact you and how you can contact coaches. These sound similar, but are two separate rules.
- Read the NCAA and NAIA Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete.
- NAIA Clearinghouse (<http://www.athleticscholarships.net/naia-clearinghouse.htm>) In order to be academically eligible to compete in the NAIA, you have to meet certain requirements set forth by the NAIA Eligibility Center. The NAIA's academic requirements are different than the NCAA requirements, so make sure that you don't get them confused. In order to be eligible for the NAIA as an incoming freshman, you need to meet two of the three following criteria:
 - A minimum score of 18 on the Enhanced ACT or 860 on the SAT (for tests taken on or after April 1, 1995).
NOTE: In order to meet the requirement of Article V, Section C, item 2, paragraph a above, an entering freshman taking the SAT as of March 1, 2005 must achieve a score of 860 or higher on the Critical Reading and Math sections.
 - An overall high school grade point average of 2.000 or higher on a 4.000 scale.
 - Graduate in the upper half of the student's high school graduating class.To make sure you are on track to meet the NAIA academic requirements, you should meet with a high school advisor and verify your academic record.
- NCAA Eligibility Center (<http://www.athleticscholarships.net/ncaa-eligibility.htm>) (formally known as the NCAA Clearinghouse) is the eligibility arm of the governing body that oversees the eligibility process for incoming collegiate student-athletes. The NCAA Eligibility Center works to ensure that athletes who compete in college sports meet the minimum academic and athletic requirements needed. The NCAA Eligibility Center enforces rules regarding a student's eligibility including academic requirements and amateurism rules. When an athlete registers for the NCAA Eligibility Center, they will be required to provide information regarding their academics and their athletics, and also supply the Eligibility Center with official documents. It costs \$65 for students in the U.S. and \$95 for international students. Your profile will be added to their system, and a college coach must request it to be added to the IRL (Institutional Request List) in order for it to be processed. Once an athlete is cleared, they are eligible to compete at an NCAA school.

Know the Academic Requirements to be Eligible

- Register with the NCAA and NAIA Eligibility Centers to be cleared for athletic scholarships.
- Research which core courses you must take and the grades you must earn to be academically eligible; then arrange your academic calendar around those requirements.
- Research which exams you must take and the minimum score requirements.
- Read the NCAA and NAIA Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete.

If you would like to receive assistance with any part of the recruiting process listed above, please fill out one of our online application forms to speak to one of our scouts!

College Soccer Scholarships and Recruiting

How do I Get a College Soccer Scholarship?

There are over one thousand universities that offer the chance to play college soccer, and coaches do not have the resources to find every qualified athlete. Coaches expect you to take the initiative and contact them first. If you want to increase your chances of being considered for a soccer scholarship, follow our guide.

How to Get College Coaches to Watch Your Matches

Getting college coaches to your matches is not easy. Because of small recruiting budgets, many soccer coaches require you to come to them. In fact, for the top schools in the country it is mandatory that prospects attend their summer camps for further consideration. Find out what else you can do by following our tips.

How the Soccer Recruiting Process Works

There are thousands of international and domestic athletes for soccer coaches to choose from, and it takes a lot of hard work to show coaches that you are exactly what they are looking for. If you want to play at the top level, it is mandatory that coaches watch you in person. Finding those opportunities is up to you; here is our advice.

Make Sure You Are Academic Eligible

Based on what level you want to compete, the requirements change. Keep in mind that just meeting the minimums does not guarantee you admission into your school of choice. Check here to see if you have met the academic eligibility standards of each division level.

How Good do I Need to be to Get a Scholarship?

These marks were gathered by evaluating the freshman classes of some of the top programs at each level. There are always exceptions if you fit what a program is looking for. Use these as a guide and do some research on your own.

Men's Soccer

NCAA D1

- Development Academy
- Olympic Development Program (ODP) Experience
- All-American
- All-State
- All-League/District
- 3-4 year varsity starter
- Extensive club team experience
- Participation in major tournaments and showcases

NCAA D2

- Development Academy
- Olympic Development (ODP) Experience
- All-State
- All-League/District
- 2-3 years varsity starter
- Team MVP
- Extensive club team experience
- Participation in tournaments and showcases

NCAA D3/NAIA

- Extensive club team experience
- 2 years varsity starter
- Club Experience:

Women's Soccer

NCAA D1

- ECNL
- Olympic Development Program (ODP) Experience
- All-American
- All-State
- All-League/District
- 3-4 year varsity starter
- Extensive club team experience

NCAA D2

- ECNL
- Olympic Development (ODP) Experience
- All-State
- All-League/District
- 2-3 years varsity starter
- Team MVP
- Extensive club team experience

NCAA D3/NAIA

- Extensive club team experience
- 2 years varsity starter
- Club Experience:

How Many Soccer Scholarships are Available and What Schools Offer Them?

Scholarships are only awarded to the best players. Getting a scholarship is a matter of being honest in your abilities and your contribution to the team.

Number of Scholarships Offered per Team, per Year, by Division

Competition for scholarship money is extremely competitive. If getting a scholarship is the most important thing maybe looking at the NAIA level would be better than the NCAA DII level. Remember, soccer is an equivalency sport which means all scholarships are NOT full scholarships, and coaches may divide the total number of scholarships allotted to them between as many athletes as they wish.

Men's Soccer

NCAA D1: 9.9
NCAA D2: 9
NAIA: 12
NJCAA: 18

Women's Soccer

NCAA D1: 14
NCAA D2: 9.9
NAIA: 12
NJCAA: 18

Number of College Soccer Programs

Men's Soccer

NCAA D1: 204
NCAA D2: 172
*NCAA D3: 394
NAIA: 216
NJCAA: 291
Total: 1,277

Women's Soccer

NCAA D1: 314
NCAA D2: 223
*NCAA D3: 409
NAIA: 221
NJCAA: 276
Total: 1,443

*NCAA Division 3 schools do not offer athletic scholarships, but do offer other forms of financial aid.

The Top College Programs in Each Division

The top programs on any given year can change but these are some of the best programs over the past few years.

Men's Soccer

NCAA D1: Louisville, Akron, Maryland, North Carolina, Butler, California, SMU, UCLA, Connecticut, Princeton, Monmouth, William & Mary, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, Notre Dame, Charlotte, Creighton, South Carolina, Michigan, Virginia, Brown, Providence

NCAA D2: Franklin Pierce, Midwestern State, Colorado Mines, Northern Kentucky, Rollins, Charlestown, Grand Canyon, Truman, Montevallo, Dowling, Regis, Ashland, Flagler, West Virginia Wesleyan, Tampa

NCAA D3: Trinity, Ohio Wesleyan, Messiah, Christopher Newport, Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Bowdoin, St. Lawrence, Washington-St. Louise, Swarthmore, Dominican, DePauw, Emory, Stevens, Middlebury, Wisconsin-Whitewater, Texas-Tyler, Calvin, York

NAIA: University of Rio Grande, Notre Dame College (Ohio), Hastings College, Simon Fraser University, Lindsey Wilson College, University of Maine at Fort Kent, University of Mobile, Kansas Wesleyan University, Bryan College, Belhaven University, Vanguard University

Women's Soccer

NCAA D1: Stanford, Portland, North Carolina, Maryland, Florida, Oklahoma State, Notre Dame, Virginia, Texas A&M, UNC Greensboro, Florida State, Marquette, Illinois, West Virginia, Oregon State, UC Irvine, Ohio State

NCAA D2: St. Rose, Central Missouri, Fort Lewis, West Chester, Grand Valley State, West Florida, Columbus State, St. Edward's, Seattle Pacific, California (Pennsylvania), Armstrong Atlantic, UC San Diego, CW Post, Tampa

NCAA D3: Messiah, Hardin-Simmons, Otterbein, Loras, Wheaton, Trinity, Emory, Illinois Western, Williams, William Smith, TCNJ, Johns Hopkins, Oneonta State, Eastern Connecticut State

NAIA: Concordia University, Lee University, Azusa Pacific University, Martin Methodist College, Indiana Wesleyan University, The Master's College, Graceland University, Lindsey Wilson College, Robert Morris University, California Baptist University, University of Mobile, Oklahoma City University

IMPORTANT: NAIA Rule Changes. You must now register with the NAIA Clearinghouse.
(<http://www.athleticscholarships.net/naia-clearinghouse.htm>)

The history of Soccer. (<http://www.athleticscholarships.net/history-of-soccer.htm>)

Attending a college soccer summer camp could be the best recruiting move you ever make.
(<http://www.athleticscholarships.net/college-soccer-camps.htm>)

HOW TO FORMAT YOUR RESUME

Your Name

Graduating Year: 20??

Dear Coach (coach's last name),

Introduce yourself here. Tell coaches why you are contacting them, and why you would be a good fit for their program/school. Use this paragraph to highlight either your academic/athlete accomplishments.

Online Video Link: Include a link to your online video in-between your athletic and academic paragraphs.

Your second paragraph should highlight the part of your profile you didn't cover in the first paragraph, whether it be academics or athletics.

Thank the coach for his or her time and let them know you are looking forward to about learning more about their program.

Sincerely,

Your Name

[This is a good area to include your measurable statistics such as height and weight. Other measurable statistics will be more sport specific. The titles below are there to give you some ideas. You may need to add some information depending on which sport you play.]

Height: Weight:	2014	2015	YEAR
Minutes/game			
Shots			
Assists			
Beep Test Result			
20 & 40-yard dash Result			
2-mile Run			
Position			
Saves			
Dominant Foot			

Personal Information:

Address
City, State, Zip
Home Phone
Second Phone
Date of Birth
Parent's Names

Scholastic Information:

Address
City, State, Zip
HS Address
Cumulative GPA
SAT/ACT Score
Honors Classes/AP Classes/Desired Major
NCAA Clearinghouse: Applied Y/N Cleared Y/N

Club Information:

Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip
Coach:
Coach cell/email:
Position:
Jersey Number:

Future Events/Competitions

Tournament	Location	Date
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Soccer Accomplishments

Year	Tournament	Recognition
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Academic Accomplishments/Community Service

Year	Honor	Recognition
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Soccer coaches are more likely than coaches in other sports to offer scholarships while an athlete is an underclassman, making it imperative for athletes to start reaching out to coaches at a younger age. Building a great soccer resume will help you introduce yourself to college coaches and help you get a leg up on the competition.

Soccer coaches want to see players perform live - even more so than many other sports. Make sure your coach or your parents are taking film of your games. Put together a highlight film from your best soccer plays. Upload it to a video hosting site such as YouTube and put the link in your profile. Including a link in your resume can help you get the exposure you need to be recruited. Be prepared to show coaches your full game film after they have viewed your highlight film.

It is important to accurately show your physical statistics. Tell coaches your height and weight. List your 40 yard dash times, both with and without the ball. Coaches may also want to know your one-mile time, vertical jump, and broad jump.

Depending on which position you play, you should include relevant statistics. Offensive players should include games and minutes played, goals, goals per game, assists, shots, and total points. Goalies can show stats for games started, record, goals against, goals against average, shots on goal, saves, save percentage, and shutouts.

Soccer coaches want to see athletes play in person; sharing your resume, video and stats with coaches are all steps to get to that point. Make sure to explicitly show your camp schedule on your resume if you are planning on attending future camps. Making contact with coaches before you attend camps is crucial, because coaches scout athletes they are already familiar with at camps. Coaches usually do not discover new talent at soccer camps. You can also include your upcoming season schedule with the time, date and location of each event.

Highlight your strengths and skills in the cover letter or introduction to your resume. The introduction is your initial chance to sell yourself to a coach and explain why you would be a good fit for his or her program. Tell them about your playing history and experience, and also about future events. Market yourself in a way that encourages coaches to want to evaluate you as a student-athlete.