

Recruiting Commandments & Tips

Players and Parents,

Below is information I wanted to pass along to you. I want to stress something, if you are interested in playing in college **YOU** need to be your number one promoter, and express your interest in each college you are interested in.

You **MUST** fill out their recruiting questionnaire and follow up with the coach that they did receive it. Don't email a coach and then reply 3-4 weeks later, that is rude and doesn't really show that you are interested.

Make sure you follow the steps that are below and it will make the process a little bit easier.

Here are a few websites to check out:

<http://middlehitter.com/middlehitter/index.htm>

<http://web1.ncaa.org/onlineDir/exec/sponsorship>

These links will take you to sites that will get you lists of all the different schools that have volleyball. From there you can go to the schools websites.

The site below is where you have to be registered to play any sport in college.

<https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>

The next link is about becoming a college athlete.

<http://usavolleyball.org/pages/7283>

This link is the rules about the recruiting process.

<http://www.ncaa.org/wps/ncaa?ContentID=271>

Please Continue Reading Below!!

Recruits

If you want a coach to seriously recruit you and they can't see you at any tournaments, they will not recruit without a skills or game action tape. Ask DI, DII & NAIA coaches if they have an overnight account number for sending the tape. If they give it, it can demonstrate their level of interest. Order between 10 to 20 copies (or more if the demand is there).

Get an e-mail address coaches love to e-mail prospective recruits. If you don't want your regular e-mail address cluttered up, you may want to establish a separate ID for your volleyball communications. You can set up a free email account with Hotmail, Yahoo, Google (Gmail), etc.

Fill out information for programs that interest you ASAP. All schools have websites via which you can evaluate the school and take virtual tours. Visit the volleyball team webpage to get a feel for the team, current roster & schedule. If you are mailed a questionnaire with no postage paid return envelope, you can also check to see if they have an online version.

Do not mislead coaches; be honest and forthright with them. If you are not interested, send them a reply back stating your feelings If you commit to a trip, go on the trip. If you absolutely can't go but have already received non-refundable airline tickets, offer to pay the school back.

Keep me up-to-date on visits, decisions, who you are and aren't considering, etc. so efforts are duplicated, wasted or spent on programs that you've already turned away.

Parents

Help your son/daughters stay on schedule with the information. In the beginning, they may feel overwhelmed when inundated with brochures, letters, e-mails & phone calls. As schools are notified that they are no longer in contention, it will become easier to manage.

Once coaches have e-mailed, respond back to them with e-mails too and develop the relationship further and ask any questions that you may have.

Make sure your son/daughters register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.. Have your student take the ACT more than once. Nothing to lose you get to keep the higher score even if you score lower on a subsequent exam and you can take the best scores in each subject from multiple exams to get a composite score. You should be able to forward your scores directly to the Eligibility Center by selecting a school code and placing it on your ACT registration form.

Recruiting Process Steps & Rules

August 30th after sophomore year and prior - The only materials that can be sent to recruits before September 1st of their junior year is a questionnaire, a camp brochure and a letter with the questionnaire telling the recruit that a school wants to start a file on them. The letter must state the NCAA rules about correspondence. There cannot be any recruiting information about the volleyball program. An athlete may fill out the questionnaire and send it back to the school. If younger players want to get started learning about programs, they can call the schools and visit them on unofficial visits as much as they like. They should just know that, if they call a school and leave a message, the coaches can't call them back unless it is after July 1 prior to their senior year. Until then, they can only talk when the athlete initiates the phone call.

September 1st of junior year through June 30th after junior year - After Sept. 1, college coaches can correspond with juniors as much as they like via email. There cannot be any contacts made with the recruit or their parents until July 1 before their senior year unless the recruit calls the college coach on their own dime or they visit the campus on an unofficial visit. Unofficial visits to a college campus do not count as a contact. The recruits can make as many as they want. Recruits should register with NCAA Eligibility Center.

July 1st before senior year and after After July 1, college coaches can make contacts. Colleges only have 3 physical contacts with parents and the recruit. College coaches can use a contact with the parents at a tournament but must wait until after the tournament to speak with the recruit. College coaches can make phone calls to recruits on and after July 1 before their senior year. Only one phone call per week can be made to a recruit, the week begins on Sunday. Unofficial visits to a college campus do not count as a contact. Official visits can not be made until the first school day of the recruit's senior year.

Useful Websites

NCAA Website <http://www.ncaa.org/>

Great site that has all the information you need to make sure you are eligible. It contains many tips and guidelines on the recruiting process and covers the differences allowed for each division (DI, DII & DIII). Click on the Academics & Athletes tab and select Eligibility and Recruiting.

NCAA Eligibility Center - <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>

FAFSA Online - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

Site used for filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid online. Very important for some D-I & D-II schools and all D-III schools.

Yahoo! Colleges Alphabetical Link -

[http://dir.yahoo.com/Education/Higher Education/Colleges and Universities/United States/?o=a](http://dir.yahoo.com/Education/Higher_Education/Colleges_and_Universities/United_States/?o=a)

Alphabetical directory of most US schools. Click on the name and you will be linked to the school website.

US News College Rankings & Info -

http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/rankindex_brief.php

Vehicle for gathering info on colleges. This site has a feature that allows you to compare four schools in various categories side by side to aid you in analyzing the schools. \$14.95 to register online for the Premium Online Edition.

University Athlete - <http://www.universityathlete.com/>

Site that contains all of the information that college coaches download into their palm pilots that you see at the qualifiers. Each athlete is already entered into the database with minimal info. Athletes should log in and register so they can update their info for coaches in more detail including GPAs, etc. so it will be available to the coaches. For a small annual fee, the site also contains links and research tools for the athletes. Some coaches will also post position openings for their upcoming classes but only members have access to this info. Always make sure that your info is up-to-date in their system!

Rich Kern - <http://www.richkern.com/vb/FreePage.asp>

Richs site has a ton of info on college and club volleyball plus links to the various school and volleyball websites for schools in all divisions. Rich also has a free database under his recruitingregistry.com where your daughter can enter her profile which has the ability to be seen by college coaches browsing the site. Subscription based (nominal cost).

*****Correspondence*****

From: Vballliu@aol.com
To: jimmohr@hotmail.com
Date: 7/12/00 4:45pm
Subject: (no subject)

Hello Jim,

Just a note to thank you for the info a while back on the NVC 17s. My assistant coach was watching them at Nationals and was impressed. What impresses me is how the girls themselves have returned the questionnaires that I sent promptly. Many times the parents of the players don't realize that, when skills and size are equal (as they so often are), a coach may favor a student athlete who is diligent and prompt in off court matters.

Also, the fact that people like yourself take the time to contact a collegiate coach, and "talk up" some of the girls may go unnoticed by parents, but is appreciated by us. Again, on behalf of my staff and myself, thanks for your help in informing us of the NVC teams.

Mike Massone
Head Coach
Long Island University

Recruits & Parents:

This note was not placed here to pat myself on the back. Its being given to you to drive home the point of filling out questionnaires and information sheets in an expedient manner. For every position being recruited, you can be assured that there are a number of other athletes competing with you for that scholarship. You need to do anything that can give you an edge over the other recruits.

Recruiting Etiquette

I request and expect that all NVC athletes respond to every college coach that makes some form of contact. Even if they send you something in the mail, you can e-mail some personalized form of the message below. It's important to show that you are a class individual and you may even need that coach somewhere in the future so you shouldn't burn any bridges. Just save this document and cut and paste the text into an e-mail to the coach. If you ever need an e-mail address for this purpose, let me know and I'll give it to you.

Dear Coach,

Thank you for the information on your school and program and for your interest in me. However, I have narrowed down my list of prospective schools and I would appreciate it if you would take me off your mailing list. This is no reflection on you or your program just that the other programs better fit my needs.

Thank you for your time and best of luck!

Jane Doe

When you finally make your decision, you should take the initiative and e-mail all the schools that were still actively pursuing you. You should send them a fairly simple e-mail (or a detailed one if you felt a connection with them. I would basically write them and say something from your heart and similar to this:

Dear XXXXXX,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for your interest in me but, after carefully weighing my decision, I verbally committed to XXXXXX University. It has been wonderful learning about your school and the volleyball program. It was a hard decision but I feel like XXXXXX is the right place for me. I appreciated the manner in which you conducted yourself and I hope we can remain friendly. Best of luck with your program.

Yours truly,

Jane Doe

Obviously, you can modify it to fit your style and how you feel but this is how you should approach it. You never know if you will need them in the future and, even if you didn't need them, it's the classy way to let them know of your decision. If you need any email addresses, you can just ask me and I'll send them to you.

Some comments from a college coach on recruiting:

....make contact with the college coaches during their junior years before the club season starts. Get the DVDs to the college coaches ASAP, so they'll be enticed to make sure they watch the recruit(s) compete, if the college coach is intrigued by the DVD. It's frustrating when we receive contacts from recruits very late in the club season of their junior years. Often, we can't make arrangements to see them compete at one of the few remaining tournaments.

Wear game jerseys during warm-ups so we can immediately recognize her. Sometimes a college coach has to see 2-3 players within a single match and only has the time to watch a player warm-up. This point is really important if the player doesn't start.

Recruiting is a SHARED responsibility. We, as college coaches, HOPE to find as many players as possible who meet the criteria/playing skills of our university. No matter HOW HARD WE TRY, we can't find them all. We HOPE the players actively participate in the recruiting process and don't hesitate to contact US.

Overall

Be proactive, coaches are very busy! Get into the coaches pipeline.

Be positive at tournaments, people can hear you & they talk. Coaches also talk to other coaches & other club people.

Be prepared to be let down

Be prepared to be honest with who you are as a player, the truth may hurt however, it helps you move through the process quicker so you can find where you belong.

If you are unsure which division you should be looking at, a good gauge are our coaches. Most have played or coached all levels of athletes. If you would like an evaluation, seek out their counsel or ask who you can contact.