

TIGER BASEBALL

Contacting Colleges

Division- Example Schools	Ave ACT	Ave GPA	Ave Exit Velo	Ave INF Arm	Ave OF Arm	Ave 60 yd dash
DI- U of MN	27	3.7	95	85+	87+	6.8
DII-Nrthrn Sun	21-25	3.0-3.7	90	80+	80+	7.0
DIII- MIAC	22-31	3.15-3.82	87	78+	78+	7.25
Upper MW	22-25	3.3-3.6	87	78+	78+	7.25
JUCO- DCTC	20	2.8	87	78+	78+	7.25

Athletic Scholarships offered

DI = 11.7 DII = 9 DIII = 0 NAIA = 12 Juco = up to 24

*Note- more scholarships and grants are available for academics than athletics

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. Contacting schools and 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 one.

Include some essential aspects. There are several basic things that every letter/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.
- 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 (maybe put honors earned listed in your email's subject line).
- 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, or a FieldLevel account with me.
- Don't forget your contact information. Make sure you've included your street address, phone number, and email address.



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Here are five “Do’s” to include in your emails:

1. Highlight key stats and facts about you in the subject line. A few pieces of information to include are your graduation year, primary position, height and weight, your GPA, and the state you are from or high school you attend.
2. Address the coach by name and always reference the college name when appropriate.
3. Provide current or relevant information. Varsity baseball stats and awards will get the coach’s attention. Travel team information is valuable as well.
4. Be aware of the recruiting rules. For example, underclassmen should not be asking Division I coaches questions about recruiting. They cannot answer those types of questions through email until September 1st of your junior year. Provide contact information for one or two coach references instead. College coaches can contact them.
5. Finally, write short emails with direct information. Recruiting takes up a large part of a college coach’s schedule. Long emails will most likely not be read from start to finish.

Here are five “Don’ts” to avoid in your emails:

1. Refrain from general phrases like “Dear Coach,” and “your program”. Also, make sure to spell the coach’s name correctly. Little errors like this are big red flags for coaches and help them identify generic emails. Misspellings happen more than you think. Many of these mistakes take place when a student-athlete is trying to email a large number of programs at one time. Slow down to personalize your emails and the response rate from coaches will increase.
2. College coaches know what types of skills and attributes they need to identify in prospects. Avoid self-evaluation of your skills. You can describe your dedication and leadership qualities. But coaches will make the final call on your athletic skills.
3. When asking questions in an introduction email, try to keep them simple. Focus on questions with “yes” or “no” type of answers. The coach needs more time to figure out if you are a good fit for the program, so don’t put them on the spot in your first email.
4. Do not ask the coach if you can call them. Recruiting rules allow you, the prospect, to call college coaches at any time. Always include your contact information and that of your coach references so the coach can follow up if needed.
5. Finally, do your research. Athletic websites provide a great amount of information about a program if you take the time to review them. Do not ask coaches about their record last year or assume they had a quality year. If the program has been under .500 for years and you say “congrats on a great season”, then your email will most likely not receive a response. You can tell a coach you want to help the program improve in the future. Coaches are always looking to improve their rosters.

