

EVALUATING THE COLLEGE PROCESS

Our program is committed to assisting student-athletes with college planning. The information provided here should be considered one step in the process of choosing the right college. Evaluating student-athletes is a critical part of the recruiting process for college coaches today, and it is important to know that coaches focus their efforts on the students they believe possess the academic and athletic skills necessary to succeed at their schools.

FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

Students who are seriously interested in collegiate athletics should complete an online college recruitment questionnaire at the end of his or her sophomore year. In this way, our coaches and counselors can direct our athletes to colleges that fit his or her level of play.

Our coaches and counselors will work together to contact colleges and provide appropriate information on behalf of student athletes. We can also identify the recruiting tools that best benefit individual student-athletes, such as videos, personal verbal and written recommendations by administrators or coaches. Since 2009 our program has helped place nearly 100 athletes compete at the collegiate level.

If you are a high school athlete who wants to play college-level sports, keep two priorities in order, they are:

- **College First**
- **Sports Second**

This is especially true when talking with recruiters in order to avoid situations that might leave you without a degree or even a team to play on. Start by learning all you can about the rules governing recruitment before contacting college coaches or players. Depending on which level of competition you're considering, your relationship with a recruiter must abide by the rules set forth by the NCAA, NAIA, or NJCAA. Violating any of the regulations might result a barring from competition. Refer to the NCAA, NAIA, or NJCAA website for a list of rules each athlete should understand.

Your counselor will discuss the following with you at your initial meeting:

- Campus visits
- Phone calls
- Evaluation periods
- Dead periods
- Letter of intent
- Early commitment/Regular commitment

Self-disclosure and self-reflection are necessary steps both during the recruitment process and after. Asking yourself questions and searching for the answer often helps to identify the school that will fit you right. Such as:

- If I could not play for some reason at this college, could I be happy here academically and socially?
- Could I be happy at this college or accept playing without a scholarship?
- Could I be happy here in a reduced playing role?
- Would I be happy at this college if the present coach were to leave before I graduated?

In a meeting with a coach or assistant coach, asking questions is appropriate. In fact, it is appreciated very much by the coach as well. In a home visit by a coach, plan on an hour and a half to two hours. During that time the following questions could be asked:

- Identify the role of the recruiter. Is he/she the head coach?
- Keep your education foremost in mind by asking about academic programs that interest you. A good recruiter is as informed about college programs as an admissions officer.
- Ask specific questions about majors and courses in your field.
- Know what level of competition this school competes in. Athletic scholarships available?
- Ask for details about the scholarships. Are they for one year only? Are they renewable?
- Is this a full or partial scholarship?
- How long is the scholarship good for? Four years? Five years? Summer school? (An institution can commit to a fifth year but is not bound to do so).
- Is tutoring/counseling available? Other services for the student-athletes?