

DAWSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE RECRUITING GUIDE



The information provided here is to help you with the process of college recruiting.
(COVID-19 has put a 13 month pause on recruiting but the NCAA/NAIA are now allowing recruiting to begin again.)

If you are entering the 9th grade, please understand that this process begins now. It will require your 100% BUY IN and TREMENDOUS WORK ETHIC on your part. Playing at the next level is not an easy thing to do, otherwise, there would be far more players doing that. Working hard, getting good grades and staying on top of what you must to put yourself in a good position to be recruited. To put everything in perspective, as of 2019, over 1.1 million high school students play football while only 74,000 go on to play NCAA football. That is less than 7% of students are eligible or talented enough to play college football. Email aleblanc@dawson.k12.ga.us if you have any questions. Please do not wait until the last minute because there are deadlines in this process.

Register for the SAT and ACT.

- Why wait? Sign up for the SAT and ACT now and show colleges that you are interested!
- Taking the SAT/ACT as many times as you can, will only help you improve your score. You can combine your top scores in each section. (SUPER SCORE)

Register here:

- SAT (WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM) • ACT (WWW.ACT.ORG)

Recruiting services:

We recommend that you **DO NOT** pay for any recruiting service. There is nothing a service can do for you that can't be done by you, your child or the coaching staff. You can join Recruit Georgia (<https://recruitgeorgia.com/>) which is free and that will get your name and HUDL link out there but recruiting services that charge have no magic wand. We email your information to over 150 colleges, 3 times a year. You can very well visit the college football website and fill out recruiting questionnaires to make further contact. This is a year-round endeavor for us as it is for you. Please be proactive.

TWITTER and EMAIL:

Coaches communicate through twitter and through email depending on the level of football. There are guidelines that they must follow. You should create a twitter account and email with your name and jersey number to keep it simple so you can be identified easily. Twitter and email are something that can be sent directly to the college you are interested in. You can follow college coaches and direct message with them. This is most effective. We email over 150 schools (D1, D2, D3, NAIA, Junior College) with information on your child.

NCAA/NAIA Eligibility:

Are you eligible to play college sports? Not everyone is eligible because they are a good athlete. Your academics are the key to eligibility!

Visit the NCAA site to read about eligibility. [CLICK HERE](#)
Visit the NAIA site to read about eligibility. [CLICK HERE](#)

Playing at the next level:

If you intend to participate in Division I or II or III athletics as a freshman, you must register and be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.

Registration Process:

In order to be registered with the clearinghouse, you must complete the registration process found at NCAA: www.ncaaclearinghouse.net or NAIA: <https://play.mynaia.org/> in order to be eligible for NCAA and NAIA Scholarships:

What you need to know about the process of recruiting and scouts:
<http://www.collegesportsscholarships.com/football.htm>

Financial Aid, Student loans and Grants:

All NCAA Division 2 and NAIA financial awards for college are partially based on your income for the previous year. Your current tax return and W2's will be needed to complete any information below.

FAFSA:

All students, regardless of the college they are attending or whether they are seeking financial assistance, are required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

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

Pell Grant:

A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid. EX: Maximum Pell grant for the 2016- 2017 award year was \$5,550. The amount depends on your financial need, costs to attend school, status as a full-time or part-time student, and plans to attend school for a full academic year or less.

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html>

Stafford Loan:

Federal Stafford loans are fixed-rate student loans for undergraduate and graduate students attending college at least half-time. Stafford loans are the most common and one of the lowest-cost ways to pay for school.

Myths:

Not everything you hear is true about the recruiting process. Many myths become truth in a hurry. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about the process. You can contact Coach Gregory Baloga gbaloga@dawson.k12.ga.us with any questions. Below is a basic example of the NCAA recruiting process:

IF YOU HAVE HOPES OF PLAYING: DIVISION I

Sophomore Year

- Recruiting Materials- You may receive brochures for camp and questionnaires.
- Contact Coaches- You may make phone calls to the coach at your expense. College coach may not call you.
- Off-Campus Contact- None allowed.
- Official Visits- None allowed.
- Unofficial Visits- You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits.

Junior Year

- Recruiting Materials- You may begin receiving September 1 of your junior year.
- Contact Coaches - You may make calls to the coach at your expense. College coach may call you April 15 to May 31 of your junior year.
- Off-Campus Contact- None allowed.
- Official Visits- None allowed.
- Unofficial Visits- You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits.

Senior Year

- Recruiting Materials- Allowed.
- Contact Coaches - You may make calls to the coach at your expense. College coach may call you once per week beginning September 1. College coach may make unlimited calls to you after you sign a National Letter of Intent, written offer of admission and/or financial aid, or the day after the college receives a financial deposit from you.
- Off-Campus Contact- Allowed beginning the Sunday following the last Saturday in November. A college coach may contact you or your parents/legal guardians (including evaluating you off the college's campus) six times. One evaluation during September, October, and November. Two evaluations from April 15 through May 31 (once to evaluate athletic ability and once to evaluate academic qualifications).
- Official Visits- Allowed beginning the opening day of your senior year. You may make only one official visit per college and up to a maximum of five official visits to Division I colleges. There is no limit to official visits to Division II colleges.
- Evaluation and Contacts- Up to six times during your senior year. Unlimited number of contacts and evaluation the day after you sign a National Letter of Intent, written offer of admission and/or financial aid, or the day after the college receives a financial deposit from you.

IF YOU HAVE HOPES OF PLAYING DIVISION II

- Recruiting Materials- A coach may begin sending you printed recruiting materials June 15 before your junior year in high school.
- Contact Coaches - You may make calls to the coach at your expense. No limit on number of calls by college coach beginning June 15 before your junior year.
- Off-Campus Contact- A college coach may have unlimited contact with you or your parents/legal guardians off the college's campus beginning June 15 before your junior year.
- Unofficial Visits- You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits any time.
- Official Visits- You may make official visits starting the opening day of classes your senior year. You may make only one official visit per college and up to a maximum of five official visits to Division I colleges. There is no limit to official visits to Division II colleges.

IF YOU HAVE HOPES OF PLAYING DIVISION III

- Recruiting Materials- You may receive printed materials any time.
- Contact Coaches - You may make calls to the coach at your expense. No limit on number of calls or when they can be made by the college coach.
- Off-Campus Contact- A college coach may begin to have contact with you and your parents/legal guardians off the college's campus after your junior year.
- Unofficial Visits- You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits any time.
- Official Visits- You may make official visits starting the opening day of classes your senior year. You may make only one official visit per college.

Responsibilities:

Your child's future is a TEAM effort. There is nothing we would love to see more than your son moving on to play at the next level. However, we all have to pitch in and do our part to make that a reality. Below are some basic things WE will ALL do over your child's high school career.

The PLAYER/FAMILY is responsible for:

1. Work hard in the classroom. Being eligible to play high school football will help you be eligible to play college football!
2. You will not be recruited with F's and C's. The higher your GPA the more interest you will get
3. Display great character, work ethic, and commitment in the classroom, in the hallways, on the field, and in the community.
4. Be a team player first! Nobody wants a selfish player.
5. Work hard in the off-season, in the summer, and be an "all the time player". Don't disappear in the summer and then show up the first day of practice. This will not prepare you for the college level.
6. Display your ability and potential on every play that you are on the field. (practice or game)
7. Be willing to play any position you can! Find a way to be on the field. You need film to show colleges. Your athletic ability will be obvious to the scouts. If you play a certain position in high school, it does not mean you will play there in college.
8. Take the SAT/ACT as many times as possible. (take before your senior year)
-SAT (WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM) -ACT (WWW.ACT.ORG)
9. Meet all college level eligibility requirements.
-NCAA (WWW.NCAA.ORG) -NAIA (WWW.NAIA.ORG)
10. Complete the NCAA and NAIA Clearinghouse Documentation.

(WWW.NCAACLEARINGHOUSE.NET) ([PLAY NAIA](#))

11. Complete the FAFSA Financial Aid Documents.
(WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV)

11. Assemble and mark your weekly highlights in HUDL. Waiting until the end of the season will make this very time consuming and you will likely forget plays.

The COACHES will do the following:

1. All student - athletes will be well coached and cared for each and every day.
2. All student - athlete prospects will be pushed to make a highlight film through HUDL and we will review it to make sure it is ready for recruiting.
3. All student - athlete highlight films will be provided to colleges across the country, along with academic scores, test scores, and contact information for the player.
4. All student - athletes will be promoted by coaches here at DCHS talking with college coaches that visit, by calling college coaches, and by showing film of players to college coaches.
5. All student - athletes will be promoted with a positive yet honest assessment of the player's ability, commitment, work ethic, and character to all college coaches.
6. Review HUDL highlight video with players

Very Important!!

The coach DOES NOT get your child a scholarship. The coaches simply help you along the way and promotes prospective student-athletes. Your child's job is to give the coach material to promote your child to colleges. College coaches come to Dawson County FIRST when they visit North East Georgia because of past athletes who are currently playing in college (over 25 in the last 6 years), the academic success and athletic accomplishments of the program. YOUR HARD WORK will get you there.