



# College Softball Recruiting Tip Sheet

[www.motionfastpitch.org](http://www.motionfastpitch.org)

## How Do I Start The Process?

First, consider what type of school you want to go to (small, large, urban, rural, state etc.) and what you want to study. Use a tool like [College Board's Matchmaker \(www.collegeboard.com\)](http://www.collegeboard.com) to help. Remember, you are not only trying to find a school to play softball in, you are beginning studies for your future career. You are fortunate if your competitive softball career lasts five to ten more years, but your vocation will last a lifetime! Identifying colleges you are interested in is crucial part of the process. It will help you determine which coaches to contact.

Second, complete the Mississippi Motion College Recruiting Player Information Form and get started on your Personal Profile Webpage and skills video. Once you complete these two steps, you will know which coaches you need to contact and will be ready to show them what you are all about!

### STAY ON TOP OF YOUR GRADES!

Remember, you are attending college to receive an education. Good coaches will look to see if you are working as hard in the classroom as you are on the field.

### SHOULD I ATTEND COLLEGE CAMPS and CLINICS?

YES! College Camps and Clinics are a great way to be seen and to learn if you will like a certain team and its coaching philosophy. The camps will also help you to learn and develop as a player. Many colleges have both summer and winter camp/clinic opportunities. Check each college's website for info.

### NCAA Softball Scholarships

Division I	12 scholarships per college	272 Schools	<a href="#">See schools</a>
Division II	7.2 scholarships per college	273 Schools	<a href="#">See schools</a>
Division III	No scholarships	400+ Schools	<a href="#">See schools</a>

Visit [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) for more information  
 Note: Junior Colleges and [the NAIA](#) may also offer scholarships!

### Tournament Tips

#### Don't Approach a Coach at a Tournament -

NCAA coaches cannot speak to you until after July 1<sup>st</sup> of your junior year and even then, only after you've completed your tournament games. A coach could speak to your parent or guardian during the tournament, but that will count as one of the three face-to-face contacts between you and the coach.

#### Great Players have Great Attitudes -

During tournaments, coaches aren't waiting to see if you hit a home run or make a great catch. Usually, nothing spectacular happens in the few minutes they are there. They may not see you make a special play, BUT they will pay extra attention to your attitude and behavior on and off the field!



**Most college coaches will make effort to observe you only after you contact them.**

Ask a college coach to visit a showcase you are in and tell him or her when and where you are playing. Be sure to inform your Huskies coach that you invited a college coach to see you play!

## NCAA Timeline

### 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

At the beginning of your Freshman (9th grade) year, you become a prospective student athlete and NCAA rules regarding recruiting go into effect. You may visit an institution at your own expense as often as you wish and all contacts with a coach must be on the college campus. The athlete can call the coach, but the coach cannot call, email, instant message, text message or encourage contact of any kind prior to the athlete's junior year.

Identifying the colleges you want to attend is a crucial part of the process.

It will help you determine which coaches to contact.

### Junior Year - Sept 1st:

Coaches may send athletes recruiting letters, emails, instant messages, text messages and information about the athletic program. Coaches may not call prospects until after July 1 (Div I) or June 15 (Div II). Players may call or email coaches, but coaches cannot return these calls until these dates.

### July 1st after Junior Year:

In person, face-to-face contacts can begin - a Division I college is allowed three total off-campus contacts with a prospect during her senior year in high school. Coaches may only call prospects once each week, and these calls include conversations with any family members. Be sure to keep your NCAA Clearinghouse and Amateurism information updated.

### Senior Year - First Day Classes:

On-campus official visits may begin. You are limited to five official visits expense paid visits at five different institutions. A coach is allowed unlimited telephone calls during the five days before an official visit to a campus. Coaches are also allowed unlimited telephone calls during the day of a home visit.

National Letter of Intent Early Signing begins the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in Nov. of Senior year. Late Signing begins the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in April of Senior year.