



# San Luis Obispo Soccer Club

## COLLEGE INFORMATION GUIDE FOR THE PLAYER

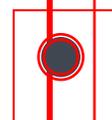
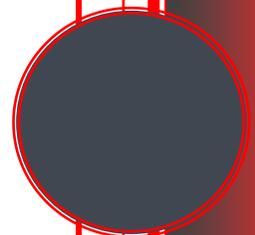
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This document is designed to help familiarize you with the college recruiting process. While it contains a lot of helpful information, you still have a lot of research and work to do on your own. It is important that you choose the school that is appropriate for you, not only athletically, but also academically and socially. It won't be of much use to choose a school based solely on its soccer program and ability to provide scholarships, if they don't offer the major you intend to study. You want to attend a school where you would be completely happy and fulfilled, should you decide not to play soccer or you are no longer able to play soccer. If you don't yet know which area of focus you wish to study, spending some time together on that topic will prove to be very helpful.

Go online to find all current and up to date information:

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

- Division I Toolkit
- Eligibility Center
- NCAA Public Page
- NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student Athlete



# CONTACT WITH COLLEGE COACHES:

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- 1) College coaches like to hear directly from you and not your parents. Begin by emailing and express your interest in a brief letter. Share your club soccer competition schedule and inquire about ID camps and on campus unofficial visits.
- 2) NCAA regulations do not allow college coaches to send out any information about their programs until September 1<sup>st</sup> of your junior year. If you mail or email something prior, they can only send you a questionnaire and a soccer camp brochure in return.
- 3) You may call college coaches as much as you like, but they cannot respond by phone until July 1<sup>st</sup>, following your junior year. One call per week is allowed. If you call a coach, and he or she picks up, they may speak with you.
- 4) NCAA regulations do not provide college coaches any off-campus contact with you during your sophomore and junior years. When college coaches see athletes or their parents at soccer tournaments and high school games, they are only allowed a "formal greeting".
- 5) College coaches are allowed to speak with you about soccer programming, opportunities at their school and academic standards, during on campus visits and ID camps.
- 6) You are allowed to play on a club team, for a college coach, only if you live within fifty miles of the coach's home campus. Because you play directly for that college coach, as with myself and all of you the coach is allowed to share information with you from the club standpoint.

Research online the colleges that are going to be represented at the tournament(s). If you are considering a school, visit their soccer program webpage and find contact information for the coaches. If a school or coach is not listed as attending, contact them to let them know your level of interest and ask them to come see you play.

Reach out to college coaches 1-2 weeks prior to the tournament when possible. Create a personalized email to send to coaches. Do not send mass emails or copy multiple programs in the same email. Do not have your parents send emails, or contact coaches.

One week prior to the tournament, email the coach with your games times and fields and confirm you jersey number and position and that you will in fact be playing. *For those of you attending the Santa Clara Showcase, the schedule is out ... send it now to any schools you may be interested in.*

Remember that the best way to start the recruiting process is to simply initiate contact. Tell the coach "I am interested in your program. Please evaluate me". Remember college coaches have a limited amount of time to spend evaluating talent. Be as transparent possible, and make a coach's life easier. Coaches will be more likely to watch you play if they know you are seriously interested in their program.

# HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC PREPARATION

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Keep your grade point average (GPA) as high as possible beginning with your freshman year. Good grades are very important. It is important to know that college scholarships awarded for being a good soccer player, are very few in number.

Your grades and test scores can make the difference in being selected for a scholarship, and obviously for admittance in general. Maintain excellent grades throughout high school and show admissions officers and potential coaches that you are able to handle the academic demands of college life.

Continue your emphasis on receiving the best grades possible. If you are pursuing a top level academic school, take honors and AP courses when manageable. Meet with your counselor to make sure you are on track to take the 14-16 core courses. Admission officers generally agree that receiving a 'B' in a tough course is often more significant than an 'A' in a frivolous one. Take the PSAT and Practice ACT tests, as they are offered to insure that you are prepared for the actual tests in future years.

Be sure that you begin to take courses that will ultimately fulfill the requirements of the NCAA. Speak with your counselor about classes meeting the NCAA requirements. Visit the NCAA website to learn which courses are required for Division I, Division II and Division III schools. In addition, consider NAIA schools, and start to design your course work accordingly. Begin a personal resumé of community service activities, achievements, awards and academic results.

## Tips:

- *Realistically consider your level of talent and the school that you might like to attend.*
- *Be honest in your personal assessment.*
- *Research colleges to determine which schools fit your academic and athletic abilities.*
- *Visit various campuses and request literature from each.*

# CLUB SOCCER PREPARATION

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Complete a soccer profile / resumé and introduction letter. Keep it simple and to the point. Start sending emails or letters to the coaches of schools that interest you, anywhere from ten to fifteen. The more contacts you create, the more options you will have. You are getting the message across that you are interested and that they should make a strong effort to find out more about you. Make sure to follow up with a phone call to reinforce your interest after you send the coach a soccer profile / resumé.

## Tips:

- *Be visible to college coaches*
  - *attend College Showcases and*
  - *attend soccer ID camps of schools you are interested in*
- *Invite coaches to attend and watch you play during tournaments*

# VISITING SCHOOLS

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Continue the emphasis on your GPA and take the SAT, ACT and AP tests offered throughout the year. Be prepared to take the SAT twice (or more if needed). Remember that your GPA and test scores are the foundation for your ultimate success. Maintain your highest academic standards. Understand the academic requirements of the schools that you're interested in. Determine where your soccer and academic abilities stand, and approach the schools that are consistent with your level of achievement.

Be sure to check out the top thirty Div I, II, III and NAIA schools previous seasons at [www.nscAA.com](http://www.nscAA.com).

## Unofficial Visits:

Take "unofficial" visits (no limit on unofficial visits) to the schools of your choice. Talk to students, admissions offices, academic advisors and soccer coaches. Take campus tours and begin to narrow your list of schools. Observe a team training session, if possible, while on campus.

Begin to gather applications to your schools of choice at the beginning of the summer. You may begin receiving recruiting materials on September 1st of your junior year.

As you go through the process of researching schools, continue corresponding through emails or letters of introduction (include soccer profile/resume to the coaches of the schools that interest you) ... begin to narrow your college choices to 4 or 5.

## Official Visits:

Coaches are allowed to visit the home of a recruit on or after July 1<sup>st</sup> following your junior year. This will count as one (1) of three (3) contacts allowable by coaches. On-campus visits do not count toward this total.

***Please Note: You will have to send transcripts, test scores and your NCAA Clearinghouse eligibility number to the schools of your choice, before you can officially visit a school.***

You can make up to 5 official visits where the school hosts you (and can pay) to come visit (for a maximum 48 hours). You will tour the campus, meet the team, see a game, and stay overnight. This is a good opportunity to get to know the school and coach, and the team's style of play. If a school is offering you an official visit, they are seriously interested in you and may look to seal the deal. Most colleges will usually only set up official visits with players that have verbally committed, or for those players we are trying to get committed.

The official signing date for National Letter of Intent (NLI) is in February. All commitments up until then are considered "verbal commitments".

# QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE VISITING OR ATTENDING AN ID CAMP

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## The College

- Does the college offer the area of study you wish to pursue?
- What are the average test scores and GPA's for acceptance into my major?
- Does the college prefer SAT or ACT scores?
- Are the athletes given preference in scheduling?
- What is the expected enrollment of undergraduates and graduates?
- What are the standard class sizes?
- What are the student housing options?
- What transportation is available?
- What is campus-life like?
- Is tutoring offered to student-athletes?

## The Soccer Program

- What is the coach looking for in a player?
- What are the coach's goals for the team?
- What is their style of play?
- How many players will be on the roster and how many will travel with the team?
- What does the pre-season entail?
- What does the regular season entail (i.e., practice days and times, games, etc)?
- What happens during the off-season (i.e., winter)? Is there a break?
- What is the spring season like?
- Which positions is the coach looking for and how many current players are already playing that position?
- Is there a weight-training program? How much does the coach value that?
- Does the team offer walk-on tryouts?

## Things You Should Know About the Soccer Coach and Team

- Which division and conference does the team compete?
- What are the team's previous results for the last two seasons?
- Did the team qualify for the NCAA Tournament in the previous season?

**Good luck and please let me know  
if I can assist in any way!**

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