



Desert Elite Soccer



SCHOLARSHIP MYTHS

The search for a college athletic scholarship can be confusing and overwhelming. It's hard to find reliable information about scholarships and even harder to determine the right approach for you. Using information provided on the Internet, and drawing on our experience, we developed a list of common scholarship myths. There is more misinformation out there than we can cover in one discussion, but here are a few helpful thoughts.



Myth 1: Most college athletes receive full athletic scholarships.

Reality: Full scholarships are few and far between, especially outside of football or basketball. Many schools don't even allot as many athletic scholarships as the NCAA allows. Most Division 1 programs award very few full scholarships. Rather than give the entire scholarship to a few players, most programs break the total amount into smaller scholarships to distribute the money to many players. The situation in Division 2 and the NAIA schools is similar, except the dollar amount is less. Division 3 schools offer no athletic scholarships in any sport. The table below shows the average soccer scholarships awarded in 2015, as well as the average athletic scholarship. (Bear in mind this number represents all sports, so numbers are reduced when taking football and basketball into account.)

Division	Number of Schools	Number of teams		Varsity Athletes (1)		Average team size		Athletic Scholarships limit per team **		Average Athletic Scholarship (2)	
		Men's	Women's	Men	Women	Men's	Women's	Men	Women	Men	Women
NCAA I	331	203	328	5,750	8,998	28	27	9.9	14	\$14,264	\$15,411
NCAA II	257	204	255	5,873	6,766	29	27	9	9.9	\$5,958	\$7,258
NCAA III	446	410	437	11,742	10,559	29	24	-	-	-	-
NAIA	204	193	197	5,457	4,712	28	24	12	12	\$6,473	\$6,982
NJCAA	236	216	184	5,065	3,602	23	20	18	18	\$1,670	\$2,028
Other Divisions	193	165	156	4,003	3,123	24	20	n/a	n/a	\$296	\$391
Totals	1,667	1,391	1,557	37,890	37,760	27	24			\$4,815	\$5,366



Myth 2: Recruited athletes are receiving near free educations.

Reality: The average recipient of a soccer scholarship saves \$5,090.50 annually. Compare that to an average annual price tag of \$31,231 at a private college, \$22,958 at a public four-year college (out of state) and \$10,132 at a public four-year college in Arizona*, you begin to get a better picture! Athletic scholarships are also one-year renewable items. The fact is, you are not guaranteed an athletic scholarship from year to year. One injury can end your collegiate career and scholarship, leaving you with the decision to either pay for college without athletic financial aid or transfer to another school.

*Average tuitions and fees for 2014-2015 school year, according to the College Board.



Myth 3: I shouldn't go to a Division 3 school if I need scholarship money.



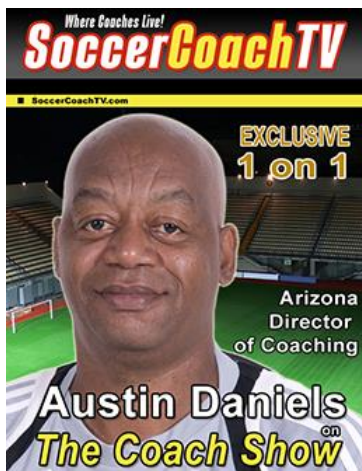
Reality: Many schools, including Division 3 colleges, offer attractive financial aid programs. Don't overlook a school just because the scholarship money is not designated as "athletic." In many instances, the total financial package a school is willing to offer may be higher than you would receive at a college that has offered you an athletic scholarship. This may also be true with private schools, so make sure you do your homework before writing off a particular college.

THINK YOU CAN'T
AFFORD US?

Think again...



Myth 4: ECNL/FWRL are the **only** way I can get a college scholarship.



Reality: While some clubs will have you believe this, it is clearly a recruiting tool for them. A quote from the Arizona Technical Director, Austin Daniels, best describes this –

"Anyone who says the only way to get a college scholarship is to play ECNL is simply not telling the truth. College coaches try and find the best players wherever they can find them. It is true that many college coaches go to the ECNL tournaments, but they go to many non ECNL tournaments as well. In Arizona, many of the players who have gotten scholarships did not play ECNL. The top recruit from the state played for Ahwatukee and competed in regular season play."



The following is a link to a fantastic article that discusses ECNL from a balanced point of view:
<http://www.socceramerica.com/article/64385/should-my-daughter-play-ecnl.html>



Other Financial Points to Consider

- ▶ **Housing and Meals:** The cost of "room and board" depends on the campus housing and food plans you choose. The College Board reports the average cost of room and board in 2014–2015 ranged from \$9,804 at four-year public schools to \$11,188 at private schools. Colleges also provide room and board estimates for living off campus based on typical student costs.
- ▶ **Books and School Supplies:** Most colleges estimate the average costs for required learning materials. Some colleges even include the cost of a computer and computer accessories. The College Board reports the average cost for books and supplies for the 2014–2015 school year was \$1,146 at public colleges and \$1,244 at private colleges.
- ▶ **Personal and Transportation Expenses:** Colleges may estimate some expenses they don't bill you for. These include local transportation, clothing, personal items, entertainment, etc. The College Board reports that expenses in this category for 2014–2015 ranged from \$2,609 at private colleges to \$3,242 at public universities.

