



College Recruiting Seminar 2021

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University of North Georgia Men's Soccer Player - Hall of Fame Class of 2017 - Div 2

Chicago Red Stars NWSL Assistant and Goalkeeper Coach

Eclipse Select Director of Goalkeeping / Recruiting Coordinator

US U23 WNT Goalkeeper Coach

University of Iowa Assistant Women's Soccer Coach / Recruiting Coordinator - Div 1

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Columbus State University Assistant Women's Soccer Coach / Recruiting Coordinator - Div 2

Emmanuel College Assistant Men's Soccer Coach / Recruiting Coordinator - NAIA

CFC Red Star Girls Director of Coaching and Academy Director of Coaching

Georgia and Region 3 ODP Staff Member / Director of Goalkeeping

Atlanta Silverbacks USL W-League Assistant and Goalkeeper Coach

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OVERVIEW

- Opportunities
- The Different Levels
- Freshmen/Sophomore Year Timeline
- Junior Year Timeline
- Senior Year Timeline
- Information on the Process
- Things to know that will help you
- Sample Letters



COLLEGE SOCCER OPPORTUNITIES

- Number of Athletic Departments
 - 346 Division I
 - 298 Division II
 - 442 Division III
 - 207 NAIA
 - 232 NJCAA
- Number of Women's / Men's Soccer Programs
 - 333 / 205 Division I
 - 265 / 215 Division II
 - 441 / 415 Division III
 - 188 / 188 NAIA
 - 181 / 217 NJCAA



DIFFERENT LEVELS

- **Division I**
 - Different sizes and academic levels, greater overall athletic budgets (travel, equipment, facilities...), 14 scholarships for women / 9.9 scholarships for men.
- **Division II**
 - Smaller size schools and good academics, usually self funded athletic departments with good budgets (travel more regional based), 9.9 scholarships for women / 9 scholarships for men.
- **Division III**
 - Majority PRIVET schools (81%), NO athletic scholarships, academic and/or need-based financial aid, more balance between academics & athletics, main difference than DI, DII and NAIA is in training/playing hours during the spring semester.
- **NAIA**
 - Separate governing body from NCAA, similar to DII, 12 scholarships for women and 12 scholarships for men.
- **NJCAA - Junior College**
 - Separate governing body from NCAA and NAIA, two year institutions, 18 scholarships for women and 18 scholarships for men.



FRESHMEN/SOPHOMORE INFO

- Think ahead as far as grades and GPA
- Start taking practice tests;
 - SAT and ACT
- Start making list of schools that you might be interested in
- Start visiting campuses on your own
- Start emailing college coaches
- June 15 after your Sophomore year
 - Correspondence from Coach to player is NOW PERMITTED. This includes: phone call, email, text, Facebook messages, Twitter Direct Messages - DI schools.
- College ID Camps and Clinics



JUNIOR YEAR TIMELINE

- June 15 before Junior Year
 - Correspondence from Coach to player is **NOW PERMITTED**. This includes: phone call, email, text, Facebook messages, Twitter Direct Messages - DI schools.
- August
 - Apply to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
 - Stay in tune with your Eligibility Center Account, as updates are needed consistently!
- Sept. 1
 - Unofficial and Official Visits are now permitted.
- End of First Semester
 - Check with your Counselor, need 10 of 16 core courses completed prior to 7th semester.
 - Seven of 10 must be English, math or natural or physical science.
- Second Semester
 - Take Standardized Tests (ACT and SAT).
 - Plan ahead with scheduling test dates, so to minimize conflicts.
- Completion of Junior year
 - Submit College Admissions Applications, if your academics are at a high level.
 - Schools can admit prospective student-athletes after the completion of six semesters.



SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

- November and February signing
 - Signing Day
 - The day after signing day, with an approved National Letter of Intent (NLI), all forms of communication are permissible and unlimited between a coach and a student-athlete
- May 1, Senior year
 - Deadline to submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)



INFORMATION ON THE PROCESS

- When trying to find the right fit for YOU, some things to consider are:
 - Academics
 - Distance from home
 - Size of the school/campus/location
 - Soccer Program: connect with the coach, introduce yourself, learn about their leadership style, coaching philosophy, style of play...
 - Make a list: freshman year 20 schools, sophomore year 15 schools, junior year 10 schools
- Connect with college coaches
 - Per NCAA rules you CAN directly communicate with college coaches starting JUNE 15th prior to your JUNIOR YEAR in high school.



INFORMATION ON THE PROCESS

Preparations for EVENTS / TOURNAMENTS / GAMES / CAMPS / CLINICS

- BEFORE
 - Have to be consistent in training throughout the year in order to perform at the highest level as possible.
 - Contact college coaches in advance with an email/phone call - registered college coaches are typically listed on event website, including their email address and phone number.
 - Send a follow-up email week before the event with your schedule.
- DURING
 - Have to play hard, compete and showcase yourself. NO ONE can help you with this.
- AFTER
 - Follow-up email/phone call with the college coach.
 - Continues communication with schools that you are interested in and with schools that are interested in you.
- SEE APPENDIX A.1-3 for some samples of emails.



THINGS TO KNOW THAT WILL HELP YOU

1. Do your homework!
 - Know what's important to you, and seek out schools that fit YOU
 - Academics, size of the school and athletics, soccer program, scholarship, playing time...
 - Your process is your own – go at your pace and find the school that's right for YOU
2. Be prepared to write and talk about who you are and what you do!
 - Communicate your BRAND!
 - This is not BRAGGING about yourself, this is being CONFIDENT in who you are!
 - Know what you do well and what areas you need to get better at.
3. Be persistent!
 - What does a coach want to see from a player? A teacher from a student?
4. Prepare for the reality of rejection!
 - There is a chance a school that you really want might not want you/have room for you



THINGS TO KNOW THAT WILL HELP YOU

5. Explore your options and be open minded

- Illinois Wesleyan Women's Soccer – NCAA D3 Final Four
- Grand Valley State Women's Soccer – Back to Back D2 Champs
- Chicago University Men's Soccer - NCAA D3 Final Four

6. Represent yourself well!

- You are representing yourself, your family, your coach and this club.

7. When it's your turn, BE READY!

- Do your job when your job needs doing.
- Keep your focus on your play, not who's there to watch.
- Follow up
- Regardless of the school, take the time to communicate. YOU NEVER KNOW...

8. GROW!

- Opportunity to grow and learn.
- It might not be fun or easy, but will be worth the pain in the long run.



APPENDIX A

Sample Email / Letter Writing



APPENDIX A.1

SAMPLE LETTER #1

Coach Such-And-Such,

During my review of the registered College Coaches list for the upcoming Blah-Blah Tournament, I noticed you are planning to attend. I have been researching collegiate institutions that may provide the student-athlete experience I desire, and your So-And-So University continues to compliment my objectives.

**Brief paragraph about your academic (GPA, test scores, class rank, desired major, etc.) and athletic (Team name, age group, position, strengths, etc.) attributes.*

**Brief paragraph on your team's participation in the event – be specific! (Team name and position (again), jersey colors & number, game dates & times, field numbers, opponents, etc.)*

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this email. I will follow-up with you next week, in case there have been any changes to my team's schedule in between now and then. If you have questions about my character or attributes, please do not hesitate to contact my coaches, _____, for an honest assessment of my potential.

Respectfully,

Player XYZ

Club XV-XY

Jersey #X



APPENDIX A.2

SAMPLE LETTER #2

Hi Coach Such-And-Such,

As a follow-up to my email last week, here is my updated information regarding this weekend's Blah-Blah Tournament;

Brief paragraph about your academic (GPA, test scores, class rank, desired major, etc.) and athletic (Team name, age group, position, strengths, etc.) attributes.

Brief paragraph on your team's participation in the event – be specific! (Team name and position (again), jersey colors & number, game dates & times, field numbers, opponents, etc.)

Thank you, again, for taking the time to read my emails. I sincerely hope to hear that you attend some of my team's games during the weekend. Enjoy the event, and travel safe!

Respectfully,

Player XYZ

Club XV-XY

Jersey #X



APPENDIX A.3

SAMPLE LETTER – POST EVENT

Coach Such-And-Such,

The records our Team Manager kept from the Blah-Blah Tournament indicate that you may have been in attendance at our game versus Club So-And-So. On behalf of my team, I would like to thank you for making the time to watch us perform.

To refresh your memory, I am Player XYZ, jersey #X from Club XV-XY. *Brief paragraph about your academic (GPA, test scores, class rank, desired major, etc.) and athletic (Team name, age group, position, strengths, etc.) attributes.*

Brief paragraph on your team's participation in the event (Team name, position, jersey colors & number, game dates & times, field numbers, opponents, scores, significant contributions from the weekend (goals, assists, shutouts), etc.)

Again, thank you for taking the time to watch Eclipse Select XV-XY play this past weekend. My Club XV-XY coaches are available to discuss my potential as a prospect with you at any time, so please do not hesitate to contact them.

Respectfully,

Player XYZ

Club XV-XY

Jersey #X

