



NCAA SOCCER



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PROJECT

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT ATHLETE COLLEGE RECRUITING INFORMATION

DATE

MON, NOV 21ST 2016

CLIENT

AFC LIGHTNING

Topics

- Overview of process
- Organizations
- Scholarships
- Identifying your targets
- Contacting Coaches
- College Showcases
- College ID Camps
- Preparing for College
- Q&A

Organizations - NCAA

- The **National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)** is a non-profit association which regulates athletes of 1,281 institutions, conferences, organizations, and individuals
- Has different divisions based on school size and number of sports offered:
 - Division I
 - Division II
 - Division III
- The NCAA currently awards 90 national championships yearly – 45 women's, 42 men's, and coed championships for fencing, rifle, and skiing.
- Athletic Scholarship offered at Division I and Division II level.
- Academic Scholarship offered at Division I, II and III.

Organizations - NJCAA

- The **National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)**, founded in 1938, is an association of community college and junior college athletic departments throughout the United States.
- The NJCAA regulates 525 schools across 24 different regions.
- NJCAA sponsors 17 sports across Divisions I, II and III
- Division I colleges may offer full athletic scholarships
- Division II colleges are limited to awarding tuition, fees, course related books
- Division III institutions may provide no athletically related financial assistance
- NJCAA colleges that do not offer athletic aid may participate at the Division I or II level
- Two year institutes that can provide a pathway to a 4 year school

Organization - NAIA

- The **National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)** is an athletic association that organizes college and university-level athletic programs among small to mid-size institutions, primarily across the United States but also outside the US.
- The NAIA sponsors 14 sports in which it conducts 25 annual championships (12 for men, 13 for women).
- Is setup with Division I and Division II
- Both divisions offer Athletic scholarship
- Tend to have more international athletes as clearing house and coach-player contact is not as restricted.

Soccer Scholarships Available

NCAA Div I

Men - 9.9

Women - 14

NCAA Div II

Men - 9

Women - 9.9

NJCAA

Men - 18

Women -18

NAIA

Men - 12

Women - 12

Academic Scholarships in GA

- **Hope Scholarship - 90% Tuition Fees**
 - A Hope Scholarship recipient must graduate from high school with a minimum 3.0 grade point average and maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible.
- **Zell Miller Scholarship - 100% Tuition Fees**
 - A Zell Miller Scholarship recipient must graduate from high school with a minimum 3.7 grade point average combined with a minimum SAT score of 1,200 on the math and reading portions **or** a minimum composite ACT score of 26 in single national test administration and maintain a minimum 3.3 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible.

Identifying your Targets

- Choice of Major - Do they provide the major that you would like to study or a pathway to it?
- Grades / Test Scores - The entry requirements vary from institution to institution so do your research as to what each school is expecting
- Size of School - Campus sizes also vary quite broadly. Going on a visit to a campus can give you a good indication of where your preference might lie.
- Location of School - Do you want to stay in-state, in a particular radius to home etc?
- Setting of School - Would you prefer an Urban setting or is rural more your style?
- Financial - There are not many 100% soccer scholarships out there, but most institutions will have additional financial aid resources that are available to you.

Making a Decision

- **Division & Level** - There is a huge range of levels across the Div I, II and III level in each institution. Make sure you are not blinded by the belief that Div I is automatically a higher level of play than anything else.
- **The coaching staff** – remember that head coaches can change so try not to make this the most important factor.
- **Strength of team** – Look closely at the make-up of the team and see where they need help or where they will be graduating players. This will help you know what the coach will be looking for when it comes to your recruiting class.
- **Strength of schedule** – look at the conference they will be playing in. See the level of competition you are likely to face and ascertain if that is going to be challenging enough for you.
- **Soccer program** – find out what the training looks like year round and not just in the fall season. What does the winter and spring season look like? Do they have a GK coach? What level of support do they have from other groups – SAQ, strength and conditioning?
- **Playing time** – you need to define for yourself what you expect as playing time before you make your final decision. How would you cope with not getting a lot of playing time as a freshman if you decide to go to a top D1? Does being in a top-level training environment mean more to you than playing time at least initially?
- **Soccer v Academics** – are you prepared for the soccer commitment v academic commitment if you go to a top school? The best soccer programs, whether they are D1, D2 or D3 will demand commitment. Being able to balance your studies and your academics is obviously a vital part of your future success at college. Soccer can be a fantastic release from your workload and will also be your major social outlet.

Contacting College Coaches

- **Step 1: Make initial contact. Cover letter and player profile.**
 - Email cover letter and student-athlete profile.
 - Be professional in this initial communication. You don't get a second chance to make a first impression.
- **Step 2: Follow up with a phone call.**
- **Step 3: Set up Unofficial visits**
- **Step 4: Competitive Calendar – Effective Communication**
 - College Showcase Schedule
 - League Play Schedule
 - ID Camp intentions
- **Step 5: Narrow down selection**
- **Step 6: Make Final Decision**
 - Official visits. Players can take up to 5 official visits where they get to see the college at very close hand. These are very helpful in allowing players to be confident in their final selection.
 - Financial paperwork. Fill in any financial aid forms.

College Showcases & ID Camps

- College Showcases are a great way to be seen by a lot of college coaches in a short period of time
- Different showcases attract coaches from various regions of the country and from various levels of play
- Are ID camps worthwhile or are they a money grab?

The Next Steps

- TAKE CARE OF YOUR ACADEMICS
- Read the NCAA “Guide for the College-Bound Student Athlete”
- Read the NCAA “NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse”
- Consider extracurricular activities - clubs/honors society etc.
- Begin to identify your targets and consider attending a college’s soccer summer camp.
- Evaluate your soccer weaknesses and work on improvement.
- Practice on your own — fundamentals and ball skills.
- Your club coaches and Directors are here to help you with the process, but the majority of the work has to be done by you

ANY
QUESTIONS
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