

SWIMMING IN COLLEGE

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW



IMPORTANT RECRUITING DATES (DI AND DII)

- No contact Prior to June 15th after sophomore year
- Only exception are camp information and text or email with Questionnaire link
- June 15th after sophomore year
 - Unlimited communication to and from coaching staff can begin
 - Verbal offer of athletic scholarship can be offered (DI)
- Aug 1st in-person contact can begin and written offers of athletic aid can be made.
- Nov 9th NLI signing can begin and can continue until Aug 1st of following year

IMPORTANT RECRUITING DATES (DIII)

- Coaches can call and contact at any time
- Off Campus contacts allowed AFTER Sophomore Year in HS
 - No Official visits at this point
- Official Visits can only occur AFTER Jan 1st of your Junior year in HS
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:**
 - These rules only apply to swimming. Each sport in DIII have their own recruiting calendars.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- DI Athletic Aid
 - Men: 9.90 / Women: 14 (this is the max allowed and not all schools are “fully funded”)
 - This aid can be combine with most academic aids (you will want to check with each school)
- DII Athletic Aid
 - Men: 8 / Women: 8 (this is the max allowed and not all schools are “fully funded”)
 - This aid can be combine with most academic aids (you will want to check with each school)
- DIII Athletic Aid
 - **No Aid can we awarded for Athletics**
 - Most schools have merit aid, academic aid, and various grants
 - Every school may be different

SCHOLARSHIPS CONTINUED

- Don't count or rely purely on athletic aid to pay for school
 - Average DI offer / aid was 8-10K per year
- Know if your offer is Single year or Multi- year scholarships
- Increase or decrease in aid
 - Schools **cannot** decrease athletic aid due to injury or poor performance
 - Schools can decrease athletic aid if an athlete violates team policy, renders themselves academically ineligible or is suspended from the school.
- Recruiting and college athletics is a business. Coaches have to make decisions and offers on tight timelines in order to remain competitive.

OTHER AID OPTIONS

- DO YOUR HOMEWORK!
 - Every university has a financial aid website that will list out every available grant, scholarship merit or award the university offers.
 - APPLY TO AS MANY AS POSSIBLE
 - They are almost always first come, first serve.

WHEN TO START:

- Freshman:
 - Start the conversations, and encourage your athletes to think about what they want to study.
 - Keep academics as a priority, and build a list of other key items
- Sophomore:
 - Start looking at what schools have majors of interest and fit your priority list
 - Decide on what type of educational environment is best
 - Consider doing some college visits on own
- Juniors:
 - Submitting test scores and transcripts to NCAA
 - Take Unofficial and Official visits
 - Choose the college or university that is best for you!

CREATE A PRIORITY LIST

- List out priorities for both you and your athlete.
- Rank them in order of most important to least
 - EXAMPLE:
 - Major ranking
 - Location to Family
 - Large vs small school
 - Resources
 - Scholarship amount

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN TALKING WITH SCHOOLS

- What are their roster / event needs
- What are the travel squad sizes (Varies from conference to conference and school to school)
- Staff stability
- Scholarship
- Facilities, resources, history, and time progressions
- Athlete retention rates
- Graduation and Placement Rates

COMMUNICATING WITH COACHES: WHAT TO DO AND NOT TO DO

TO DO:

- Try to schedule them a week out
- Stick to your time, or ask for a different time in a timely manner
- Take notes
- Have a set of questions to ask for each call (2-3)
- Try to have real conversations not just question and answers
- When you know the school is not a fit, tell them thank you and move on.

NOT TO DO:

- Miss calls or call times
 - Coaches time is very valuable. If they are using it to call you, you are important to them!
- Continue talking to a school you have no interest in
 - Don't lead them on. Cut them loose
- Give one word answers
 - Keep the conversation fluid and don't be afraid to ask fun questions

WHAT COACHES LOOK FOR

- Time progressions
- Academics
- Leadership in and out of pool
- Attitude
- How they interact with their teammates
- How they respond to good and bad races and practices
- Ownership in their own swimming
- Size, build and feel for the water

WHAT IF THE SCHOOL I WANT DOESN'T REACH OUT?

- Don't be afraid to make the first contact!
 - There are no restrictions on you contacting the coaches
 - Coaches tend to gravitate towards athletes who WANT to be at their school
- Email them!
 - Name, events and times, progressions, GPA, Major, and most importantly... WHY YOU WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL THERE!
- Have your coach reach out on your behalf!
- Remember they can only respond back AFTER June 15th after your Sophomore season

COLLEGE VISITS

- Unofficial Visits:
 - Self funded visit to a campus
 - Can be structured or unstructured
 - Advise- don't just drop in...coaches like a little heads up, and they have rules about when they can and can't talk with prospects.
- Official Visit:
 - 5 paid visits
 - Transportation, meals, lodging, for student and parents / guardian.
 - 1 trip per school- even if a multi sport athlete
 - School arranges visit. – 48hr max

PRE-VISIT REQUIREMENTS

1. Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center – this is REQUIRED for DI and DII
 1. [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)
2. Submit your transcripts and test scores* to the coach or contact.
 1. Submit to NCAA using code 9999
 2. Each School will have their own code as well
3. Ask Questions to ask and Information to share:
 1. When should I arrive (if driving)
 2. What airport you will be using
 3. Will I stay in a hotel or dorms
 4. Include any food allergies or dietary restrictions you may have

RECRUITING SERVICES

- [SWIMCLOUD.COM](https://swimcloud.com) – Free Recruiting Database.
 - Automatic uploads times from USA Swimming
 - Input your contact
 - All College coaches register with them to get access
 - This is college coaches #1 means of access to recruits.
- Other Services
 - Not usually the best idea for swimming
 - Costly, and most coaches don't pay to receive their services

IMPORTANT RESOURCES FOR YOU

- [NCAA eligibility center](#)
- [NLI](#)
- [SWIM CLOUD](#)
- [NCAA RECRUITING GUIDE](#)
- [NCAA Recruiting Calendar](#)
- [NCAA Recruiting Fact Sheet](#)

QUESTIONS

- Please direct all questions to TONY YOUNG