


College basketball recruiting guidelines

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If you are a high school athlete who aspires to compete in college sports, you should be aware of the college sports recruitment process. Even if you don't end up getting a scholarship, many intercollegiate athletes who don't get help are still recruited to participate in the sport at a collegiate level. The process of college enrolment can be misleading. There are tons of recruiting rules that vary depending on the separation and the process for each potential student-athlete can be extremely different. In this article, I will explain the various stages of the college recruitment process. I will provide important advice for potential student-athletes so that you can achieve your collegiate and athletic goals. The biggest steps in the college recruitment process result from contact with coaches: Typically for most student-athletes, the process really begins when you have your first conversation with a college coach about a possible game for him or her. Campus visits: One of the many benefits of being a recruited athlete is the ability to visit several college campuses and all your questions about athletics and academics answered. There are two types of visits: official and unofficial. During official visits to the campus, your transportation to college, food and entertainment are paid for by the university. Visits from coaches: College coaches can visit you at school, practice, play, or in your home when they recruit you. Coaches use these visits to evaluate you and try to sell their program to you. Scholarship Offers: For most student-athletes, the scholarship offer is nearing the end of the recruitment process. Typically, the coach will call you to extend the offer of sports assistance. Depending on the sport you play and the college that recruits you, you may be offered full or partial sports scholarships. Signing of the National Letter of Intent: Signing a letter of intent marks the end of the college sports recruitment process. The letter is an agreement that you will be enrolled in a certain school in exchange for sports assistance. At this point, coaches should stop recruiting you, and if any coaches contact you, you should let them know that you have signed a letter of intent. Now that you have a basic understanding of these steps, I'm going to lead you through the whole process of college sports. Keep in mind that the process and timing will be slightly different for each individual athlete. For example, some recruited student-athletes do not apply to college until they have accepted an official campus visit. Others have already applied, been accepted, and received a scholarship offer by the time they go on their official visit. Parts of the process can vary widely depending on your sport and Strongly you recruit, the college sports recruitment process can vary widely. Top-level recruits, especially High profile sports football and men's basketball, will be sent tons of emails, receive tons of

phone calls, and can be offered sports scholarships before they even go to school. They will not have to take great initiative in the recruitment process. For recruits who are not as well known nationally, they need to be more active in the recruitment process, and they often have to sell themselves to college coaches to get a scholarship or a guaranteed place in the team. In addition, the sport you play also has a huge impact on the process. In some sports, there are literally over a thousand colleges with a team in the sport. If you are recruited into one of these sports, you will want to know what you are looking for at school and narrow down the list of colleges at the beginning of the process to avoid being overwhelmed. For other sports, your options are already limited depending on the number of colleges with the sport. I was a gymnast in college, and nowadays, there are only 16 NCAA men's gymnastics programs. When I looked at colleges, it was somewhat more than that, but I had a much easier time narrowing down my college options than most simply because I knew I wanted to compete for the NCAA gymnastics team. By honestly assessing your abilities and aspirations for your junior year, if you are interested in participating in university intercollegiate sports, you should start figuring out what school you want to attend. Which division is best suited to your interests and abilities? What are your sporting priorities? Getting a scholarship? Getting game time? Competing with the best competitions? Playing for a certain coach? Do you approach other personalities in the team? Having access to the best resources? What are you looking for outside of sports in college? Once you know what you want, the recruitment process will become much easier. Then, when you start looking at each school individually, you can determine whether it fits what you are looking for. Don't be afraid to ask questions of coaches, current team members, academic consultants, and admissions representatives to get the information you need to make a decision in college. However, if you are recruited, especially if you are the best rookie, college officials can only tell you what they think you want to hear. Do your own research as well. Have your high school coach work for you to talk to your high school coach during your junior year. Ask him or her for an honest assessment of your ability to play sports at the college level. See what he or she will be willing to do and can do to help with the recruitment process. Many high school coaches have relationships with college coaches and can help start the recruitment process for you. Also, if there are specific schools you in, see if your high school coach can turn to coaches at these colleges. How To When college coaches can initiate contact with you the rules vary depending on the sport and separation, but the general rule is that college coaches can't talk to you until the end of your junior year. However, many schools will send you information by mail as soon as you are on their radar. If you have received a recruitment questionnaire and you have an interest in this school, make sure you fill it out and send it back. If you are a priority rookie, the coach will call you in the spring of your junior year or summer before your senior year. July 1st before your senior year is the date when coaches can initiate contact for most sports for Division I colleges. Once college coaches are allowed to talk to you, the general rule is that they can contact you once a week. Keep in mind that just because you get an email or a phone call from a coach doesn't necessarily mean that you will get a scholarship offer. Initiating contact with coaches Most student-athletes will have to initiate contact with coaches if they want a scholarship or want to participate in intercollegiate athletics. I strongly recommend that you take a proactive approach to your recruitment process. When contacting coaches there is no exact time to contact college coaches, but the general rule is that it used to be better. Typically, potential athletes will contact coaches in junior grades or in the summer until their senior years. Even if there are rules as to when and how much the coach can contact you, there are no rules stopping you from contacting the coach when and how often you feel the need. Use your discretion, however. If the coach doesn't answer you, don't keep in touch with him or her. How to contact coaches is the most common way to start contacting a coach by email. Your initial email should express your interest in the school along with key information about you: your academic achievements, your athletic achievements, including rewards, stats and experience, and any attributes that will make you well suited to this school or team. In addition, the email should contain a link to the video. The video should be relatively short, just a couple of minutes. Show highlights from games and perhaps practices that demonstrate your athletic ability and willingness to participate at a collegiate level. If you are doing a team sport, make sure it is clear who you are in the video. Also, there's a full game tape ready, in case one of the coaches asks for it. Feel free to call the coach to express your interest. Even if it can be difficult to get a coach on the phone, if you're not on his or her recruitment radar, you can always or leave a message. Ask what the coach needs from you to be considered for a scholarship or a place in the team. Alternatively, you can make a profile on the recruitment site. Examples of website recruitment BeRecruited, NCSA, and CaptainU. Some of their services are free and some require you to pay. Recruiting websites make sure you send the right information to the coaches and they can provide you with contact information for college coaches. While these websites can be very useful, they are not essential. Make sure you contact the college coaches. Camps Some sports and schools offer summer camps that coaches attend. These camps can provide you with an opportunity to showcase your athletic abilities to coaches. Some of these camps are open and some are by invitation only. The effectiveness of the camps helping you get recruited varies greatly depending on school and sport. Some camps are simply designed to make money, and some are actually used by coaches to evaluate potential student-athletes. Make sure you explore the camp before you or your parents spend money to attend. Application Typically, the application process is the same for student athletes and non-student athletes. The main difference is that depending on the sport and how much you are recruited, you may be asked to apply early. And, your application can be processed earlier. Often recruited athletes learn about the decision to accept before the rest of the accepted students. Also, for recruits, your app may have some identifying marker indicating that you are a recruited athlete. It's so the admissions committee knows you're a rookie, and while it helps, it's not a guarantee of admission. Typically, the admissions committee will be warned about how much you are recruited as well. During my recruitment process, for several schools that recruited me, I didn't have to write a personal essay. Back in my school years, I was very happy to get out of writing these essays. For Stanford, my alma mater, I had to fill out the same app as the rest of the students. Now I have memories to write my personal essays. Good times. Visiting campus Once you get past mail and phone calls, the next step is to visit campus. At this point, you may or may not have already been accepted to college. There are two types of visits: informal visits and official visits. An informal campus attending an informal visit is one that you pay for yourself. What the coach plans for you on your trip often depends on how much you are recruited. Sometimes the coach will just talk to you briefly and then you are on your own. For informal visits, schools cannot provide money for food, transportation, or entertainment. However, you can get up to three free tickets to the game. This is a very pleasant advantage, especially if you to a sport where tickets for the game are hard to find. You can take an unlimited number of unofficial visits and take them almost at any time, except for so-called dead periods periods coaches may not have contact with potential student-athletes. Make sure to clear any informal visits with trainers before you make them. Feel free to ask the coach about making an informal visit, no matter how many contacts you have had with the coach, or if the coach has been hiring you. Official campus visits For official campus visits, the trip is paid for by the school. Transportation, food and entertainment are covered for a potential student-athlete. Official visits can last no more than 48 hours. NCAA rules dictate that you have allowed five official visits and no more than one to school for Division I schools, but you can take an unlimited number of official visits to Division II schools. You can start taking official visits starting from the first day of classes during your senior year of high school. If you attend junior college or don't go to college after graduation, you can take an additional five Division I official visits starting October 15th after your senior year of high school. Before any official visit, however, you must register with the NCAA Law Center and submit your ACT or SAT test score and high school transcript to the school you plan to attend. Sometimes scholarship offers will be made before official trips and sometimes they will be made after. If you are offered an official visit, you are definitely the main candidate for the scholarship. In addition, although Ivy League schools do not offer sports scholarships, they offer official visits. If you have the opportunity, I strongly recommend that you take formal campus visits. During your official visit, you can get the opportunity to watch practices, attend games, tour campus, talk to academic counselors, sit in classes, and chat with team members. I thoroughly enjoyed my official visits to the campus. Just to give you an idea of how many campus visits can vary, I'll describe a couple of mine for you. When I went on my recruitment trip to the University of Illinois, I was put in a hotel room and taken to a posh Japanese restaurant. I had a scheduled meeting with an academic consultant, and I was taken on a tour of the campus by an official campus guide. A few weeks later, I went on a recruiting trip to Temple University. On this trip I stayed on the couch in one of the team member's apartments and ate cereal most of my food while I was there. I got a driving tour of campus from a coach and had no meeting with an academic consultant. However, I did see the Liberty Bell and ate an authentic Philly cheese sandwich. I enjoyed my trip to the Temple, but it was very different from my Illinois trip. Illinois was just more well program and had a larger recruitment budget. Unfortunately, Temple abandoned his NCAA men's gymnastics team in 2014 and is now continuing to play for the club. I have to experience as a college student in the Temple for 48 hours. Visits coaches Sometimes coaches will visit you at your school, in your home, or at one of your practices or games. There are rules that dictate when coaches can visit you. Usually, a coach will visit either to evaluate you or because you are a top recruit and he or she is trying to sell you and your family to school. Sometimes it's a combination of both. If the coach visits you, it is definitely a good sign about your prospects of receiving a scholarship or offer of admission. Scholarship Offers Usually after talking to coaches and visiting campus, the coach will extend the scholarship offer. Scholarships can be full (covering the full cost of the visit) or partial. Keep in mind that you don't have to accept or reject an offer right away. You should take your time to think about your options; choosing where you go to college is a great decision that you don't have to make hastily. Also, even if you verbally accept the offer, an oral agreement is not binding. You can change your mind until you sign a scholarship offer. Also, for many sports, you will not get a scholarship offer until you get admission to university. Again, this can vary depending on the sport, the school, and how much you are recruited. Typically, the coach will continue to contact you throughout the recruitment process and after the scholarship offer is extended. Your kit is not done until you have signed the National Letter of Intent. There are early and late signing dates that you have to sign that vary depending on your sport. The National Letter of Intent National Letter of Intent is a mandatory agreement that says you will be enrolled in a specific school for the next school year in exchange for sports assistance. Normally, you will have to sign an NLI along with a scholarship offer from the school. If you do not follow the terms of the agreement and enter the school, you will usually have to sit in a year of competition if you go to another school and you lose a year of eligibility. Almost always, the school will not issue you a formal scholarship and NLI offer until you have been accepted to university. However, there are cases where a school has to cancel its adoption if you do not class or end up not meeting certain university requirements. If you do not receive admission to the school, you will be exempt from the agreement. Additional advice for potential student-athletes Focus on your academics Many potential student-athletes neglect the importance of academics in the recruitment process. Not only should you be eligible to compete, but you must still be admitted to school. College coaches often won't recruit students who, their opinion are not qualified academically for their schools, regardless of the athletic these students students if you are gaining athletically, you will get some preferences when your application is processed, but the school still has to determine if your academics are good enough to be accepted. Especially at the best academic colleges, your academics should be on a par with non-student athletes if you want to have a legitimate shot at admission. The number of preferences you receive during admission varies depending on the school, your sport and how much you gain. Especially for so-called minor sports (nothing but basketball and football in most schools) recruiting can only give you minimal momentum in the admissions process. Do everything early for recruited athletes, the timing of when you have to do things to prepare for college earlier than for other students. You should start studying for your ACT or SAT on your sophomore year. You had to reach your SAT or ACT target score by the end of your junior year. Remember that college coaches don't want to waste time recruiting you if they don't think you'll be allowed in. In addition, you should be able to show coaches that you have taken college preparatory classes, passed AP tests, and have good standardized test results before the start of your senior year. In addition, you should narrow down the college list by the end of your junior year so you know which coaches to contact. Don't wait until the second semester of your senior year to start sending emails. By then, it'll be too late. Colleges were likely to offer scholarships and filled out their open spaces by then. Get ready to complete your college statements early. Depending on your sport and recruitment status, you may have to fill out several college applications at the beginning of your senior year, a few months before many of your peers. Research the schools you are considering, whether you have started the recruitment process or not, you should explore the colleges you think you can attend. For each of these schools, learn about campus, specialty offered, athletics facilities, and any other information that you believe may be relevant to college decision making. In addition, most college websites will have information specifically for potential student-athletes. This information will provide specific rules regarding recruitment and there may be information on the recruitment process. Often you will be able to complete a recruitment questionnaire directly from the website. Make sure you qualify all NCAA athletes to be certified by the NCAA Law Center. You will need to send in a transcript and SAT/ACT scores. What's next? If you want to compete at the highest level of inter-university athletics, check out NCAA Division I. If you want to see research colleges, use the best Search websites. Also, I recommend you check out this post on how to get into your top college choice. Want to improve your SAT score by 160 points or your ACT score by 4 points? We have written a guide for each test about the 5 best strategies you should use to have a chance at improving your score. Download it for free now: now:

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