

Herndon Youth Soccer



College Recruiting Presentation

www.herndonyouthsoccer.org/

The Decision Process

- As a starting point, and always remember, choose a school that is the right school for you even if you don't play soccer
- Then factor in the soccer aspect and go through the process
- It can be complex and stressful, but also very fun!



First Priority: Academics

- Academics are key when applying to any college – student-athlete or not
- Academics vs Athletics goes both ways – they each help the other

CLASSES

- “Core” Classes
- Class Rank/GPA
- Review requirements online at Eligibility Center – i.e. 4 years of English, 3 years of Math, etc. (these can change so check every year)



TESTING

- Timing of tests (SAT/ACT)
- Retaking tests
- Combining scores (Superscoring – some schools/tests allow)
- SAT II's (School dependent)

Second Priority: Research

What are you looking for in a college?

- Visit Campuses
- Online college counselor programs
- Watch college soccer
- Consider variables outside soccer
- Academic Level – grades, SAT / ACT, Majors/degrees offered
- Size of school. Public / private
- Location – geographically
- Setting – urban, suburban, rural
- Academic strength – general and specific
- Financial issues
- Level of play
- Coach
- Soccer List and Non-Soccer List



How to be Seen

- Showcase / Elite Tournaments
- College ID Camps and Clinics
- Videos
- Club & League Play
- Social Media



Social Media

- NCAA opened the social media door in March 2014 – almost no restrictions other than age
- Coaches will follow you on every social media medium they can
- Social media profiles can enhance or hurt you



COMMUNICATE!

With your coach

- Initial college lists
- Throughout the process
 - As you hear from coaches
 - To help Refine list
 - About Camps
 - About Offers

With the colleges

- Resume
- Video
- Registration online
- Regular updates
- Game schedules
- Before and After Showcases
- Respond to emails / Keep options open
- Be prepared to provide academic information / unofficial transcript



YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

It is the PLAYER'S responsibility to ACTIVELY participate in the college recruiting and selection process.

- Active participation by players at every step
- Prepare academically and athletically
- Research and understand your options
- Be realistic
- Communicate
- Most players don't just get recruited. They market themselves



NCAA Recruiting Rules

- No communication between athlete & coach until June 15 AFTER sophomore year
- No verbal offers or commitments from student-athletes until June 15 AFTER sophomore year
- No official or unofficial visits until August 1 prior to junior year
- No off-campus contact until August 1 prior to junior year



Coaches Communication

- In the past, coaches could talk with any student-athlete as long as the student-athlete initiated the phone call
– THAT IS NO MORE
- Now, student-athletes cannot engage in ANY communication with a college coach until June 15 AFTER sophomore year. This includes email, text, phone, social media.
- When June 15 date hits, student-athletes should be prepared to contact college coaches and have a highlight video ready.



Official v. Unofficial Visits

- Official Visit – Financed by the college
- Unofficial Visit – Financed by the family
- Not allowed until August 1 prior to Junior year. Student-athletes may still visit college campuses, but may not have any recruiting related conversation w/coaches



College Bound Student -Athlete

- In order to play Division I or II level, players must submit information to NCAA.
- Important Resource: NCAA Eligibility Center
- www.eligibilitycenter.org



NCAA Basics

- Differences between D1, D2, D3, Junior College
- Does not necessarily reflect level of play or level of competition
- Divisions roughly reflect the size of schools and budgets
- Impacts 'scholarships' available



Scholarships & Financial Aid

- Division I and II schools can award full and partial scholarships.
- An athletic scholarship...
 - awarded one year at a time
 - usually covers 4 years (no guarantee)
 - full scholarship consists of all tuition and fees, room, board and books (rare)
 - 9.9 for Men, 14 for Women (rosters between 22-40 in D1)
- Division III schools cannot award athletic scholarships, only need-based aid and merit aid.
- Financial Aid: Grants, Loans, Work Study



Who To Trust

- Most, if not all college coaches, are good people. But they have a job to do (win, grad rates, etc.)
- HS coaches may not be fully knowledgeable
- Club coaches also may not know all the NCAA rules and protocols, but usually have your best interests in mind
- Your cousin, uncle, aunt, etc who plays/played in college
- Recruiting companies



Resources

- Listing of Soccer Programs by Division: <http://www.ncaa.com>
- New Recruiting Rules: https://usatodayhss.com/2019/ncaa-how-new-recruiting-rules-affect-underclassmen?utm_source=smg&utm_medium=wasabi&utm_content=recirc-more-site
- NCAA Guide for the College Bound PSA: <http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/CBSA15.pdf>
- NCAA Eligibility Center: http://eligibilitycenter.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.html
- Princeton Review College Advice: <http://www.princetonreview.com/com.aspx>
- College Matchmaker and College Quick Finder: <http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/index.jsp>
 - Helpful Hint: when looking for coaches' contact information, check top menu on "Athletics" and scroll down to "Staff Directory"

