

COLLEGE SOCCER PLAYING AT THE NEXT LEVEL 2016 COLLEGE SEMINAR

FINDING YOUR NICHE

- It's important to remember when you choose a college; you're choosing a home away from home for the next four years.
- A career ending injury is always a possibility; make sure you're at the school you'll enjoy without soccer.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Size of School
- Public or Private
- Available Majors
- Scholarship availability/Financial Aide
- Location, In-State, Out of State, Close to home, Far from home, City or Rural.

FINDING THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU

To Consider:

- **Playing time:** Will I start my Freshman year, come off the bench, red shirt? Is it appropriate to discuss with a coach what their plans are for you and where you see you fitting in with the team
- **Position:** Where does the coach see you contributing most to the team
- **Style of Play:** Do you enjoy the coach's style of play? Do you enjoy the coach's style of teaching
- **Time Commitment:** Do you want to play year round? Or would you enjoy playing just a fall season with a shorter modified spring season (Division III). Balance between soccer, academics and social.
- **Compatibility:** Take time to meet the members of the team. Do you see yourself fitting in?
- **Financial Aid:** Does the program you're interested in meet your financial needs?

YEAR by YEAR PREPERATION

Freshman year:

Focus on GPA and completing core courses. Begin to research universities

Sophomore/Junior Year

- Continue to build GPA and complete core courses
- Register with the Eligibility Center http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA_EMS.html#
- Begin to speak with your club coaches about where you will fit into the college game. (Division I, II, III)
- Continue college research
- MAKE A LIST:
 - 2-3 Dream Schools
 - 5 "do-able" schools
 - 2-3 Fall Back Schools
- Contact those programs with an introductory email including a brief cover letter and resume. Be sure to include updated game schedules. Be professional and be correct (double check spelling, coach's name and email of any school specific info).
- Make unofficial visits to your choice of schools
- Check to see if your choices hold any summer camps or ID camps during the school year and attempt to attend those. Camps are a great way to get to know the campus, current players, potential incoming players and the coaching staff.

SENIOR YEAR

- Go on Official visits.
- Maintain your grades, even after you may have committed.
- Division I schools are still recruiting but often more for non- scholarship players. Division III schools are still actively recruiting.

THE RECRUITING LANDSCAPE

- Both men's and women's college soccer programs have limited budgets for recruiting. You, as a player, must do the work to get your name out there and be seen. Include SOCA full time staff in your plans and communications so we can help. The more tournament games you are able to attend the more chances you will have to be seen by a college coach. Remember, a coach may be there to watch someone else, and may like you too!
- As a club, SOCA evolves to fit the changing needs of our players. This includes playing in the Club Champions League (CCL) an Elite league attracting college coaches in the Mid-Atlantic region. All tournament selections of our U15 – U18 age groups are picked with college exposure in mind.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR VISITS

- Whether it's an official or unofficial visit, visiting a school gives you a great chance to learn more about the school than you can find on a website.
- See if you can set up a meeting with the admissions department where you can find out if you are qualified for the University and find out more about the majors and departments at the school.
- Try to spend some time with some of the players and do not be afraid to ask questions about the team, the school, the coach. You can usually tell pretty easily whether or not the players enjoy themselves.
- If it's possible, try to sit in on a class in a major you are considering
- Find you what time of academic support services they offer through the athletic department, tutors, computer labs etc.
- Tour the athletic facilities and meet the trainer which will be working with your team
- Find out what their career services offer for the years after graduation
- Make sure you take time to see the team play. Assess how they play, how the players interact, and how the coach communicates with their players. See the player(s) who are playing in your position.

RECRUITING TOOLS

- Hi Pod Camera Tutorials – We have high quality video equipment at SFSP. Coaches, managers, and parents may learn how to use the hi-pods to tape games of their children. All footage taken by full-time staff will be of the entire team and will be available to families.
- Mini Camps- Quickly becoming a popular means of exposure.
- Recruiting Questionnaire.

IMPORTANT LINKS

- NCAA website - www.ncaa.org
- NCAA Clearinghouse - http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA_EMS.html#
- NCAA Manual – <http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/CBSA17.pdf>

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