RESEARCH

I. Where do you want to go to college?

A. Academics

1. 2 Year/ 4 Year
2. Majors/ Areas of Study
3. Class Sizes
4. Student to Faculty Ratio
5. Graduation Success Rate (GSR) – Soccer Team and Athletic Department Overall
6. Can you be successful there?

B. Location

1. In-state/Out-of-state
2. Big City(Urban) or College Town(Rural)
3. Ease of travel To/From Campus
    a. Nearest Airport
    b. Nearest Bus/Train
4. Weather

C. College Experience

1. Public/Private
2. Big/ Medium/ Small
3. Culture – Commuter vs. Community
    a. Dormitory Life vs. Off-Campus

1. Athletic dorms vs. Regular Dorms
2. Food Options – Dining Halls/Café
3. Roommate options
    b. Off-campus Living Options
4. Campus Safety
    a. Police/Fire Department on Campus?
    b. Crime – Theft/Rape Statistics
    c. Proximity to Hospital/Medical Help

d. Emergency Situation Protocol

D. Cost

1. Tuition

2. Room & board

3. Books

4. Other fees

E. Financial Aid

1. Need based Aid

a. University Grants

b. Federal/State Grants

2. Academics Merit Based Aid

a. University Scholarships

b. Outside Scholarships

3. Athletic Scholarships

4. Student Loans

COLLEGE PREPARATION INFORMATION

F. Soccer Team

1. Coaching Staff

a. Head Coach

b. Assistant Coaches

2. Support Staff

a. Director of Operations

b. Athletic Trainer/ Team Doctor

c. Strength and Conditioning/ Sports Performance

d. Nutritionist

e. Mental Coach/ Sports Psychologist

3. Technology

a. Video Analysis

b. Heart Rate Monitors

c. GPS Tracking

d. Recovery Systems

e. Body Composition

4. Athletic Facilities

a. Stadium/ Home Field

i. Capacity

ii. Typical Crowd

iii. On or Off Campus

b. Locker Room(s)

c. Practice Field(s)

d. Weight Room(s)/ Strength & Conditioning

e. Training Room/ Medical Facilities

5. Roster Size

6. Position breakdown

a. Graduating Class breakdown

b. How many players travel?

7. Competition

a. Conference Schedule

b. Non-Conference Schedule

8. Team Travel

a. Typical travel schedule

b. Transportation – Team Vans, Bus, Commercial Air, Charter Flights

c. Hotel and Meals

9. Time Commitment

a. In Season Typical Schedule

b. Out of Season Schedule

c. Vacation/ Away from campus expectations

10. Apparel

a. School/Team Sponsor (UA, Nike, Adidas, etc.)

b. What equipment does the athletic department provide? Shoes, shirts, shorts, sweats, sox sweaters, rain gear, balls, bag(s), clubs, pants, etc…

How will you finance college? (Family Discussion)

A. Do you need a scholarship to play in college?

B. Will you get financial aid?

C. Will you be able to earn an academic scholarship?

COLLEGE PREPARATION INFORMATION

D. Do your parents have a college fund for you?

E. Is the school worth graduating with some student loan debt? How much? Will you be able to pay it back upon graduation?

What do you want from your soccer experience? (Family Discussion)

A. Will you qualify for an athletic scholarship?

B. Are you walk-on caliber?

C. Are you willing to sit on the bench/ wait your turn?

D. Do you want to make an immediate impact?

E. What Division of Soccer? I, II, III, NAIA, JC

F. Style of Soccer? Coaches? Player interaction?

CONTACT

Understand the Basic Rules

A. You can contact coaches any time

B. Division I Coaches must wait until July 1 going into your Junior Year before they can contact you directly

C. Exceptions – Questionnaire & Camp Information

Ways to Contact College Coaches

A. Email

B. Handwritten Mail

C. Social Media

D. Video

E. Phone

F. Through your Coaches

Email Content

A. Personalized Introduction

B. Body – Explain why you are a good fit

C. Invite them to watch you play/ Provide Upcoming Schedule

D. Signature – Include the following information on every email you send:

1. Picture/Head Shot
2. Full Name
3. Graduation Year
4. Team Name – Age Group – Jersey #
5. Email Address
6. Phone #
7. Soccer Social Media Handles (Twitter, InstagraM)
8. Coach Name
9. Coach Email and Phone Number

E. Attach a Profile

Tips for Email

1. Have an appropriate email address
2. Personalize it. NO MASS EMAILS!
3. Peak our interest
4. Be Brief and to the point

Mail/ Hand Written Note

A. Same rules as email

B. Easier to Personalize

C. Harder to ignore/ Means more to the coaches

COLLEGE PREPARATION INFORMATION

D. Handwritten Note sets you apart from everyone else!

Social Media

A. Follow/Like – Teams, Coaches & Players

B. Coaches are allowed to Follow/Like you

1. Coaches want to research you

2. College Admissions are starting to check your social media accounts

C. Direct Messaging is the same as email/mail

D. Market Yourself – Be mindful of the image you portray

E. Email/Phone is still the best way to communicate

Video

A. Get it done professionally

B. Show actual highlights (Have your coach approve it)

C. Be brief but show the entire play

D. Show all aspects of your game (technical, tactical, physical, communication, etc...)

E. Make sure competition is comparable to your team and the level you desire to play.

Phone Calls

A. Be Prepared

1. Greeting/Introduce yourself (Full Name)

2. Express Interest

3. Invite coach to watch you play

B. Refer to an email you have sent

C. Stand up, Speak up, Talk Clearly

D. Let the coach take over the conversation

Contact via Club Coach

A. Club coaches are a great first contact

B. College coaches want club coaches point of view since they see you most often

C. College coaches want club coaches point of view since they see you most often

D. Club coaches can be more objective

E. Club coaches can get more information

F. Club/College coaches have an ongoing relationship

FOLLOW-UP

Contact > Feedback > Reassess > Follow Up > Repeat

As you continue in the process with different schools, reassess each

situation and move closer to your decision.

Other Questions for the coaches -

Academics

1. Does the team have required study halls?

2. Are there tutors available for student athletes?

3. What other types of student athlete support services are offered?

4. Will I be able to do study abroad?

5. What are some of the common majors of players?

COLLEGE PREPARATION INFORMATION

1. Will I be able to major in _____?

Scholarship

1. Single Year vs. Multi-Year Scholarship

2. Scholarship vs. Full Cost of Attendance

3. Will I lose my scholarship if I am injured and cannot participate in my sport?

4. How many student athletes are being recruited for this scholarship?

5. What GPA is required to keep the scholarship?

MISCELLANEOUS

1. In how many fundraisers do we have to participate as a team?

2. What medical services are provided to student-athletes in case of injury?

3. What is the season/off-season practice schedule?

4. Are there unofficial/captain practices?

5. Do freshman typically play?

6. What are your redshirt policies? Will scholarship cover a fifth year?

7. Do you have official tryouts for the team?

8. What is your walk-on policy?

Final Assessment Questions

9. Do you see me as a fit for your program/university?

10. What happens next