



Contacting a College Coach
November 2009



Tonight's Talking Points

- NCAA Recruiting Guidelines
- Completing a player profile
- Contacting a College Coach
- Role Playing – Coach and Player
- The Complete Player



It's a Marathon not a Sprint

- Academic Goals and Objectives
- Exploring College Landscape
- Contacting Coaches



College Athletic Programs

- NCAA – Division I
- NCAA – Division II
- NCAA – Division III
- NJCAA
- NAIA
- NCCAA
- NIRSA-Club Level. Div 1 only



NCAA Recruiting Guidelines

Guidelines	Division I	Division II	Division III
Recruiting Material	Sept. 1 of junior year	Sept. 1 of junior year	Permissible after sophomore year
Calls by Coaches	July 1 after junior year	June 15 after junior year	Permissible after sophomore year
Off Campus Contact	July 1 after junior year	June 15 after junior year	Permissible after junior year
Unofficial Visit	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
Official Visit	Allowed after beginning of senior year	Allowed after beginning of senior year	Allowed after beginning of senior year



Slicing the Pie

Boys Soccer

- 330,044 participate on high school teams
- 2,357 NCAA scholarships for boys
- 6,047 boys shared these scholarships
- \$8,533 average award for boys
- 39% of averaged cost of college
- 1.8% of high school soccer player boys receive a NCAA soccer scholarship

Source: Soccer Journal, May-June 2008 - Cold Hart Facts, 2003-04 Academic year



Athletic Grants



- May range from very minimal (\$1,000's) to a full ride
- A "Full Grant-in-Aid" is financial aid that consists of tuition, fees, room and board, and required course related books.
- Most grants are partials and can be combined with Academic Grants, Leadership Grants, and need based aid.
- Apply early for grants-there is usually an early deadline.

The maximum number of "Full Athletic Grants" allowed to any Division I school by the NCAA is 14 for the women and 9.9 for the men. Remember that most squad sizes are from 20-30 players. Also not all schools have the maximum number of grants allowed by the NCAA.

Athletic money is given out based on:

- 1) Needs of the program
- 2) Ability of the player
- 3) Money available in a given year



Player Profile Form



- Complete OGFC Player Profile Form
- Check College Athletic Website
- Download and complete a Prospective Athlete form from the college website and email to college coach



Contacting a Coach



- General guidelines-persistence, proactive, passion
- Letter of Introduction
- Player Profile
- References
- Academic History
- Game and Tournament Schedule (be specific)
- Player Video (no replacement for in person)
- Dedicated email account-(avoid crazy ones)
- Contacts create opportunities



What Do I Say in an Initial Email ?



- Name, Graduation Date, High School, Club
- Why you are interested in program
- Schedule of upcoming matches
- Attach completed profile
- Be specific (avoid listservs)
- Parents issues



Dear Coach Smith,

My name is Joe Smith and I am a junior at Lincoln High School in Everytown, OH. I played soccer for my high school team and my club team in the Ohio Galaxies u17 boys team. I am very interested in pursuing an opportunity to play college soccer in your program. I am interested in pursuing a degree in engineering and I feel that Slippery Rock University would be a good fit for me both athletically and academically because of the size and location of your school.

My team will be playing in the Mid-Atlantic Showcase tournament on March 1-2, 2010 and I hope that you will have the opportunity to attend one of our matches. I have attached my player profile for your information.

Thank you.
Joe Smith
joe.smith@gmail.com



What do I say after a coach contact?



- Thank you
- Express interest in program-know about the program
- Request phone number and best time to contact coach
- Schedule a college visit
- Request Feedback on performance
- Official visits (5 total)



Dear Coach Smith,

Thank you for attending my Ohio Galaxies u17 boys match on Saturday, March 1st at the Mid-Atlantic Showcase tournament. I am very interested in talking to you about an opportunity to be a part of your soccer program. I am planning to make a college visit to Slippery Rock University in late March. I would appreciate it if you would contact me and we could make arrangements to have a meeting to discuss playing for your school. Please provide me your telephone number and the best time to reach you during the day or evening.

Thank you.
Joe Smith
joe.smith@gmail.com



Scheduling a College Visit

- Contact Admissions office
- **Tour campus**
- Academic strengths/majors
- Evaluate location
- Admission requirements
- Cost
- Meet with Soccer coach



Questions about the College

- Does the college offer academic programs that interest the player?
- What is the expected enrollment of undergraduates?
- What are the class sizes?
- What are the housing options?
- Is tutoring offered to student-athletes?
- Academic scholarship opportunities



Questions for a Coach

- Watch a soccer game for a prospective college
- What are the coach's goals for the team?
- What style of play is desired for the team?
- How many players will be on the roster?
- How many trips are planned for the season?
- What are the pre-season and post-season schedules?
- For what position is the player being recruited?
- What does the coach see as the recruited player's role
- How many players is the coach planning to add from your class
- What is the off-season workout and time commitment



Being a Complete Athlete

- Character issues make you stand out
- 3 Components to being an Athlete
 - Physical
 - Mental
 - Spiritual



Recruiting Experiences

- AIA Staff
- OGFC Coaches
- OGFC Alumni
- Role playing