

# **AFA KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER STEP BY STEP CALENDAR PLAN BY SCHOOL YEAR**

## **FRESHMAN YEAR**

Begin initial search of schools through research

Establish a large list of appropriate schools (approximately 15-20 schools matching soccer ability, academic profile, geographic location, size of school and cost)

Visit colleges of interest during school breaks (i.e., Spring Break, Summer Vacation), but highly encourage the visit to be while college is in session.

Attend any college camps of interest to get a feel for the campus and coaching staff

Attend a college game locally to get a feel for the level of competition at various levels of play

## **SOPHOMORE YEAR**

### **Create a formal cover letter**

- Introduce self with an explanation of who you are, where you are training and at what events you can be seen (include position and number)
- Let the coach know how you can be an asset to his team
- Be sure to personalize each letter to the specific college and coach (don't just cut & paste). Visit the team website and become familiar with the team's roster, results, and playing league. Do your homework!

### **Create a formal resume**

- Include only recent information (i.e., 9th-12th grades)
- Start off with all your personal information (i.e., name, club address, home address, all phone numbers (your cell, coaches' cell), email addresses (player & coach), height, weight, date of birth, year of graduation)
- Have a section for your academic profile. Provide high school name, address, telephone number, graduation date, GPA, class rank, and list any academic honors and awards to date.

- Include a section for your soccer profile with Club information. Be sure to add position played, any personal statistics and honors, and team accomplishments
- Include references with phone numbers (i.e., current/previous club coaches)
- Adapt your college list through visitations and further research (should have between 15-20 on your list)
- Spring & Summer Break is an optimal time to attend camps and visit schools of interest (although visiting while school is in session is huge!)
- Attend a spring game locally to get a feel for the level of competition, team style of play, coaching personality

## **JUNIOR YEAR**

Sign up for PSAT/PACT/SAT/ACT

Keep improving as a soccer player! Improve your dedication and commitment! Discuss your goals and ambitions with your club, coach, and DOC

Recreate a new updated cover letter to send to prospective NEW colleges you add to your list (See instructions during sophomore year as to what to include in the letter)

Update your formal resume

- See instructions during sophomore year as to what to include in the letter

Adapt your college list through visitations and further research (list should be between 10-15). Be realistic as to the level of program you are trying to get into-there is a place in college soccer for most players if they are realistic and open up the boundaries they set as far as geographically and the level of play.

***Market yourself repeatedly*** through emails, mailings, and phone calls.

- Coaches CANNOT return your phone call. They can pick up their cell phone when you call them so ask them for it in an email and arrange a time to call via email.

Summer Break is an optimal time to attend camps and visit schools of interest

You can begin to receive calls from college coaches after July 1 between your junior to senior summer

Create video if schools on your list are too far away to see you in person (link to YouTube video)-no more than 3-4 minutes in length.

Sign up for NCAA Eligibility Center ([www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org))

Teammates may begin to receive scholarship offers during your junior year. Be patient- don't panic- stay true to your plan and execute!

### **SENIOR YEAR - (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER)**

Update resume and cover letter for potential new schools of interest

Focus on training for optimal performance at competitions

***Keep in constant contact*** with all colleges through email, phone (remember they can now return your calls) and mailings (i.e., tournament schedules, changes in biographical information, etc.) If sending information, follow **up with a phone call to confirm receipt, to discuss their current collegiate season, and to ask any questions regarding the school and/or soccer program**

Take SAT a 2nd time to improve score

Set up official or unofficial visits to your top choice schools while missing as little club events as possible. Approve your trip through the club coach.

Narrow your college list through correspondence with the coaches and/or visitation of campuses (should be 5-7 schools)

### **SENIOR YEAR - (NOVEMBER/DECEMBER)**

Send updated materials along with tournament schedules to any schools of interest via email, fax, and/or mail

Follow up with phone calls to confirm receipt of current information and discuss the possibility of playing for them next season

Focus on training for optimal performance at competitions

Set up more official and unofficial visits to your top choice schools while missing as little club events as possible. Approve your trip through the club coach/staff

### **SENIOR YEAR - (JANUARY)**

Stay in **continual** contact with college coaches via written or verbal communications

Set up final official or unofficial visits to your top choice schools while missing as little club events as possible. Approve your trip through the club coach/staff.

### **SENIOR YEAR - (FEBRUARY)**

National Letter of Intent (NLI) can be signed for scholarship athletes

### **SENIOR YEAR - (MARCH/APRIL)**

Finalize college decision