



Soccer Organization of Charlottesville-Albemarle

SOCA STEP 1: DO YOU WANT TO PLAY COLLEGE SOCCER?

We at SOCA believe you are good enough to play College Soccer. Many different levels define college soccer: NCAA Division I, II and III. Although there are more levels of College Soccer, for example, NAIA, NJCAA, etc., SOCA does focus on the three major levels of the NCAA because we truly believe that our SOCA Travel players can find a common thread between academic and soccer excellence in College. Therefore, we will attempt to help you, to the best of our abilities, gain exposure to one or more levels stated above.

Before we begin the College Soccer process, you and your parents need to answer a few questions for the SOCA Directors of Coaching:

Player's Name: _____ Parent's Name(s): _____

1. Player: Are you serious about playing soccer in college (meaning: is it a desire, a dream)?

Yes No

2. Parent: Do you support your child in his/her aspirations to play College Soccer?

Yes No

3. Player & Parent: To which do you place a higher emphasis right now?

Soccer Academics 50/50

4. Player & Parent: Do you want SOCA to help you find a compatible College Soccer program and School that best fits your playing ability and academics?

Yes No

VERY IMPORTANT – READ CAREFULLY!

If you answered No to question #4, please stop this process now. If you are interested in having the SOCA Directors of Coaching help you in the future please start this process again by filling out this form and submitting to the SOCA Office.

If you answered Yes to question #4, please email this page with your answers as an attachment to the following email addresses (cut & paste these addresses in your To: box of your email):

dhr@cstone.net, brian.kuk@stasoccer.com

Dan Rosensweig and/or Brian Earl Kuk, SOCA Coaching Directors, will send you detailed information via your email account to begin the College Soccer process. We look forward to helping you achieve your goals of finding a great academic institution and playing College Soccer!



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SOCA STEP 2: CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE DECIDED TO PLAY COLLEGE SOCCER!

You are receiving this document because you answered YES to SOCA Step 1! SOCA is excited and eager to help you achieve your goals of finding a great academic institution and College Soccer program.

To better help you, we feel it is extremely important that YOU are a part of the process. We have compiled a checklist of items that you will need to consider when attempting to play College Soccer:

When you have completed, check the box:

- Fill out the SOCA Step 2: SOCA Questionnaire (see next page).
- Read the SOCA Step 3: College Soccer Educational Information provided to you (provided to you in a second email attachment).
- SOCA Step 4: Locate the Email Addresses & Office Phone Numbers of the College Coaches you have stated in the SOCA Questionnaire (and use the sheet provided to you in the third email attachment). Remember, anytime you add a College to your list, you will need to get this information.
- SOCA Step 5: Create an Introductory Form Letter & Introductory Email (see examples provided to you in fourth email attachment).
- SOCA Step 6: Create a 'College Soccer Resume' for College Coaches to review (see example in fifth email attachment).
- SOCA Step 7: Create a 'Videotape' of one of your Travel soccer game versus a quality opponent (use the guidelines provided to you in the sixth email attachment).

If you are responsible, are excited and determined to play College Soccer, please follow the information above. You will be creating a College Soccer Recruiting Package that you can use for any prospective College. Please Note: it is extremely important that you maintain contact with SOCA, College Coaches and College Admissions on a regular basis:

- ✓ Stay in contact with SOCA Directors of Coaching; we are qualified resources with many connections and experience in both playing & coaching in College Soccer.
- ✓ Stay in communication with your College Coaches; sending email updates in reference to Tournaments, Games, personal successes, academics, etc. Not a bad idea to CC: SOCA Directors of Coaching on your emails to keep us posted.
- ✓ Keep all your options open; don't 'put all your eggs in one basket' (meaning: be willing to talk to all College Coaches and listen to all opportunities). There may be a diamond in the rough waiting for you!

PLEASE ANSWER THE SOCA QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE NEXT PAGE....

SOCA QUESTIONNAIRE (Your Name: _____)

***Please send this as an email attachment to SOCA Directors of Coaching when complete.**

1. What is your current GPA?

_____ GPA out of _____ GPA

2. What is your best PSAT Score?

_____ PSAT SCORE ___ Not Tested Yet _____ Expected Testing Date

3. What is your best SAT Score?

_____ SAT SCORE ___ Not Tested Yet _____ Expected Testing Date

4. What is your best ACT Score?

_____ ACT SCORE ___ Not Tested Yet _____ Expected Testing Date

5. What is your favorite subject in High School?

_____ Favorite #1 _____ Favorite #2

6. What would you like to study in College (potential Major possibility; i.e., Engineering, Business Management, Biology, English Literature, History, etc.)?

_____ Major #1 _____ Major #2

7. What type of College are you interested in (check all that apply)?

___ Public ___ Private ___ U.S. Service ___ Military Academies ___ Junior Colleges

8. Do you like the idea of a Small-sized College (between 1,000-3,000 students)?

___ Yes ___ No

9. Do you like the idea of a Medium-sized College (between 3,000-8,000 students)?

___ Yes ___ No

10. Do you like the idea of a Large-sized College (between 8,000-20,000+ students)?

___ Yes ___ No

11. If you do not get an Athletic Scholarship and/or the College does not give Athletic Scholarships, are you and your parents prepared to pay Full Tuition costs?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Not Sure Yet

12. Please list, in any particular order, any Colleges/Universities that you are interested in:

>By answering these questions, SOCA Directors of Coaching will be able to better assess your objectives and goals to find a great academic institution and College Soccer program.



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SOCA STEP 3: COLLEGE SOCCER EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

What's the difference between Divisions I, II and III?

Division I

Division I member institutions have to 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 has to 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, Div. I schools must play 100% of the minimum number of contests against Div. I opponents -- anything over the minimum number of games has to be 50% Div. I. Men's and women's basketball teams have to play all but two games against Div. I teams, for men, they must play 1/3 of all their contests in the home arena. Schools that have football are classified as Div. I-A or I-AA. I-A football schools are usually fairly elaborate programs. Div. I-A teams have to meet minimum attendance requirements (17,000 people in attendance per home game, OR 20,000 average of all football games in the last four years or, 30,000 permanent seats in their stadium and average 17,000 per home game or 20,000 average of all football games in the last four years OR, be in a member conference in which at least six conference members sponsor football or more than half of football schools meet attendance criterion. Div. I-AA teams do not need to meet minimum attendance requirements. Div. I schools must meet minimum financial aid awards for their athletics program, and there are maximum financial aid awards for each sport that a Div. I school cannot exceed.

Division II

Division II institutions have to sponsor at least four sports for men and four 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 -- football and men's and women's basketball teams must play at least 50% of their games against Div. II or I-A or I-AA opponents. For sports other than football and basketball there are no scheduling requirements. There are not attendance requirements for football, or arena game requirements for basketball. There are maximum financial aid awards for each sport that a Div. II school must not exceed. Division II teams usually feature a number of local or in-state student-athletes. Many Division II student-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 have to 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-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.

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION & WEBSITE LINKS (YOU NEED TO KNOW):

Below is one of the most important links and some descriptions to help you better understand NCAA Eligibility requirements, recruiting guidelines and other useful resources (if for any reason you have difficulty linking to this website, simply enter www.ncaa.org in your Internet Web Browser):

http://www2.ncaa.org/legislation_and_governance/eligibility_and_conduct/

This link will take you to the NCAA web page for Initial Eligibility Requirements, NCAA Clearinghouse Information & Presentation and other useful resources.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. All prospective Division I and II athletes must be registered with the NCAA Clearinghouse before participating in a college sport. Send test scores and transcripts to the clearinghouse.
2. It is illegal for a VCCL coach to recruit a player off another VCCL team.
3. College Coaches may not telephone a prospective recruit prior to the summer after their junior year. You may call a coach prior to this date and he or she can answer, but they cannot return messages. After this time, college coaches are allowed one phone call per week to prospective students.
4. After September 1 of a student-athlete's junior year, the prospective student-athlete may e-mail or correspond via U.S. mail without limits.
5. Within the context of camp or ODP, coaches may have extended contact with players regardless of their age.
6. Coaches are prohibited from speaking with prospective students at game or practice sites until his or her coach has released the student-athlete.
7. An NCAA college coach may not witness a recruit playing the sport during a visit to campus. In other words, no try-outs allowed. This rule is not applicable for NAIA.
8. There are many limitations to the kinds of activities that may occur during an official visit.

To learn about creative ways to pay for college, SOCA recommends a visit to the following web sites...

www.fastaid.com

www.scholarshipcoach.com



Soccer Organization of Charlottesville-Albemarle

SOCA STEP 4: CREATE YOUR COLLEGE LIST OF CONTACTS

You will need to take the time to consider the Colleges and/or Universities that you are interested. Please use the following worksheet to create a List of Schools, Email Contacts, Phone Contacts and Contact Tracking information. This will allow you to access all of your College Contact information in one convenient place. **PLEASE COMPLETE THIS LIST FIRST!** We suggest that you contact the College Coach a minimum of 14 times throughout your first year via email and 14 times throughout your first year via phone. This will allow you to keep the College Coach up to date on your Tournaments, Games, Updates, Personal Success, etc. If the College Coach is not interested in you, he/she will let you know or you should consider ceasing your contact after the 14th time.

SCHOOL #1

of Contacts (X when completed)

Name of School: _____

Name of Head Coach: _____

Head Coach Email: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Head Coach Phone: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

SCHOOL #2

of Contacts (X when completed)

Name of School: _____

Name of Head Coach: _____

Head Coach Email: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Head Coach Phone: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

SCHOOL #3

of Contacts (X when completed)

Name of School: _____

Name of Head Coach: _____

Head Coach Email: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Head Coach Phone: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

SCHOOL #4

of Contacts (X when completed)

Name of School: _____

Name of Head Coach: _____

Head Coach Email: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Head Coach Phone: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

SCHOOL #5

of Contacts (X when completed)

Name of School: _____

Name of Head Coach: _____

Head Coach Email: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Head Coach Phone: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

SCHOOL #6

of Contacts (X when completed)

Name of School: _____

Name of Head Coach: _____

Head Coach Email: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Head Coach Phone: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

SCHOOL #7

of Contacts (X when completed)

Name of School: _____

Name of Head Coach: _____

Head Coach Email: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Head Coach Phone: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

SCHOOL #8

of Contacts (X when completed)

Name of School: _____

Name of Head Coach: _____

Head Coach Email: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Head Coach Phone: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

SCHOOL #9

of Contacts (X when completed)

Name of School: _____

Name of Head Coach: _____

Head Coach Email: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Head Coach Phone: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

SCHOOL #10

of Contacts (X when completed)

Name of School: _____

Name of Head Coach: _____

Head Coach Email: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Head Coach Phone: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

PLEASE MAKE ADDITIONAL COPIES IF NEEDED.



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SOCA STEP 5: CREATE YOUR INTRODUCTORY FORM LETTER & EMAIL

Please follow the sample that has been provided to you below. Feel free to change this information as you see fit. The goal is to provide you a successful template that will excite and intrigue College Coaches to want to see you play or recruit you.

INTRODUCTORY FORM LETTER

(Enter Date Here)

Coach (Enter Full Name of Head Coach Here)
(Enter Mailing Address Here)
(Enter College/University Name Here)
(Enter City, State Zip Here)

Dear Coach (Enter Full Name of Head Coach Here),

My name is (Enter Your Full Name), a (Enter Age)-year-old rising (Enter School Year) at (Enter High School) in (Enter City, State). I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about myself and to get more information about your program.

(Enter Soccer Information here; tell them about your special qualities as a player; i.e., left-footed, position, goal-scorer with # of goals, etc. Tell them about the VCCL and the high level of competition. And let them know that you are versatile and open to any position available on his/her team.)

I have had the chance to research (Enter College Name Here) and your soccer program. You sound like a great coach and you have a solid team. I truly believe that I can have a positive effect in your program.

My Club team, the SOCA Lightning will be competing in several high-level tournaments and games this fall:

- List Tournaments, Upcoming Games, Schedules and Dates Here in Bullet Format
- List Tournaments, Upcoming Games, Schedules and Dates Here in Bullet Format
- List Tournaments, Upcoming Games, Schedules and Dates Here in Bullet Format

I'd love to be able to meet you and have you watch me play if you could make it to any of those events. I'll be sure to pass along updated schedules, as the time gets closer.

I also noticed on your web site that you are playing (Enter Team Name) on (Enter Month and Date), a date that corresponds to my club team's off week. Would this be a convenient to meet you and the team?

I have enclosed my soccer resume for your review. Please let me know if you would like any additional information. My phone # is (Enter Your Phone Number Here) and my e-mail address is (Enter Your Email Address Here). I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

(Enter Your Full Name Here)

cc

INTRODUCTORY EMAIL

Dear Coach (Enter Coaches Last Name):

My name is (Enter Your Full Name), a (Enter Your Age)-year-old (Enter Your High School Year; Sophomore, Junior, Senior) at (Enter High School Name) in (City, State). More importantly, I currently play for SOCA (Soccer Organization of Charlottesville-Albemarle) which plays in the coveted VCCL (Virginia Club Champions League) with phenomenal Clubs such as the Richmond Strikers, Richmond Kickers, Reston FC, Beach FC, Virginia Rush, FC Richmond, Williamsburg SC and Roanoke SC.

I am beginning my College search and have identified (Enter College Name) as one of my preferred schools. I would be extremely grateful if you would take a look at my College Soccer Resume (see attached) and let me know of the next steps to possibly be considered for your exceptional soccer program and school.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
(Enter Your Full Name)
(Enter Your Email Address)



Soccer Organization of Charlottesville-Albemarle

SOCA STEP 6: CREATE YOUR COLLEGE SOCCER RESUME

(Enter Your Full Name Here)

(Enter Your Mailing Address)
(Enter Your City, State, Zip)

(Enter Your Email)
(Enter Your Phone)

Personal

Date of Birth: (Enter Your Date of Birth; mm/dd/yyyy)
Height & Weight: (Enter Your Height & Weight)
Father: (Enter Dad's Full Name, Phone Number & Email)
Mother: (Enter Mom's Full Name, Phone Number & Email)
Siblings: (Enter Brother(s) or Sister(s) Full Name and Age)
Hobbies: (Enter other things that you like to do)

Academic

Academic Status: (Enter Your School Year; Sophomore, Junior, Senior)
High School: (Enter High School Name)
(Enter Mailing Address)
(Enter City, State, Zip)
Guidance Counselor: (Enter Counselor Full Name, Email & Work Phone)
Cumulative G.P.A: (Enter Current GPA)
SAT Scores: (Enter SAT Verbal Score, SAT Match Score and Date Taken)
Next SAT Date: (Enter the next date you will take SAT's; mm/dd/yyyy)
Academic Honors: (Enter Academic Honors; Honor Roll, Science Fair, etc.)
Extracurricular: (Enter Clubs and year or years; i.e., Class President, Science Club...)
Community Service: (Enter any type of Community Service and year(s); i.e. Habitat for Humanity, 1992-1998)

Athletic

Soccer Club: SOCA Lightning, U-18 Premier, 1999. SOCA Express U-13 – U-16, 1994-98. Always played on the area's premier youth teams. As a striker for U-16, I set a club record with 26 goals in a 12 game season.
ODP: Virginia State "A" team, 1998. Border Cup, 1998. Central District, 1995-present.
High School: Have started every game on varsity since freshman year. Tri-captain; 1998. All Central Virginia First Team, 1998, second team 1997. 29 goals and 31 assists in three years.
Other: Basketball: Varsity basketball at MHS, 1998.
Tennis: 6 years, #1 seed for age group at Elitist Acres Country Club

References

Soccer Club: (Enter Directors of Coaching Names, Work Phone & Email)
ODP: (Enter Coach's Name, Work Phone & Email)
High School: (Enter Coach's Name, Work Phone & Email)

>TRY TO KEEP YOUR RESUME TO ONE PAGE!



Soccer Organization of Charlottesville-Albemarle

SOCA STEP 7: CREATE YOUR VIDEOTAPE / DVD

You may have heard positive and negative comments in reference to sending a videotape / DVD of you to College Coaches. SOCA Directors of Coaching believe that it can be a very valuable recruiting tool, if only done right and done professionally. As SOCA continues to grow, we will be expanding our reach and services to help you effectively create a professional videotape. In the meantime, here are some points to consider:

1. Yes, it is OK to send a videotape / DVD of you.
2. Don't send highlights tape of you simply dribbling, juggling, just scoring goals, etc.
3. Send a videotape / DVD that shows lengths of games (20 min clips) or the entire game. *You may want to contact the coach to ask what he or she prefers.
4. Within the game, make sure to focus (but not too close) on your number, position and game play.
5. When sending your videotape / DVD, make sure that you have the following clearly stated on the videotape or in your letter:
 - A. Your Full Name
 - B. Your Uniform Color
 - C. Your Uniform Number
 - D. Your Position; state your Team's Formation
 - E. If you change your position, let them know this.
6. Send a videotape / DVD of a quality game versus a quality opponent; don't send a game that is a blowout.
7. For the best results, get your videotape / DVD made by a professional.
8. If you are in question of your videotape / DVD, please let the SOCA Directors of Coaching review before you send to the College Coach.
9. Test the waters. Don't send 10 videotapes / DVD's out at once. Send one and see what type of response you get. If you get a positive response, you will then want to make more copies and send to more of your College selections. If you do not get a response and/or a negative response, you may want to consider getting another videotape produced.
10. Follow up with the College Coach that you have sent a videotape / DVD. Due to timing and/or your High School year, some College Coaches cannot contact you due to NCAA regulations. Some may not be able to come see you play because of their recruiting budgets. And some may be overwhelmed with too many administrative activities that they may simply put your videotape / DVD off to the side and need to be reminded.