



Are you an athlete who wants to be recruited?

Here are some suggested tips to put you in the best position possible.

UNDERSTAND:

1. You are competing against the best players on the best teams across the country (and outside of the USA), so you must be realistic about the possibilities of getting a scholarship.
2. There is a place for all athletes to continue their careers at the college level, but that may require flexibility on your part in terms of location, cost, and level of competition.
3. Many “scholarships” are not actually “full-rides”. This means that a school might offer to pay for books and partial tuition, not for the entire cost of an education at their institution.
4. Your relationships with your coaches and teachers are critical to your chances of getting a scholarship as recruiters will ask them what kind of *person* you are.
5. You are responsible for your performance in the competitive arena and in the classroom. It is your responsibility to excel in each area and draw the attention of recruiters. It is not your coach’s responsibility to “get you recruited”.
6. From a recruiter’s perspective, the best individual athletes are those who make their teams better, so it is important that you prioritize team success before individual success.

MAKE SURE:

1. Ensure that you are passing all of your core classes (math, science, english, and social studies), and that you have a high GPA. This cannot be overstated, as many athletes who are athletically-gifted cannot get admitted to the schools of their choice, thereby eliminating themselves from scholarship opportunities.
2. Narrow your list of schools, AND know each school’s admissions requirements. For example, some schools require two years of a world language while others require three or more.

3. Sign up to take the SAT and/or ACT tests by the end of your junior year. It is a good idea to take both tests, as one test or the other will match each student's individual strengths. Traditionally, the SAT is more reasoning-oriented, and the ACT is more content-oriented. You can take these tests more than once, and colleges will accept your highest scores. (SAT: www.collegeboard.com; ACT: www.act.org)
4. Fill out a Common Application online before the end of your junior year. This is an online application system that allows you to fill out one application for admission to over 400 colleges and universities across the country. Not all schools subscribe to The Common Application, but many do. (www.commonapp.org)
5. Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse before the end of your junior year. This arm of the National Collegiate Athletic Association ensures that all athletes meet academic requirements to play interscholastic sports at the college level. (www.eligibilitycenter.org)
6. Fill out a FAFSA form online – even if you don't think you will need financial assistance to pay for college – in January of your senior year. It is always a good idea to find out what kind of federal aid you qualify for. (www.fafsa.com)
7. Know the rules. Purchase the entire NCAA College-Bound Student-Athlete Guide online (www.ncaapublications.com), or download a PDF copy on the KHS Athletics website.

COMMUNICATE:

1. Inform your parents, your head coach, and your athletic director of your desires to be recruited. Ask your coach for his/her honest feedback on your scholarship possibilities.
2. Inform your counselor of your desires to compete at the next level. He/she will help ensure that you are meeting all academic requirements.
3. Create a highlight video from competition footage (your coach can assist you with this), and ask your coach to send copies of the video to the schools of your choice. If you are playing a team sport, include a couple of full-game videos as well, and make sure they show your play in competitive game situations – not blowouts.
4. Attend as many individual and team camps put on by colleges and universities as you can afford. This will give you the opportunity to size up the competition and expose you to college coaches who are networked with other coaches across the country.
5. Continue to play multiple-sports as long as your sport-specific skills are not lacking in the sport which you want to play at the collegiate level. Recruiters will tell you that they will take the multiple-sport athlete over the specialized athlete, all other characteristics being equal. This is because the multiple-sport athlete has more room for improvement than the specialized athlete.
6. Keep your coach apprised of all conversations, mailings, and offers made by colleges and recruiters.