

The College Process Timeline

Freshman in High School: You should be very broadly identifying what type of school you are interested in (size, location, academics). College coaches will start their recruiting lists with freshman, so it's important to write college coaches and let them know you have an interest—make sure they know your graduation year.

Sophomore in High School: Hopefully, you've had a chance to visit a couple of schools through tournaments or camps and have started to narrow down the type of school you are interested in (maybe 15-25 schools). Late in your sophomore year, college coaches will start to narrow down their list of serious recruits to start writing on a regular basis (NCAA Rule-Coaches can send information out on September 1 of your Junior year).

Junior in High School: College coaches are allowed to begin contacting you through letters beginning September 1. They will be interested in receiving a resume from you, as well as, a schedule of tournaments you will be playing in. Make sure the coaches know your graduation year, address, phone number, email address, and club team name to assist them in evaluating and contacting you. Coaches begin to evaluate specific players who have contacted them or have been identified at previous tournaments. Play in as many tournaments as possible this year to give ample opportunity for coaches to watch you play. As a student athlete you will want to research schools that have contacted you through the mail to determine your interest (maybe 7-10 schools). Some schools may ask some players may be asked to start to commit in their junior year-this is becoming more and more common!

Senior in High School: Beginning July 1 before your senior year in high school, coaches can contact you with phone calls. At this point most of the coaches have narrowed down their lists, so it is important to begin contacting them before your senior year. Again, when contacting coaches provide them a list of upcoming tournaments you will be playing in to help them have opportunities to watch you play. As a student-athlete continue to research schools that are contacting you to narrow down your options to 5-7 schools. During your senior year you are allowed to take 5 Official Campus Visits (the school will cover your expenses). This will give you an opportunity to find a good fit for your soccer and academic goals. Make sure you ask questions about the coaches, the team rules/standards, the academic pursuits you are specifically interested in, and the surrounding community. Ask lots of questions and try and find a location that will match your needs and goals. Make a decision based on the overall features of the school and not on any one thing, including soccer. The coaches will also be interested in meeting and getting to know you.

**You are allowed to take as many Unofficial Campus Visits (you pay for your own expenses) in any year you would like. Take advantage of family trips or tournaments to visit a campus (most coaches are very open to showing you around).

**You may also call coaches in any year, but remember that they are not allowed to return your phone call unless you are a senior in high school.

REMEMBER IT'S NEVER TOO LATE IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE THESE THINGS, BUT THE EARLIER YOU GET GOING ON THEM THE BETTER!!!!

