



# Pathway to College Soccer

River Soccer Club

**High School Timeline:** *Below is a timeline of a pathway guiding your soccer player to play at the collegiate level*

## **Freshman Year:**

- *Decide if college soccer is something you personally want to pursue.*
  - How much passion do you have for the game? How committed are you?
  - These are important questions think before moving forward in this process.

## **Sophomore Year:**

- *Start thinking about the type of school, you might want to attend outside of soccer. Below are some factors you should consider:*
  - What do you want to study? Does this school have the major I'm interested in?
  - Location of school: Is it close to home? Do I want to be far from home? Climate: hot and sweaty in the South vs. cold and bitter in the North East?
  - Size of the School: Large University? Small Liberal Arts College?
  - Costs: How expensive is the school?
  - Will I be happy at this school if soccer doesn't work out?
- *What college level of play should I be playing at?*
  - NCAA- D1, D2, or D3; NAIA; NJCAA?
  - Ask your coaches- They have seen a lot of players over their time, they will be honest
  - Compare yourself to college players you know: What division are they playing? How do you match up against that player? What was that player doing/accomplishing their sophomore year of high school?
- *Narrow college choices to about 6-8 school considering the factors above*
- *Establish contact with the coaches*
  - Email- Drive the conversation, be personal, why do you want to play this program, do your research (mention something their current season) \*Don't send fill in the blank emails
  - Personal Resume- see sample
  - Your Playing Schedule
  - Use Videos to show case skills- games, training, highlights, entire game, (\*depends on coach)
- *Start visiting the campuses of top choices*
  - Official tour of the campus
  - Set a meeting and visit the coach
- *Attend your top choices College's Camps or Clinics*
  - Great way to get a "feel" for the school, program, coach, staff, players, etc...
  - Training environment is the best way for any coach to assess a player's attitude, ability, athleticism, and awareness

## **Junior Year:**

- *Have your school choices narrowed down to 3-6 colleges*
- *Continue contact with the coaches*
  - Email- Drive the conversation, be personal, why do you want to play this program, do your research (mention something their current season), \*Don't send fill in the blank emails
  - Personal Resume- See Sample
  - Your Playing Schedule
  - Use Videos to show case skills- games, training, highlights, entire game, (\*depends on coach)



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### **Senior Year:**

- COMMITTED by Summer or Fall of Senior Year
  - Most schools have their rosters set and recruiting for that class by this time of year

### **What are Coaches looking for?**

- *Academics First*
  - Players are useless if they flunk out of college
  - A lot of great soccer players out there, easy way to separate you from the rest of the pack
- *Social Media*
  - Be careful what you post!
  - Coaches are investing in you for 4 years, they will do their research
  - Looking for committed players
- *Attitude & Character*
  - Most valued quality at the collegiate level
  - Tons of great players- looking for best attitude
  - College coaches will ask you club & high school coaches
- *4A's*
  - Ability
  - Athleticism
  - Awareness
  - Attitude- see above

### **Key Recruiting Info:**

- *9.1% of Senior High School Soccer Players moving on to College Soccer Programs (2013-2014)*
  - D1- 1.4%
  - D2- 1.4%
  - D3- 2.8% \*No Soccer Scholarships
  - NAIA- 1.3%
  - NJCAA- 1.2% \*No Soccer Scholarships
- *Soccer Scholarships are very limited*
  - NCAA Division I men's Soccer teams have an average roster size of 29 players but only a maximum of 9.9 athletic scholarships to award per team. This means the average award covers only about 34% of a typical athlete's annual college costs - and this assumes the sport is fully funded at the sponsoring school
  - Your Grades = Money
- *Know NCAA Rules- <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/>*
  - Eligibility- register online
  - Coach Contact Rules