



Welcome College Soccer Recruit

INTRODUCTION

Parents and players seeking information on college soccer and recruitment process are often not sure where to turn for information. The purpose of this recruitment packet is to answer the many questions that often come up during the recruitment process for our SCUFC players, such as:

- When do I apply to College?
- How important are test scores?
- How do I contact a college coach?
- Do I need a video?
- What is the NCAA Clearinghouse?
- How and when do I begin the recruitment process?

It is very important to note that no one course is correct for everyone. Each school and coach may handle the process differently for their prospective student-athletes.

Our goal is that the information provided in this guide will help you to answer some of those questions and point you to the right sources for additional information. We have included guidelines that will help you as you prepare for this exciting, yet sometimes intimidating, process. Our staff is here to continue to assist you with outreach to college coaches or any advice you may need.

GETTING STARTED – A SUGGESTED TIMELINE

**It's always best to check with each organization to verify recruitment rules. The governing organizations meet on a regular basis and rules can change.*

- **9th Grade Year:** IF YOU HAVEN'T STARTED, LET'S GET MOVING!
 - Create good study habits entering High School! This will set the foundation for a success!
 - Review your academic path in High School to make sure it will satisfy NCAA rules and challenge you!
 - Look into a High School AP Academic course path to help gain you college credit when you graduate High School!
 - Get to know and meet with Guidance Counselors to discuss long term goals.
 - Participate in community service programs such as **TOPSoccer** and other volunteer opportunities outside of school activities.
 - Start researching colleges you may be interested in plan some visit.

- **10th Grade Year**
 - *Coaches cannot call or write you yet until June 15th prior to your junior year, don't be disappointed if you write a coach and they do not write you back!*
 - Keep your grades up and continue to work with your school counselor.
 - Schedule to take the PSAT test.
 - Review NCAA Clearinghouse eligibility requirements.
 - The summer before your junior year, register with the NCAA Clearinghouse.
 - Continue to compile a list of possible colleges or universities that meet your interests and research their academic and athletic programs.
 - Write a cover letter and soccer resume and send it out to possible schools.
 - Select junior year courses to fulfill requirements.
 - Play at the highest level possible.
 - Keep a detailed record of athletic achievements.

- **11th Grade Year**
 - *Players can start doing both official and unofficial visits starting August 1 of Junior year*
 - Send coaches updated resume and player profile, make sure to include dates of tournaments and league games.
 - Organize a filing system on colleges/universities that respond to your inquiry and indicate interest. Start ranking these schools (favorite to least)
 - Start with your least favorite school and begin reaching out to coaches. You will probably be nervous when you talk to this coach, however, by talking to a coach at your least favorite college and university, you will gain confidence for when you contact the coaches who are higher on your priority list.
 - Make sure when you get in contact with a coach, you take notes on the conversation. Have ready a list of your top five questions to ask and **make sure that these questions cannot be answered by looking on the school's web site.** Also, be

prepared that you may have to leave a message on his/her voicemail. Make sure to practice your message before calling.

- Play in College Showcase tournaments, summer tournaments or participate in ODP events.
- Attend any recruitment seminars that tournaments offer. Also, make sure to attend College Fairs and register your sport with each college.
- Consider attending the summer camp of a school of interest, or one which has a lot of college coaches on staff.
- Make unofficial visits (at your expense) to selected schools. Meet with the coach and see the team play, if possible.
- Take the SAT or ACT tests. Make sure scores are sent to your schools of interest.
- Check your status with the NCAA Clearinghouse.
- Select senior year courses to complete Clearinghouse requirements.
- Stay in touch with your high school counselor.
- Obtain financial form (FAFSA).

➤ **12th Grade Year- FINISH STRONG!**

- Continue to keep your grades up!
- Provide your coach and counselor with your interest college list. Discuss college interest with your coach and counselor.
- Check status with the NCAA Clearinghouse.
- Narrow your search to 5 schools.
- Complete FAFSA form again with recent tax information.
- Respond immediately to any interest shown by colleges
- Schedule and complete official visits (at school's expense). Meet with the coach and the team and stay overnight if possible, see the team play.
- Narrow down your choices and get your applications done early.
- Keep coaches updated on your achievements by sending them your resume through the fall and play in high level events in November and December.
- Make a decision!
- **FOLLOW UP WITH ALL YOUR COLLEGES EVEN IF YOU SIGN ELSEWHERE!**
Make sure to let the other schools know when you sign out of respect for them and their time!

MAKE A LIST OF COLLEGES

Your academic experience in college is what will provide an important foundation for your chosen career path after graduation. It's important to remember that many things can happen over your 4 years of college, it's not uncommon for an injury to happen that could end your college soccer career. As we hope that this doesn't happen to any of our players, it's very important for you to choose a college that you will enjoy being at even if you never play athletics there.

It's important to draft a tentative list of colleges that interest you. Your list may include schools in your area, schools that offer a program/ degree you're interested in, or schools you know very little about. Your list may be long but in the early stages you don't want to eliminate any school you are curious about. It is very important that you look at the school for its academic programs as well as its athletic programs.

Here are some questions that may aid you in your college selection.

- Would I choose this college even if I am not playing on the team?
- Would I be happy sitting on the bench and not playing much?
- Would I still select this college if there is a different coach?
- Was I comfortable there both academically and athletically?
- Did the staff and team seem to get along and care about each other?
- How does the coach motivate the team?
- Were the coaching team and staff friendly? Enthusiastic? Honest? Supportive? Sincere? Caring? Hospitable?

It's very important to educate yourself about the Colleges on your list. After you have created your list of schools make sure to research them thoroughly. Look at their Web page, read their press releases on their Web page, check college resource books, talk to your school counselor, and make sure to read the teams homepage as well.

Guides you may want to look to in addition to your Club Coach and College Liaison:

- Peterson's Four-Year Colleges
- The Big Book of Colleges
- Fiske Guide to Colleges
- The Best 366 Colleges
- The College Board College Handbook
- Official Athletic Guide to Soccer
- Women's Soccer Guide: The Official Athletic College Guide, over 1,100 Women's Scholarship Programs Listed (Official Athletic College Guide Soccer Women)

NCAA Initial-eligibility Clearinghouse

Students who plan to compete in athletics at the Division I or Division II college level must complete the NCAA Clearinghouse form in order to be eligible. Division III does not use the eligibility Center. There is a \$30 registration fee and a credit card are needed to pay online.

The steps for registering online are as follows:

- Go to the NCAA Clearinghouse web site www.ncaaclearinghouse.net
- Click on **PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE**
- Once on the Welcome to student information page, click on **DOMESTIC STUDENT RELEASE FORM**
- Make sure to complete this page accurately
- Print an extra copy of your student release form for your counselor to notify him/her that you registered online so that your transcript can be sent to the NCAA Clearinghouse.
- Make sure to follow back up with your counselor to confirm that your transcript was sent.

ORGANIZATION	SITE LINK	MEMBER LINK
NJCAA	NJCAA Main Site	NJCAA Members
NCAA	NCAA Main Site	NCAA Eligibility Center Main NCAA Eligibility Center Registration
NAIA	NAIA Main Site	NAIA Members
NCCAA	NCCAA Main Site	NCCAA Members

WHAT ARE THE DIVISIONS OF NCAA?

➤ **Division I**

Division I member institutions must sponsor at least seven sports for men and seven for women (or six for men and eight for women) with two team sports for each gender. Each playing season must be represented by each gender as well. There are contest and participant minimums for each sport, as well as scheduling criteria. For sports other than football and basketball, Division I schools must play 100 percent of the minimum number of contests against Division I opponents -- anything over the minimum number of games has to be 50 percent Division I. Division I schools must meet minimum financial aid awards for their athletics program, and there are maximum financial aid awards for each sport that a Division I school cannot exceed.

➤ **Division II**

Division II institutions must sponsor at least five sports for men and five for women, (or four for men and six for women), with two team sports for each gender, and each playing season represented by each gender. There are contest and participant minimums for each sport, as well as scheduling criteria. For sports other than football and basketball there are no scheduling requirements. There are no attendance requirements for football, or arena game requirements for basketball. There are maximum financial aid awards for each sport that a Division II school must not exceed. Division II teams usually feature several local or in-state student-athletes. Many Division II student and athletes pay for school through a combination of scholarship money, grants, student loans and employment earnings. Division II athletics programs are financed in the institution's budget like other academic departments on campus. Traditional rivalries with regional institutions dominate schedules of many Division II athletics programs.

➤ **Division III**

Division III institutions must sponsor at least five sports for men and five for women, with two team sports for each gender, and each playing season represented by each gender. There are minimum contest and participant minimums for each sport. Division III athletics features student and athletes who receive no financial aid related to their athletic ability and athletic departments are staffed and funded like any other department in the university. Division III athletics departments place special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants rather than on the spectators. The student-athlete's experience is of paramount concern. Division III athletics encourages participation by maximizing the number and variety of athletics opportunities available to students, placing primary emphasis on regional in-season and conference competition.

NCAA Recruiting Rules

➤ Division I

- **Any time:** Athletes can receive recruiting materials from college coaches **starting June 15 going into junior year**. Questionnaires, camp brochures, nonathletic institutional publications and NCAA educational materials published by the NCAA **may be received at any time**.
- **June 15th junior year:** Coaches can send athletes all forms of private electronic correspondence, including text messages, instant messages, direct messages and emails, as well as all recruiting materials. Coaches can also call athletes at this point.
- **August 1 junior year:** Athletes can begin taking official visits, and they can also arrange unofficial visits with a school's athletic department and meet with the coach while on campus.
- **August 1 junior year:** Coaches can begin conducting off-campus contact with athletes at their residence or school.

➤ Division II

The NCAA Recruiting Rules for Division II schools are slightly more relaxed than those for Division I, and the rules are the same across all sports:

- **General materials:** Athletes can receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials and non-athletic recruiting publications at any time.
- **Printed recruiting materials:** Starting July 15 before an athlete's junior year, coaches can begin sending recruits printed recruiting materials.
- **Telephone calls:** Starting June 15 going into the athlete's junior year, coaches can start calling athletes.
- **Off-campus contact:** Coaches can conduct off-campus communications with athletes and/or their parents starting June 15 before the athlete's junior year.
- **Unofficial visits:** Athletes can take unofficial visits at any time.
- **Official visits:** Athletes may start taking official visits starting June 15 going into their junior year.

➤ **Division III**

DIII schools have the most relaxed NCAA recruiting rules of all the division levels. Similar to NCAA DII, they are the same for all sports:

- **Recruiting materials**: Athletes can receive recruiting materials at any time.
- **Telephone calls**: There is no limit on when college coaches can call athletes.
- **Digital communications**: There is no limit on when college coaches can contact athletes digitally.
- **Off-campus contact**: After the athlete's sophomore year, college coaches may begin to conduct off-campus communications.
- **Official visits**: Athletes can begin taking official visits after January 1 of their junior year.
- **Unofficial visits**: Athletes can make an unlimited number of unofficial visits at any time.

WHAT IS THE NAIA?

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has different eligibility requirements for student-athletes. To be eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics as an incoming freshman, two of the following three requirements must be met:

- Have a 2.0 (C) or higher cumulative final grade point average in high school.
- Have a composite score of 18 or higher on the ACT Assessment or an 860 total score or higher on the SAT I on a single test administered on a national test date.
- Have a top-half final class rank in his or her high school graduating class.

Student-athletes must also have on file at the college an official ACT Assessment or SAT I score report from the appropriate national testing center. Results reported on the student's high school transcript are not acceptable. Students must request that their test scores be forwarded to the college's admission office.

WHAT IS THE NJCAA?

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) is the governing body of intercollegiate athletics for two-year colleges. As such, its programs are designed to meet the unique needs of a diverse group of student-athletes who come from both traditional and nontraditional backgrounds and whose purpose in selecting a junior college may be as varied as their experiences before attending college.

WHAT IS THE NCCAA?

The National Christian College Athletic Association was incorporated to provide a Christian based organization that functions uniquely as a national and international agency for the promotion of outreach and ministry, and for the maintenance, enhancement, and promotion of intercollegiate athletic competition with a Christian perspective.

WHAT IF YOU ARE HOME-SCHOOLED?

Home schooled students who want to play DI or II college sports must register with the clearinghouse and meet the same requirements as all other students. After registering, the homeschooled student must send the following information to the eligibility center:

- Standardized test scores must be on an official transcript from a traditional high school or be sent directly from the testing agency.
- Transcript listing credits earned and grades.
- Proof of high school graduation.
- Evidence that home schooling was conducted in accordance with state law.
- List of texts used throughout home schooling (including text titles, publisher and in which courses it was used).

For more information, refer to the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org. It is important for you to check with the colleges you are interested in to verify your courses and any other requirements.

College Coaches 101

Most importantly you need to be proactive about the process and take control! Below are some helpful tips regarding coaches

- **What does it mean if a College Coach sends a questionnaire?**
Colleges may ask you to complete an on-line questionnaire or mail you one to complete. It is a way for them to get initial information on you.
- **Why responding to all College Coaches is Important?**
Most prospective student-athletes will receive some contact from colleges. Contact may be in the form of general admissions information, questionnaires, and emails from college coaches. Many student-athletes make the mistake of disregarding correspondence from colleges and coaches they are not initially interested in. No college contact should be neglected!

The following is a list of reasons why you should respond to EVERYONE:

- **If you are receiving general admissions information, especially if you are an underclassman – respond anyway!** A lot of coaches put underclassmen's names on admissions lists to see if they will respond. **If you do not respond to a coach, or return their questionnaire, they will stop recruiting you!** Your opinion may change over your high school year. Once you begin researching a college and talking to a coach, you are bound to learn something new. You never know which college or program might be the perfect fit for you. The more coaches you communicate with, the more familiar you will become with the types of questions college coaches ask. This practice will prepare you for email exchanges and conversation with coaches at your favorite colleges and universities.
- **College coaches change jobs!** You might ignore a coach because you are not interested their program, only to have them get hired at one of your top choices.
- **College coaches are friends with one another,** and they do not appreciate it when a student-athlete ignores a contact. You never want to give anyone something bad to say about you!

At the end of the day it is just common courtesy to respond to a coach who contacts you. If a coach is taking the time to send you some information, you owe them a response. Responding to a college coach will demonstrate that you are mature and responsible.

Most of the information asked on the questionnaire is to test your responsibility and ability to follow directions, and to see if you are interested in the college and university. Remember, it will only take a little bit of your time and will be worth it if you are keeping in touch with every college and university that you hear from. Who knows – it may even be the one you decide upon!

➤ **CONTACTING A COACH**

It is important that you have an initial letter of interest as well as a cover letter. The letter you compose should be short and direct. This letter is a way to request information and introduce yourself to the coach as a prospective student-athlete.

➤ **ATHLETIC RESUME AND PROFILE**

You should put together a resume that includes your basic personal information, athletic accomplishments and provides information about your past teams, camps, tournaments and other soccer experiences. Don't forget to include athletic accomplishments in other sports as well.

Coaches like to see athletic versatility and talent. Then list your scholastic accomplishments, include standardized test scores if available, and any extracurricular activities, such as school clubs or volunteer activities.

Let the Coach know of any showcase tournaments you will be attending with your club team as this is a great way to be seen by a prospective coach.

➤ **DO YOU NEED A VIDEO?**

College coaches are eager to see you in action but may not always get to events or showcases. Video is a tool that will help you if it's done right!

Video can help showcase your skills, talents, game play and determination on the field and in training.

Here are some samples of things to video to showcase your talents:

Highlight reels:

No longer than 10 minutes

Look to create a short version 3-5 minutes and a longer version 6-10 minutes

Look to post online so you can easily send the link to College Coaches

Highlight clips using game film when possible

A skills tape for field players, that consists of:

Passing and receiving, both in the air and on the ground

Shooting, both power and finesse

Dribbling, moves, 1v1 defending and attacking

Agility with and without the ball

Game highlights

For a goalie it can consist of:

Agility and footwork

Crosses and shot stopping

Verbal communication in a game situation

Participation in different goalie exercises

Game highlights

HOW TO PLAN A COLLEGE RECRUIT VISIT?

**Some of these items pertain to NCAA schools only. It's always best to check with the umbrella organization to verify recruitment rules. The governing organizations meet on a regular basis and can change rules.*

The best way to learn about a college or university is to visit it. While on campus you can get a feel for the school. If you can, it's best to plan a visit while school is in session. If you visit over the summer, keep in mind many colleges do offer summer programs, therefore the students you see on campus may not be full-time students. At many D-III schools no summer classes are offered.

While on campus, why not schedule a little time to visit with the soccer coach?

- starting August 1 of Junior year is this allowed for the PSA to do an unofficial visit with the coaching staff involved.

Meeting with a coach is a great opportunity to ask questions about the school and the soccer program. It may also help you decide if you like the coach. It is also a great time to market yourself to the coach. You should plan to take a photocopy of your transcript so the coach can see what kind of student you are. Also bring your athletic resume if the coach does not have it on file. Bring a parent — they may ask

questions you won't. Most importantly, try to establish an open dialogue with the coach. It is also important for college coaches to be honest with you.

WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL VISIT?

Although you are always welcome to visit college campuses at your own expense, you are limited to five official visits in which the college pays for part of your expenses.

Completion of the SAT and ACT and a high school transcript are prerequisites to an official visit, and **you may only go on an official visit starting August 1 of athlete's junior year.** Usually an official visit consists of an overnight stay where you will have a member of the soccer team as your host. You will meet the coach and the team, learn more about the program, attend a class and possibly attend a sporting event. You may also meet other recruited athletes there for a visit. While there, talk to people and learn as much as you can.

Here are some things you should do in advance of a visit:

- Decide where to meet the coach.
- Get their cell phone number to avoid a mix-up.
- Get the time schedule for your visit.
- Ask for the names of your contacts on campus.
- Find out who is paying for any tickets or meals.
- Ask what to bring and take notes regarding your visit
- Ask to meet with department chair in your area of interest.
- Ask to meet with admissions to understand procedure and ask questions.
- Try to see the campus on a regular school day while class is in session.
- Visit with players. Talk with the freshmen and sophomores to get their perspective on first-year experiences.
- Always write a thank-you letter to the coach after your visit.

QUESTIONS TO ASK PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE COACHES

➤ QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT ATHLETICS

- What positions will I play on your team?
- What other players may be competing at the same position?
- Who else are you recruiting for my position?

- Where do you see me fitting in with the team in my first year at school?
- What are your training and conditioning expectations?
- What is your coaching style?
- How long do you plan to remain as the coach?
- What are preferred, invited and uninvited walk-on situations?
- How many students receive scholarships?
- Is medical insurance required for participation?
- Does the college provide the insurance or must I purchase it?
- What is the cost of the insurance?
- If I am injured while competing, who is responsible for my medical expenses?

➤ **QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT ACADEMICS**

- Ask about the major program you are interested in?
- How many players graduate each year?
- Does everyone on the team typically make it through the program?
- Do you have academic programs that support your athletes?
- Is tutoring available? How do I arrange for it?
- If you have a diagnosed and documented disability (i.e. ADHD, ADD, etc.), what kind of academic services are available?
- Are there restrictions in scheduling classes around practice?
- How many credit hours can you take in season and out of season?
- Is summer school available? If I need to take summer school, will it be paid for by the College?

➤ **QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT COLLEGE LIFE**

- What is a typical day for a student-athlete?
- What are the dorms or housing options?
- What are the residence halls like?
- How many students per dorm room?
- Can I pick my roommate, or will I be rooming with another soccer player or college athlete?
- Do student-athletes have to live on campus? Are there any exceptions?

➤ **QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/ SCHOLARSHIP**

- How much financial aid is available for both the academic year and summer school?
- Am I eligible for financial aid? Are there any restrictions?
- What does the scholarship cover?
- What is not covered by the scholarship?
- How long will the scholarship last?

- Can I work while playing sports?
- Is there a work-study program at school?
- If I need to work, what times of year can I work?
- Do I have to maintain a certain GPA to keep my academic scholarship?
- Under what circumstances can my scholarship be canceled or reduced?
- Does the school have a policy governing the renewal of athletics aid?
- Is scholarship money available after eligibility is exhausted to help complete your degree?
- What scholarship money is available if you suffer an athletic career-ending injury?
- Will my scholarship be maintained if there is a change in coaches?

➤ **WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD YOU ASK PLAYERS ON COLLEGE TEAM?**

- How many hours a day will athletics keep me from my studies?
- Does the coach discourage you from taking classes that may conflict with practice?
- What percentage of athletes will graduate in four years? Five years?
- Is tutoring available? How do I arrange for it?
- Do you like the coach?
- What is the coach like?
- Do you like the size of the town?
- Is the town affordable?
- What is the composition of the team?
- Does the coach have a "B" team?
- Does the coach take all players that show up or do they also cut players?
- How many classes will I miss due to athletic commitments?
- Can I make up tests or work before absences?
- How much does the team travel?
- How many hours a day do you study?
- How many players are on the roster?

WHAT IS THE RECRUITING TIMELINE?

Division I programs are on a timetable that is a little slower and longer.

The majority of all Division I colleges and universities will fill their recruiting class needs by early fall of that class's senior year. This means that if you are a Division I soccer player, you have already visited that campus, sat down with the coach and know where you stand on their recruiting list by your first day of class senior year. The early commitment trend is becoming increasingly prevalent at the Division I

level. This only increases the amount of time and research that must be put into recruiting on the student-athlete's end.

Division II colleges and universities are typically the next to finish up their recruiting classes. Some Division II colleges and universities will have prospects verbally commit during the summer, but most will finish during the fall and into the winter of their senior class.

Division III, NAIA and Junior Colleges recruiting typically continues into the winter and spring of a student-athlete's senior year of high school. If you are not on track with this timeline, do not panic, these are general guidelines and every college and university has a different situation.

AMATEURISM AND ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

If your child plans to compete, practice or receive an athletic scholarship at a NCAA Division I or II college or university, you must meet the NCAA eligibility requirements. It is best for your son or daughter to register with the eligibility center at the beginning or end of their junior year.

Once registered, they must ask their high school counselor or register to have their academic transcript sent to the eligibility center. Test scores must also be submitted. The eligibility center must be listed as a separate recipient of the test scores. The eligibility center will not accept test scores submitted on the academic transcript. They will review the records and send a preliminary report. A final report is issued once a final transcript showing high school graduation is submitted.

You can check their eligibility at the clearinghouse Web site:

www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If your child is eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics and is accepted as a full-time student at a Division I or II school, they may receive athletics-based financial aid from the school. That aid could include tuition and fees, room and board, and books. Division III schools do not award financial aid based on athletic ability. A Division III college may award aid based on need or academics. Some parents are uncomfortable pursuing private out-of-state Division III institutions because of the sticker price. Do not think that just because a college costs \$40,000 or more per year that you cannot afford to attend. The cost of college all comes

down to your ultimate out of pocket cost, which is not necessarily the tuition price inside the college catalogue. Although Division III institutions do not offer athletic scholarships, there are definite avenues to receive financial assistance. A non-qualifier may receive only need-based financial aid (aid not related to athletics). A non-qualifier also may receive non-athletics aid from private sources or government programs (such as Pell grants). For more information, contact the college's financial aid office.

➤ **Here are some important things to know about athletic scholarships from Division I and II schools:**

- All athletics scholarships are limited to one year. There are no four-year athletic scholarships.
- Athletics scholarships may be renewed annually for a maximum of five years within a six-year period of continuous college attendance.
- Athletics aid may be canceled or reduced at the end of each year for any reason.
- Athletics scholarships are awarded in a variety of amounts, ranging from full scholarships (tuition, room and board, etc.) to small scholarships (books).

The total amount of financial aid a student-athlete may receive and the total amount of athletics a team may receive can be limited. These limits can affect whether a student-athlete may accept additional financial aid from other sources. You must inform the college financial aid office about scholarships received from all sources, such as civic or booster clubs.

Athletic scholarships can be a benefit to your family but is always best to have a plan to pay for college if an athletic scholarship is canceled or reduced.

WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

The first step for obtaining financial aid is to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at www.fafsa.org. The biggest mistake a lot of families make is not filling the FAFSA out because they think their family income is too high. This could not be further from the truth. Every family, regardless of income, has an EFC (estimated family contribution) number and the LOWER your EFC, the more aid you will receive.

Even if you may not receive a significant amount of financial aid, you should still complete the FAFSA because it can act as an insurance policy for your son and

daughter's education. If there is a change or loss of income or an emergency in your family; you will not be eligible for college funds if you do not complete the FAFSA on an annual basis.

The first date you may submit the FAFSA is October 1 of senior year. It's important to submit the FAFSA application on this date or as soon as you can right after! University financial aid budgets are limited and are awarded on a first come first serve basis, so the earlier you submit your FAFSA, the better your chances of receiving aid. Each college and university have a specific deadline and unfortunately the money does run out.

National Letter of Intent (NLI)

The National Letter of Intent is a voluntary program administered by the NCAA Eligibility Center. When you sign **NLI**, your child agrees to attend the institution for one academic year. In exchange, that institution must provide athletics financial aid for one academic year. If you have questions about the visit the NLI Web site at www.national-letter.org During high school, you might be contacted by a scouting and recruiting service. The NCAA does not sanction or endorse any of these services. Remember, a scouting and recruiting service cannot base its fee on the amount of the student's scholarship. There cannot be any money back guarantee

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q - When does a student become a prospective athlete (prospect)?

A - A student becomes a prospect starting in the 9th grade.

Q - When can a student-athlete receive phone calls from a college recruit?

A - On or after June 15th going into junior year.

Q - What is considered contact with a collegiate recruiter?

A - Any face-to-face contact with a collegiate recruiter is considered contact.

Q- When can a student-athlete receive recruiting material?

A - June 15th going into the student's junior year is the first day material can be sent out.

Q - How many unofficial visits is a student-athlete allowed?

A - A student athlete can take unlimited unofficial visits to any institution without contact with the coaching staff. A student athlete can take unlimited unofficial visits with the coaching staff being involved starting August 1 of the junior's year. An Unofficial visit is when a student does not make an appointment prior to visiting an institution and pays the normal institutional fee's that come along with a visit, such as meals, staying overnight at the dorms, going to an event, etc.

Q - How many official visits can a student-athlete make starting August 1 of Junior year?

A - A student and athlete can take a maximum of five and another 5 after you graduate. An Official visit is an appointment made by the student- athlete to visit a particular institution.

Q - Does a student-athlete have to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse?

A - Yes, if you want to play for an NCAA school. They must receive your ACT and SAT test scores, high school transcripts. For information go to: www.NCAA.org

Q - In Division I or II are facsimiles and other electronically transmitted correspondence considered telephone calls?

A - No, they are not considered to be phone calls. (NCAA Rule: 12.02.13). In Division I, prearranged electronically transmitted correspondence between an authorized institutional staff member and one or more prospects is considered a telephone call.

Q - Does the NCAA have restrictions on scheduling classes around practice?

A - NCAA rules prevent you from missing class for practice.

Q - Does a full-ride last for four years?

A - Athletics financial aid is available on a one-year, renewable basis.

Q - If I suffer a career-ending injury is scholarship money available to help me complete my college career?

A - Not every institution continues to provide an athletic scholarship to a student-athlete who can no longer compete because of a career-ending injury.

Q - What is a contact?

A - A contact occurs any time a coach has any face-to-face contact with you or your parents off the college campus and says more than hello. A contact also occurs if a coach has any contact with you or your parents at your high school or any location where you are competing or practicing.

Q - What is a contact period?

A - During this time, a college coach may have in-person contact with you and or your parents on or off the college's campus. The coach may watch you play or visit your high school. You and your parents may visit a college campus and the coach may write and telephone you during this period.

Q - What is the Dead Period?

A - The college coach may not have any in-person contact with you or parents at any time during the dead period. They can write or all you or your parents during this time.

Q - How many scholarships are available to NCAA Division 1 soccer programs?

A - Not all athletic scholarships are full ride scholarships like football and basketball, so called "head count sports"; most are classed as "equivalency sports", like soccer. Put simply this means that coaches can "share" their allocation between a larger number of players. The NCAA allows each Division 1 soccer program 9.9 scholarships for men and 14 for women. In NCAA Division 2 the ratio is 9 for men and 9.9 for women. This number of scholarships available is always subject to change. There are many things that can change the number at a program. So always ask!

Q - Do all associations (NCAA-Div. 1 & 2, NAIA, etc.) offer the same number of Scholarships? And if not, how can I get this information?

A - No. They do not offer the same number of scholarships opportunities. For example, JUCO Soccer is played at the division 1 and 3 level for both men and women but sports scholarships are only offered for division 1. NAIA college soccer scholarships can vary per college for each NAIA soccer team. It is always best to refer to the association or check with the school to verify the rules.

Always remember to ask questions. You can contact your Club's Director of Coaching and College Liaison, your High School coach, your Club Coach, and players you know that have been through the process!

College Player Development & Recruiting

Boys Lee@southcarolinaunitedfc.com

Girls tomasz@southcarolinaunitedfc.com

PLAYER CHECKLIST

- Contact your College Liaison**
- Get a game plan**
- Start today**
- Ask questions**
- Review all documents and online material**
- Create a soccer resume**
- Create intro email**
- Create follow up email**
- Make a calendar**
- Schedule ACT Class**
- Take ACT / SAT**
- Attend an ID Camp**
- Attend a soccer camp at a local College or University**
- Speak with your guidance counselor at school to make sure you are on the right academic path**
- Speak with your coach about which colleges they recommend for you**
- Contact us with any questions!**
- BE UNCOMMON!**



SAMPLE LETTER 1

Date

Coach's Name University Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Coach, ENTER NAME HERE,

My name is **ENTER YOUR NAME HERE** and I am currently a sophomore/junior/senior at **ENTER HIGH SCHOOL NAME HERE** in **Columbia, South Carolina**.

I play for the **ENTER AGE GROUP AND TEAM NAME HERE**. I have played at the ECNL level since U-13. My team won the South Carolina State Championship for the past three years. In 2017, we advanced to the semifinals at the Southeast Regionals. I also play forward for my select team. My coach, **COACH NAME**, said he would be glad to speak with you on my behalf.

I am also the starting forward on my **ENTER HIGH SCHOOL NAME HERE** team and have led the team in scoring for the past three years. We are currently ranked third in the state and on the hunt for a State Championship! Last year, I was named honorable mention all-state.

I have spent time doing research on what colleges would be a good match for me academically and athletically. I am currently undecided on my college major but feel **ENTER UNIVERSITY NAME HERE** will be a great fit for me after High School.

I am very interested in your College and your program and would appreciate receiving information from you.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.
Sincerely,

ENTER YOUR NAME HERE

CELL PHONE

EMAIL

MAILING ADDRESS

SAMPLE LETTER 2

Date
Coach's Name University Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear Coach, **ENTER NAME HERE**,

My name is **ENTER YOUR NAME HERE** and I am currently a senior at **ENTER HIGH SCHOOL NAME HERE** in **Columbia, South Carolina**.

During the last few weeks, I have spent time with my counselor doing research on which colleges would be a good match for me both academically and athletically. I am very interested in your college and would appreciate receiving information about your school, and the soccer program.

I play my Club soccer at South Carolina United FC for the **ENTER TEAM NAME HERE**. Our team has won the South Carolina State Championship three times and we participate in the Southern Regional Premier League this fall. I play center forward in club but love to play in midfield and in the back. Traditionally, I am a forward but open to playing all positions.

My club coach, **ENTER COACH NAME HERE**, would be happy to talk with you. You can reach **ENTER COACH NAME HERE** at **111-111-1111** or via email at email@email.com

I have played varsity soccer for **ENTER HIGH SCHOOL NAME HERE** since the 9th grade. I have been the starting left forward for the past three years and have played in every game. Over the past three years I have scored 30 goals. My high school plays a very strong soccer tradition and has contended for the State Championship the past three years.

Please see my attached soccer resume for my number, schedule, and Coaches' contact information. I will also be sending you my highlight video link in the near future.

Academically, I am a strong student with a 4.0 GPA and have no trouble balancing school and athletics! I plan to take ACT Classes and the ACT this fall.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,
ENTER YOUR NAME HERE
CELL PHONE
EMAIL
MAILING ADDRESS
PROSPECT RESUME

Player Name
110 Lovely Place
Columbia, SC 29063
email@email.com
111-111-1111

Soccer Video Highlights: ([link goes here](#))

Enter your name here (replace
with your photo)

Club Team Name Here	Club College Liaison	High School Name Here
Club Coach Name	Club College Liaison Name	High School Coach Name
Email	Email	Email
Phone	Phone	Phone

Academic Information

- High School: Chapin High School, Chapin, South Carolina
- GPA
- ACT / SAT Score
- Member of National Honors Society
- Student Government Association Junior Vice President
- Interested in studying business or economics in college

Soccer Experience

Position: outside forward, outside back,

South Carolina United FC: 2004 ECNL / ECNL-RL / Challenge

- SC State Cup Champions (2016, 2017, 2018)
- Region III regionals semi-finalist (2017)
- Mid-Atlantic Conference Champions (2018)
- Disney Soccer Showcase finalist (2018)

High School

- 20 goals in 2 years of varsity soccer
- Starter as a Sophomore and Junior
- Team Captain as a Junior
- Any other team/area/state accomplishments

ODP

- Member of South Carolina 04 ODP State Team (2018-present)
- Member of 04 Region III Team
(Thanksgiving Invitational-2018, Argentina)