

Recruiting Tips

First contact with a coach

- Fill out their recruiting template (this will be what most coaches will ask you to do if you e-mail them info). Coaches want to be able to keep track of you, and be able to better communicate with you throughout the recruiting process. They want to do a little research on you as well before committing a lot of time to you.
- As soon as you fill out their recruiting template, send them a short e-mail. Include what you like about their school, your contact info, and a time/how to best be reached (i.e. if you send them an e-mail, you better check your email, or let the coach know what the best way to contact you is). Include an attachment or link to a profile/highlight film. The most important part of this contact e-mail is to express interest and give the coach information about how to contact you.
- Make sure you include some way for the coach to evaluate you. If you have a recruiting profile or highlight film, make sure you link the coach to them.
- Other points of contact will be based on the level of interest from the coach. Most coaches, after evaluating you, will drive the conversation. With that said, you can always make things easier by offering information. Provide a list of tournaments or games the coach can watch you play at. Send them game film. Come out for a visit etc.

Creating a highlight film

- Coaches will be able to tell very quickly based on your highlights if you can play for them. i.e. If this is the best of your highlights... they can see where your talent is. A coach is not going to waste his time watching a full game film right off the bat—at least most won't. Make sure you're including the right things: risky moves while showing you have athleticism, can also show that you have bad fundamentals. Be sure to show as many facets of the game/sport as possible.

College Visits

- Take a tour, sit in a class, and meet with the coach(es). Make sure you spend some time with the team. Remember that everything you say will get passed back to the coach. A student-athlete who does not fit the culture of the current team will stick out.
- Bring a parent along because they'll be able to help you in the process. However, remember that YOU are the one on the college visit. The coaches DO NOT want to hear from your parents the whole time. They want to hear from you.
- Often times, college visits can lead to offers. It's important to understand your options.
- Some college teams will bring in 20-30 players, and will only keep 10. Remember that this is a business, and college coaches are trying to win. Hopefully they have some integrity when they say that you can be a starter, or all-conference, but always remember it is a business and coaches want to win just as much as you want to play in college.
- See if you can attend a game or practice to help understand where you might fit in on their roster.

Scholarships

- Scholarships are very tricky. The majority of scholarships are partial (rather than a full-ride).
- Important questions:
 - What will the scholarship look like in year two?
 - What happens to my scholarship if I get injured?
 - What am I obligated to once accepting this scholarship? 4 hour practices and 2 hour lifting sessions?
- Sometimes coaches promise a scholarship in year one with no guarantee in year two. Some offers decline over time (7k in year 1, 5k in year 2, 3k in year 3, 1k in year 4). If you're already at the institution, they don't need to pay you to stay.
- Understand how to compare the cost of schools. Ex. a school offering \$5k each year sounds great... but you could end up paying more after the scholarship than you would have paid at another school without a scholarship. Some schools may take 5 yrs instead of 4 yrs to graduate. Scholarships aren't given if you aren't playing. Can you afford that 5th year?

What are the benefits of camps, clinics and tournaments?

- Typically, this is the number one way that coaches find athletes. It's a quick and easy way to see hundreds of athletes.
- If you're attending a camp, clinic, or tournament make sure it is for the reason you want (i.e. recruiting or teaching).
- If you're looking at a specific school, a camp/clinic is a great opportunity to get on campus and play in front of the coach.
- Keep in mind, camps/clinics/travel teams aren't essential to the process. Most coaches will still recruit you if you are proactive in contacting them and showing them film. It's important to weight the cost and benefits of these opportunities.
- A travel team could cost \$3-\$6k which is in line with an average athletic scholarship. If you're looking to win a huge scholarship, you might be better off saving the money and investing it in your college fund.

Keep an academics first approach

- A high GPA and standardized test scores in high school can lead to more financial aid and athletic opportunities in college.
- Link to the NCAA academic eligibility requirements: <http://bit.ly/ncaaeligibility>
- Remember the reason you're attending college. Athletics are a great co-curricular experience, but focus on the classroom.