

TDS



COLLEGE SOCCER RECRUITING GUIDE

Insider information and recruiting secrets from college coaches, national team staff, and scouts.

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TopDrawerSoccer.com College Soccer Recruiting Guide

Introduction

Welcome to the brand new, updated version of the TopDrawerSoccer.com Recruiting Guide.

As part of your purchase of a TDS Subscription, the Recruiting Guide can serve as a useful source of information to complement your research and preparation for the recruiting process.

Given the ample amount of resources and opportunities to learn out there, TDS has made this a more succinct and streamlined document. Dig in below to get some tips and insight on the college soccer recruiting process, sourced from the TDS staff, plus college and club coaches around the country.

Most importantly, we are here to help. Please contact editor@topdrawersoccer.com for any specific questions about the recruiting process.

The Basics

Even without trying to find the right level and fit of a college soccer program, identifying the ideal college can be a tricky process.

Here is a tangible list on how to start the search process from scratch.

- **What are your goals?** Sit down and think about your soccer dreams and aspirations. Conjure up a few career paths or majors that might interest you. Picking a major early on in the process isn't a must, but ensuring that schools that you like have a major that suits your off-field ambitions is obviously crucial.
- **Start visiting schools when it feels right.** Even though the recruiting process is limited in terms of communication towards the end of a player's sophomore year, there's no harm in visiting schools when it's convenient. It doesn't need to be as part of a tour, but if a player starts to see various college campuses -- like when he or she is traveling for a tournament or national event -- it can at least paint a picture about what particular schools look like and start to help shape a college search.
- **Keep your options open at the start.** More on this below, but don't start with the focus on just one level of college soccer. Division I, II, III, NAIA and Junior College options should all be under consideration at the start.

- **Draw up a list.** Based upon your academic and athletic accomplishments to this point, start looking at specific schools. One way to sort them would be to use three categories: dream, safety and realistic. Make sure to consider all factors, from athletics to academics (more on that below).
 - Here's an example of a way to draw up a list. Sit down and write down 3-4 schools in three separate categories: Dream (within reason), Confident (feel like there would be interest from the staff and attainable financially/athletically), Realistic (Maybe lower division or financially based).
 - Take your list of schools and show them to coaches at your club. Seek honest feedback on your groups. If needed, make adjustments.
 - Reach out to the schools on your list. See what kind of interest and feedback the schools provide. Tailor and adjust to the list as necessary. Honesty is the best policy, as it will help bring clarity to your search.
 - Continually adjust your list, moving schools either up, down or off the list if feedback isn't promising. This can lead you to options in Division II, DIII, NAIA or elsewhere.

Digging further into those ideas, there are three critical elements for any prospective student athlete: academics, social and athletics. Prioritizing and placing an emphasis on those three aspects of your search can go a long way in helping you narrow down options.

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