

## Basic Recruiting Guidelines from Collegiate Profiles

1. Understand the various leagues and divisions of college sports: Within the (NCAA) National Collegiate Athletic Association, for example, teams are assigned to one of three different divisions (I-II-III), each with their own rules and levels of Scholarships and Funding. In addition to the NCAA, there are two other college athletic leagues, the (NAIA) National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, NCCAA, USCAA and the (NJCAA) National Junior College Athletic Association, which offer competitive, yet accessible athletic programs.
2. Determine your academic goals before you begin your search: You should consider colleges that fit you academically, socially, culturally as well as athletically. Remember that for most student athletes, it is their academics, not their athletics that determine a successful college and professional career. If you are the lucky one that knows exactly course of study than focus on schools that place your major in the top 3 at that institution. Discuss with your Guidance Counselor they are extremely knowledgeable in this process. Understand Core Course and how to plan your academic path.
3. Decide what kind of athletic experience you want—and decide whether your abilities fit your goals: Talk to your coaches—high school, club, and athletic camp—and gather as many informed opinions about where you could compete at the college level. Depending on the level of experience and connections your coaches have, they may be valuable resources for you in your athletic scholarship search. Remember coaches are extremely busy individuals and their time is spread very thing through the course of a day.
4. Understand the recruiting process: For most student athletes, the official recruiting season for majority of sports programs begins on July 1 in the summer after junior year and it ends with the official admissions letter from the college. During this time, there are several possible stages in the process, including initial identification; follow-up print contact; phone contact; official or unofficial visits; home visits; letter of intent/scholarship offer; and official support from the coach. It's About Exposure!
5. Social Media: This is a very critical aspect of the recruiting process that many student-athletes fall victim to and should be managed before the journey of prospecting begins. This is the Silent No for student-athletes. One former coach had mentioned that if you would be embarrassed for your parents to see than perhaps don't post – Think before you post. In addition, this is the rule once you have accepted your scholarship/ financial aid and a great policy to remember when you graduate from College and enter the business world. All eyes are watching..... [www.collegiateprofiles.com](http://www.collegiateprofiles.com) - September 2017