



BVA Boys Soccer College Recruitment Guide

This document is intended to be a general guide for players and parents as they navigate the college recruiting process. Importantly, recruiting on the boys' side for college soccer is unique. It is different than recruiting for girls' college soccer and in other sports. Being aware of these unique aspects and differences and adopting a proactive approach to recruiting will yield better results.

Develop a List of Potential Schools

Develop an initial list of schools (10-15) in which you may be interested in attending.

Considerations to keep in mind:

- Majors offered (does the school offer a desired field(s) of study?)
- Admissions (is admission to the school in line with grades, test scores, etc.?)
- Geography (desired proximity to home?)
- Size (big school, small school, somewhere in between?)
- Setting (urban vs. rural)

Make and Keep in Contact with the Coaches

The key is to make college coaches aware that you are out there and interested in their respective schools. There are several good ways to do this:

- Send an introductory e-mail to the entire coaching staff. This should identify you (name, graduation year, position, high school, club, etc.), provide some background, demonstrate that you have researched the school and the program, and include contact information (including your e-mail and cell phone number).

- Fill out and submit recruiting questionnaires. Each school has a recruiting questionnaire on its website for each specific sport. This takes a bit of time but will provide all the relevant detail to the coaches and will put you on their mailing lists to receive invitations to camps, combines, and future events.
- Send e-mails periodically to update when you will be playing in upcoming showcases or tournaments if you play club. Provide details as to the flight, opponent, game time, and field location (with a GPS address). If you are only playing HS be sure to reach out to them in late summer with our fall schedule.
- Respond within a reasonable time if you receive a response. This demonstrates that you are interested and worthy of their time and effort. Ignoring and not responding to their emails are not good on your part. Keep all options open until you make a final decision.
- Do not be discouraged if you do not receive a response. Coaches are recruiting many kids over several classes. They may not respond, but they may nonetheless show up at a game to watch you play – even without you knowing. Sometimes they want to see a player play first before making a decision on whether to reach out directly to the player.

Attend Camps and Clinics

Coaches like to see players play in a controlled setting. These typically are in one of two ways:

- Multi-college ID camps/clinics (where a private company or one or a handful of colleges run the event)
- College-specific camps/clinics (usually unique to that college and on campus, though a few other colleges also may be in attendance)

These take place in the summer and over the winter, so check the websites of the schools in which you are interested for details. One of the best ways to get the attention of a college program is to e-mail them in advance and advise that you are attending their upcoming camp. This demonstrates that you are serious about that school and puts you on their radar as a player to watch. Many schools step up their recruitment of players after seeing them at these types of events.

The Do's and Don'ts of the Process

Do:

- Research the schools
- Be proactive, persistent, and follow-up
- Create highlight clips and forward them along to coaches periodically
- Be mindful that you are being judged in part of your social media presence, so review and edit as appropriate and be mindful of this with future postings including "likes".

Don't:

- Become discouraged if you don't see results immediately. All a student-athlete needs is the right fit with the right school.
- Ask about scholarship money or other aid until well into the process.
- Communicate with college coaches as if they were friends or peers. Treat and address them as you would for a job interview.
- Have the parent(s) act as the point of contact with the college coaches. Coaches want to get to know the player first and foremost, not the parents. Helicopter parenting when it comes to recruiting is not well received. Note that many college coaches go to great lengths to avoid parents at games, tournaments, events, because their focus is on the players. Accordingly, the players should be the ones doing the e-mailing, texting, etc.

Educate Yourself on the Process

As noted above, the college recruitment process for boys is different than virtually every other sport. College coaches want to see you perform in controlled settings, such as ID camps or clinics. Moreover, the timelines for recruiting are very different. Offers for boys' soccer typically go out and are accepted much later than in other sports. Below are several links to good resources that you should visit and read as to more fully understand the process:

<https://www.ncsasports.org/mens-soccer/how-to-get-recruited>

<https://www.soccerwire.com/news/new-ncaa-recruiting-rules-officially-go-into-effect/>

https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/schellas_hyndmans_dos_and_donts_of_college_recruiting/

<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>