



Dear Potential College Football Player,

One of the most important duties of a coach is to help the players that have the ability and desire, to get college scholarships. There are several hundred schools at six different levels that offer some type of football scholarships. As a former college player, I have the knowledge of knowing what these schools are looking for, as well as their scholarships and financial aid opportunities. This knowledge helps the player to be placed where he can both achieve a higher level of education, and be an asset to the school's athletics. The first and foremost aspect in college recruiting is to be realistic in the level of football a player can play at. A small percentage of high school players are major college prospects but there are many other opportunities at the I-AA, II, III, NAIA, and Junior College levels.

Highlight films should be completed by the player on hudl. A highlight is not an average play that a player should make. It is 3-4 minutes of the "Take your breath away" plays that create a highlight along with a whole game behind the highlight. When completed, the highlights will be attached to a website link and emailed to coaches as requested. I will also try to promote all players via online scouting agencies that reach out to our school, attend recruiting fairs, talk with college coaches that visit, share on twitter. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to put themselves "out there" as well via phone calls, emails, camps, etc. Once the highlight has been sent out, it takes this aspect completely out of the HS coach's hands. Now it is the recruiter who will decide if the player can play at their level or not. The HS coach will lose all credibility with the recruiter if he tries to push a player that can't play at their level.

In order to receive a scholarship a player must meet the initial eligibility requirements. NCAA Division I, Division II, and NAIA have different sets of eligibility requirements. The NCAA computes a core GPA from 16 classes that are different from the regular high school GPA. These classes come from the following areas: 4 credits in English, 3 credits in Math (Algebra I or Higher), 2 credits in Natural or Physical Science (Biology I or higher), 2 credits in Social Science, 4 other credits from those four areas, and 1 additional credits from English, Math, Science. You cannot wait until the spring semester of their senior year to check their NCAA core GPA. All college prospects will take the ACT/SAT in the fall of their junior year. You will have a better chance at scholarships if your players regularly meet the initial eligibility requirements.

A very big part of small college recruiting (Division II, III, and NAIA) is the financial aid process. This is started by filling out the FAFSA form. This can be a confusing and frustrating process. I along with the counselors would be happy to explain this process to the student athlete and their parents and walk them through each stage to make sure they get their papers in by the deadlines. Each situation is different and each family has different expectations. With realistic goals and everyone on the same page working together, the recruiting process can be a great experience for everyone and can continue a great tradition for our high school program.

GO WILDCATS!

Bryan Holley

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SENIOR CHECKLIST

___ **BE A LEADER ON AND OFF FIELD**

___ **WEIGHT ROOM**

___ **BE A TOTAL PLAYER**

___ **ATTEND SUMMER CAMPS**

___ **PROMOTE YOURSELF**

___ **KEEP ALL OPTIONS OPEN**

___ **TAKE SAT/ACT**

___ **SAT PREP CLASS**

___ **SENIOR "BRAG" SHEET**

___ **NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE**
(www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)

___ **BE INVOLVED IN ALL ACTIVITIES**

___ **FINANCIAL AID PACKETS/FORMS**

___ **TRANSCRIPT RELEASE FORM**

___ **G.P.A./HOPE**

___ **NARROW CHOICES**
(5 OFFICAL VISITS)

___ **IS THIS WHAT YOU REALLY WANT?**

GO WILDCATS



NCAA Testing & Eligibility Requirements

1. Take the SAT/ACT in the spring of your Sophomore/Junior Year and take it as many times as possible.

SAT: <http://www.collegeboard.com>

ACT: <http://www.act.org>

TEST DATES:

January 21, 2017
March 11, 2017
May 6, 2017
June 3, 2017
August 26, 2017
October 7, 2017
November 4, 2017
December 2, 2017
March 10, 2018
May 5, 2018
June 2, 2018

TEST DATES:

February 11, 2017
April 8, 2017
June 10, 2017
September 9, 2017
October 28, 2017
December 9, 2017
February 10, 2018
April 15, 2018
June 9, 2018

2. Meet all college level eligibility requirements.

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

NAIA: <http://www.naia.org>

3. Complete the NCAA Clearinghouse Documentation.

<http://www.eligibilitycenter.org>

4. Complete the FAFSA Financial Aid Documents.

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>



SENDING LETTERS AND EMAILS TO COACHES

Introducing Yourself to Coaches

You can't expect college coaches to know who you are and want to give you an athletic scholarship simply because of your athletic success. There are thousands of other student-athletes out there that you are competing against. You have to set yourself apart and get in contact with the coaches you may want to play for. Email can be a quick way to reach out to coaches, but taking the time to send written letters may get you noticed as well.

Guidelines for Letters and Emails

Get your name out there. Contact at least one coach each week, or around 50 a year. That may sound like a lot, but building relationships with multiple coaches might just result in several scholarship options when it's time to choose a college.

Research each school and coach. Find out specific information about the athletic program you're contacting. Mention important wins or other recent success the coach has had. This kind of personal touch shows that you're interested in the coach and the college.

Avoid using a form letter. Coaches can tell when you do. Take the time to personalize each letter or email.

Include some essential aspects. There are several basic things that every letter or email should include.

- A personalized salutation including the coach's name. Never start with, "To Whom it May Concern."
- Your basic information including your high school, the position that you play, or events that you compete in.
- Include some of your important athletic stats as well as academic stats like your GPA and placement test scores.
- Tell the coach of any club sports or camps that you're participating in.
- Include any recognition you've received like all-conference honors, MVP mentions, and academic awards.
- Explain why you want to play for that college and coach. Be specific.
- Link to your athletic profile. Give the coach an option to find out more about you. A good way to do that is to create an athletic profile at NCSA.
- Don't forget your contact information. Make sure you've included your street address, phone number, and email address.

Below is a sample letter/email to a coach:

Dear (Coach's Name),

My name is (Your name) from (City and State) and I am writing to you because of my interest in playing (sport) at (college name). I play on my high school team and I consider myself (add something about your athletic ability).

Just to tell you a little bit about myself. I am an (position) on my school and (Now talk about your high school and club experience, any awards or honors, your work ethic, what you contribute most to the team).

As a student, I am (about you). I currently have a -- GPA and scored an -- out of 1600 on my SATs. I plan on retaking the SAT (date). My goal is (score). (Put in some extracurricular activities if applicable). (Your academic strengths). (Say something about the college/University's academic record and your interest there)

(Include some upcoming plans and goals in this paragraph). I hope that you are able to see me play. Below I have included a link to my NCSA scouting page for you to view as it includes highlight videos and my athletic and academic information.

I would love to meet you and talk about the possibility of being a part of your team in (Grad year). If there is anything I can do to help you decide whether I might be a good fit for your program please don't hesitate to ask. I will follow up with you soon by phone and if you have any further questions I look forward to answering them for you.

Thank you very much for your time and I look forward to hearing back and contacting you via phone very soon.

Sincerely,

Johnny Student/Athlete
1234 Broadway Drive
Email: johnny@aol.com
Phone: 555-555-5555
Cell: 555-555-5555



PHONE CALLS WITH COLLEGE COACHES

The NCAA strictly regulates when coaches can call recruits. But, recruits can initiate contact and call coaches at any time. It's a good idea to take advantage of that, pick up the phone, and tell coaches who you are. Good communication with coaches is the single most important aspect of the recruiting process.

It's a good idea to start calling coaches as a freshman. It may not be easy at first, but after a few calls you should be pretty good at talking to coaches.

1. Be enthusiastic and engaged.

- Coaches are looking for athletes who are excited about the opportunity to compete at their school. Consider your tone, confidence level, and leadership ability while you're talking to a coach.

2. Before you call, it's a good idea to practice.

- Role play with a friend or parent the conversation you expect to have. The practice should help calm your nerves when you make the actual call.

3. Do your homework.

- Research the college and the coach before the call. A coach will be impressed if you know specifics about his/her program.

4. Be prepared.

- Have a list of questions or a script in front of you when you call. Introduce yourself with your name, city, and high school. Ask specific questions about the program and your chance to compete. Ask the coach what your next steps should be in the recruiting process. Cover the basics during your first conversation with a coach. On second and third phone calls you can discuss more detailed information about the program.

5. Be ready to answer questions from the coach.

- Phone calls give coaches a chance to find out more about you. They're likely to ask what your strengths and weaknesses are, what other schools you're considering, what goals you have, and what you're looking for in a college.

6. Be persistent.

- Coaches are busy, and you'll likely have to leave a few voicemails before finally reaching them. Find out from the coach or an athletic secretary the best time to call. When leaving a message, let the coach know exactly what time you plan to call back.

A sample phone call script is below:

- "Hi Coach Moore, my name is Jill Smith and I'm a 2013 graduate from Chicago, IL. Can I get a minute of your time?"

- "Great! Coach Moore, I'm very interested in learning more about your school. I received the questionnaire you sent me in November and wanted to follow-up with you to find out a little more about your 2015 recruiting needs."

- Go into questions from your list.
- Talk about something interesting or sport specific. For example, "I see that last season your team went undefeated, how is it looking so far this year?"
- Before you end a call, always thank the coach for his/her time and inform them that you are looking forward to speaking with them in the near future.



PLAYER NCAA CHECKLIST



- Register at the beginning of your sophomore year with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Ask your high school guidance counselor to send your transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center at the end of your junior year.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT and use the code “9999” to have your official scores sent directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Check with your high school guidance counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate on time with your class and are taking the required amount of NCAA-approved core courses.
- Request final amateurism certification during your senior year (beginning April 1). This is accomplished by checking the green box on the right side of the amateurism section on your dashboard in your NCAA student account.
- Ask your high school guidance counselor to submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- If you wish to participate in NCAA Division I or II athletics, you need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. You need to qualify academically and you will also need to be cleared as an amateur student-athlete.



College Recruiting Checklist

Freshman Year

- Make a list of colleges you would like to attend
- Make you set-up a player profile sheet with the head football coach
- Set-up HUDL account
- Meet with your team coach about your list of schools to classify the major schools of interest.
- College coaches are watching your development throughout high school on and off the field. Work hard on academics, strength and conditioning, and football.

Sophomore Year

- Update your list of colleges of interest
- Update your player profile sheet with any new information (awards, GPA, test scores etc.)
- Start building your highlight film
- Fill college questionnaires for prospective recruits
- Stay in communication with coaches about upcoming showcases for the year
- Take PSAT (add scores to your player profile sheet)
- Register for the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Attend any combine/showcase in the area (suggested only)
- Go on unofficial visits to colleges
- Attend college football camps during the summer at schools of interest (suggested only)
- College coaches are watching your development throughout high school on and off the field. Work hard on academics, strength and conditioning, and football.

Junior Year

- Update your list of colleges of interest and share it with your high school football coach (list should be narrowed down)
- Update your player profile sheet with any new information
- Update highlight film and send to college coaches
- Fill out college questionnaires for prospective recruits and visit college fairs
- Sign up for the SATS and/or ACT at www.collegeboard.com
- Add scores to player profile sheet
- Stay in communication with coaches about upcoming showcases
- Obtain at least 3 letters of recommendations for college applications
- For financial aid, fill out FAFSA form www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Update information with NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Ask your high school guidance counselor to send an official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center after completing your junior year.
- Attend any combine/showcase in the area (suggested only)
- Go on unofficial visits to colleges
- Apply for the College/Universities of choice (during second semester and/or during the summer leading into your senior year)
- Attend college football camps during the summer at schools of interest (suggested only)
- Division I and Division II coaches can't personally contact you until July 1st after your Junior year, but YOU can contact them
- DIII and NAIA coaches can contact you at anytime
- Respond to EVERY coach, even if you are not interested in the school
- College coaches are watching your development throughout high school on and off the field. Work hard on academics, strength and conditioning, and football.
- Every email you receive from a college coach forward to your high school coach

Senior Year

- Retake the SAT and/or ACT to improve your scores
- Update your list of colleges of interest and share them with your high school football coach
- Update your player profile sheet with any new information
- Update highlight film and send to college coaches
- If you haven't heard from Division I coaches, start reaching out to Division II, Division III, NAIA program
- If you are considering NAIA program, register with NAIA Eligibility Center
- Starting July 1st leading into your senior you may start going on official visits to schools
- Signing day is the first Wednesday in February; however seniors can sign a National Letter of Intent until August 1st of their senior year
- Finalize college applications, letters of recommendation, and financial aid applications (after your parents have filed their income taxes)
- Obtain final transcripts from your guidance counselor (after graduation) and send to your college of choice and the NCAA Eligibility Center
- Make sure you meet all college deadlines for applications, housing, scholarships, etc.
- Important to do be familiar with the school of your choice both athletically and academically



NCAA Recruiting Rules



Recruiting Rules for NCAA Division I of your Freshman and Sophomore Years

- You may receive brochures for camps and questionnaires
- You can make unlimited calls to the coach at your own expense, the coach cannot call you
- Unofficial visits are unlimited
- Official Visits are Not Allowed until your senior year
- Off Campus Contact is Not allowed

Recruiting Rules for NCAA Division I of your Junior Year

- You may begin to receive recruiting materials and information from the coach on September 1st of your junior year
- You can make unlimited calls to the coach at your own expense
- You can receive one call per week starting July 1st after your junior year
- Unofficial visits are unlimited
- Official Visits are Not Allowed until your senior year...Off campus contact is NOT allowed

Recruiting Rules for NCAA Division I of your Senior Year

- You can receive recruiting material and information from the coach
- You can make unlimited calls to the coach at your own expense
- You can receive one call per week starting July 1st
- Unofficial visits are unlimited
- Official Visits: You can start official visits on the opening day of college classes. You get one per college and a maximum of 5 visits to any NCAA Division I
- Off/On Campus Contact: A coach may have a face to face contact with you or your parents no more than 3 times a year.

Recruiting Rules for NCAA Division II of your Freshman and Sophomore Years

- You may receive brochures for camps and questionnaires
- You can call the coach at your own expense; the college coach can call you an unlimited number of times
- Unofficial visits are unlimited
- Official Visits are Not Allowed until your senior year
- Off Campus Contact is Not allowed

Recruiting Rules for NCAA Division II of your Junior Year

- You may receive recruiting material and information from the coach
- You can call the coach at your own expense, the college coach can call you an unlimited number of times
- Unofficial visits are unlimited... Official Visits are Not Allowed until your senior year
- Off Campus Contact: Starting June 15th, there is no limit to off campus contacts.
- **Recruiting Rules for NCAA Division II of your Senior Year**
- You can receive recruiting material and information from the coach
- You can call the coach at your own expense, no limit on the number of telephone calls after classes have started
- Unofficial visits are unlimited
- Unlimited Official Visits: You can start official visits on the opening day of classes, you get one per college with an unlimited amount of official visits to NCAA Division II, Division III, and NAIA schools
- Off Campus Contact: Starting June 15th before your junior year, there is no limit of off campus contacts

Recruiting Rules for NCAA Division III of your Freshman and Sophomore Years

- You may receive printed recruiting materials at anytime
- You can call the coach at your own expense, no limit on the number of telephone calls, texts, or emails from the coach after the specified date.
- Unofficial visits are unlimited
- Official Visits are Not Allowed until your senior year
- Off Campus Contact: Not allowed until after your junior year

Recruiting Rules for NCAA Division III of your Junior Year

- You may begin to receive recruiting material and information from the coach on Sept 1st
- You can call the coach at your own expense, no limit on the number of telephone calls, texts, or emails
- Unofficial visits are unlimited
- Official Visits are Not Allowed until your senior year
- Off Campus Contact: Not allowed until after your junior year

Recruiting Rules for NCAA Division III of your Senior Year

- You can receive recruiting material and information from the coach
- You can call the coach at your own expense, no limit on the number of telephone calls after classes have started
- Unofficial visits are unlimited
- Official Visits: You can start official visits on the opening day of classes, you get one per college with an unlimited amount of official visits to NCAA Division II, Division III, and NAIA schools

Division I test score requirements

Division I uses a sliding scale to match SAT/ACT scores and core-course grade-point averages to determine eligibility. The sliding scale balances your test score with your GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher GPA to be eligible. If you have a low GPA, you need a higher test score to be eligible.

Division II test score requirements

If you enroll full-time at a Division II school before Aug. 1, 2018, you must meet all academic requirements and earn at least a combined SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68 to be eligible to compete.

If you enroll full-time at a Division II school after Aug. 1, 2018, you must meet all academic requirements and earn an SAT or ACT score matching your core-course GPA on the Division II sliding scale to be eligible to compete. The sliding scale will balance your test score with your GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher GPA to be eligible. If you have a low GPA, you need a higher test score to be eligible.

If you enroll full-time at a Division II school after Aug. 1, 2016, and you have not met all the Division II academic requirements, you may not compete in your first year. If you meet the requirements to be a partial qualifier, you may practice and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year. To be a partial qualifier, you must graduate high school and meet **ALL** the following requirements:

- Complete 16 core courses. Earn at least a 2.0 GPA in your core courses.

NEW

Student-Athletes can sign December 20, 2017 or in February of 2018

- **The period for official visits that begins April 1 of the junior year and ends the Sunday before the last Wednesday in June of that year. Official visits can't occur in conjunction with a prospect's participation in a school's camp or clinic (effective Aug.**
-