

BLITZ UNITED

SOCCER CLUB

COLLEGE SOCCER RECRUITMENT

AND

COLLEGE SOCCER ELIGIBILITY

Blitz United Soccer Club was established in 1993 for the specific purpose of building a youth soccer program, whose goals are to achieve a development program in which youth soccer players can train and compete at various levels of competition. Also, have the opportunity to consistently progress and achieve state, regional, national, and collegiate soccer accomplishments.

Soccer Parents Myth vs. Soccer Parents Reality

“The majority of students and parents believe talented high school athletes are actively recruited and offered “full-ride” sports scholarships by Division I college coaches. The reality is that only 2% of these athletes are” actively recruited” by leading colleges, leaving the remaining 98% to “recruit themselves” through self-directed efforts.” --The Sport Source

The Official Guides to Sports Colleges and Sports Scholarships
www.thesportsource.com

Myth 1 – *“Every player is getting a scholarship.”* Fact – Less than 5% of all soccer players get an athletic scholarship.

Myth 2 – *“They are 4 years in length.”* Fact – They are 1 year contracts, renewable annually.

Myth 3 – *“They cannot be taken away or reduced.”* Fact – They can be reduced or revoked for a variety of reasons, including performance.

On the positive side, they are also routinely increased.

www.blitzunited.org

Most of you will elect to attend a College or University and many will play soccer at that particular institution. This program is designed to help you decide what and where the best fit is for you, and try to ensure that you have all of the information possible when you make your college choices. Below is a series of information selected from different sources. Each player should now begin to look at this information and start the process of deciding his or her college future.

Selecting a College/University:

1) First Consideration **Must** be Academic

A. Fields of study

- Identify your general and specific interests

B. College Size

- Do you want a broad range of activities or smaller campus with smaller classes?

C. Location

- Close to home-Rural/Urban
- Climate

D. College Environment

- Does the school have a particular religious affiliation?
- Coed or single-sex institution
- Private or State University
- Are sororities and fraternities important?

2) Consider the Athletic Program

A. Identify your skills

- What are your strengths?
- Is your style of play compatible with the program you are interested in?
- What is your potential to contribute to the program?

B. Identify potential colleges

- Can you be competitive at the college's level of play?
- Chance of making the team
- Potential playing time/Red-Shirt
- Competence and personality of coach

3) Contact Schools

A. Phone call/E-mail

B. Cover Letter & Resume

C. Campus Visits

4) Know the recruiting rules

A. NCAA Example:

- A college coach may not have off-campus contact with a recruit until July 1st after his/her Junior Year in High School.
- A recruit may not practice with a Division I team on a campus visit
- NCAA – www.ncaa.org
- NCAA Clearinghouse – www.ncaaclearinghouse.net
- NAIA – www.naia.org
- NJCAA – www.njcaa.org
- NCCAA – www.thenccaa.org

What does it take to play in college?

A player needs certain technical, tactical, physical, and psychological qualities. I would say the most important of all these qualities is your psychological strength, because the quality that separates winners is the ability to constantly reach down to find something deep inside them to make the commitment other people are not willing to make.

Psychological Component

This is the capacity to be able to deal with all kinds of adversity. In great duels, there are defining moments. When you are competing, you measure your capacity to take physical risks, your capacity to push through pain threshold, and your capacity to not back down psychologically from someone.

Physical Component

A lot of this is inherited – your quickness, speed, agility, and strength, but some of it can be developed. You can improve your quickness, endurance, and to a certain extent, you can develop speed. The person who fills the physical dimension is the one who has an intelligent and consistent work ethic to improve all physical qualities. Most people don't have the understanding that all these things work against each other.

Technical Component

Speed of play is the critical element in a player's technical and eventually, tactical development. Speed of play is your ability to do things quickly with seamless effort. As you go from one level to the next technically, you are required to be able to do things so much faster under pressure, and do things without time and space more efficiently. That's the ascension of your tactical growth.

Tactical Component

The tactical requirement actually has two parts. Your tactical requirements are having the awareness as to what is going on in the game by seeing it, then having the decision-making process to sort out what's best.

Forwards-Finishing, back to goal, creating your own chances, moving w/o the ball

Center-Mid.-Vision, speed of play, passing, defending

Outside-Mid.-Speed, 1v1 ability, crossing

Centerbacks-1v1 defending, strong ground/air, fast, good passer, heading

Outside backs-1v1 defending, speed, service of the long ball, ability to get forward

Goalkeeper-Decision maker, communicator, good with feet, shot stopper

Possess and have an excellent work rate. As well as, the ability to make decisions quickly and play with fewer touches. Must excel in at least two of the following: speed, touch, size, strength, endurance, and ability to read and understand the game.

What do College Coaches look for?

- National ODP Team or Pool Players
- Regional ODP Team or pool Players
- State ODP Team or Pool Players
- State Champion and State Finalist Teams
- Club Team Tournament Record, League Record
- Club Reputation, Club Coach's Credentials
- Camp Participation on Campus of School
- All-State, All-District, All-Conference in High School
- High School Coach and Team Credentials

Where do College Coaches Recruit?

- High Profile National Showcase Events
- Regional Showcase Events
- Premier League and Top Flight League Matches
- Phone – Network or references from reputable coaches
- High School Matches-Rarely

Methods of Exposure

- Participate in College Showcase Events
- Go to the Summer Camp at that College
Somewhat expensive, but very productive and useful, summer camps provide you with an “an insider's view” of the prospective coaches, facilities, and campus.
- Send Player Resume and Cover Letter
- Send Coach an Email
- Have Club Coach contact or send a letter
- Send video footage of a game
- Most important is to invite the coach to any and all games
- Get a feel for who is committing to different colleges by looking at an independent web site.
ESPN Rise Recruits and TopDrawerSoccer.com

What it's like to play College Soccer

It is all about time management. Being away from home/parents for the first time.

- Train/Play 5-6 days per week. Practice, games, weights, travel, training room
- Academic workload. Study Hall, papers, exams, group projects
- 18 Games in 12 weeks
- Every game is important
- It is more result oriented; coaches' jobs are on the line. Winning/Losing
- Not much rest or time for injuries
- You will get closer to your teammates than any other team you have played on
- You have greater responsibility and accountability on and off the field
- Intense training, strength training, and speed development

Good questions to ask about your potential college or university

When you meet the coach (or even potential teammates), they'll at some point ask you if you have any questions. Make sure you ask some. In addition to those you come up with, here are some good ones you might not have thought of.

- How many hours a day does the soccer team train? What seasons?
- May I choose my major and attend classes required in my major even if practice conflicts?
- What percentage of scholarship athletes graduate in four years? Five years?
- Is free tutoring available? How do I arrange for this service?
- Do I like and admire this coach? What do the players say about him/her? Is he/she returning?
- Does this college environment (size of town, living arrangements, and students) appeal to me?
- Can I afford the personal costs of attending here (travel back and forth, etc., fees, tuition, room and board)?
- If they offer a partial or full scholarship, how can it be terminated?
- What is the varsity team composition – year in school, transfers, redshirts?
- What is the attitude on campus toward athletes? Professors' attitude?
- Will I live in a regular or an athletic dorm? How many in a room?
- How many classes will I miss due to athletic commitments, travel, etc.? Can I make up tests before or after an absence?
- What accident/health insurance does the school offer athletes? What is the procedure for injuries?
- What is the academic expectation to keep the scholarship or eligibility?
- Are my scores and high school academic record adequate to project success at this college?
- How many hours a day do most students study at this college?

College Planning Checklist:

Junior Year

- 1) Meeting with Guidance Counselor
- 2) Schedule SAT or ACT
- 3) Develop college contact list
- 4) Write to college coaches
- 5) Relay schedule to college coaches
- 6) Visit college fairs
- 7) Visit colleges & arrange for interview and tours
- 8) Keep up with school work and on-field work
- 9) Register with NCAA National Clearinghouse
- 10) FAFSA-Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Senior Year

- 1) Keep in touch with college coaches
- 2) Retake SAT or ACT if necessary
- 3) Complete applications
- 4) Get letters of recommendation
- 5) Narrow college wish list
- 6) Final campus visits before decision

Collegiate Athletic Eligibility Requirements

- 1) Minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
- 2) Credit in at least 14 core academic courses, including:
 - 4 years of English (3 years for D II)
 - 2 years of Math
 - 2 years of Social Science
 - 2 years of Science (1 lab science minimum)
 - 1 additional year of English, Math, or Science
 - 3 additional years any of above or a foreign language
- 3) NCAA Division I & II
 - A. Earn a summary of at least 37 on the ACT or a combined score of 400 in the Math and Verbal Sections of the SAT***
- 4) NCAA Division III
 - A. Based on eligibility requirements set by the member institution and the college's participating athletic conference. **NO ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS** are granted at the NCAA DIII Level.

NCAA Clearinghouse: You must be cleared by the Clearinghouse in order to be eligible. Eligibility is set by the NCAA and checked by the Clearinghouse. GPA, SAT, and/or ACT are also part of your eligibility.

- 5) NAIA
 - NAIA Clearing house
 - A. Based on any two of the three requirements outlined below
 - Minimum GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
 - Combined score for the SAT of 860 or ACT of 18
 - Rank in the top 50% of high school graduating class

**Start the process early, do your research, and don't be afraid to ask questions.
Good Luck**

**It's the absolute best time of your life!
Be proactive throughout the process
Strive for the highest level
Take advantage of the opportunity given to you**

