



## Recruiting Guidelines for Men's College Baseball

### Division I Baseball

The typical Division I baseball player is 'polished' and already has all the tools necessary to be successful as a freshman. As opposed to the Division II baseball player, the typical DI player needs far less development, if any. The position players possess at least 4 of the 5 measurable tools – hit for average, hit for power, arm strength, speed, and defensive abilities. The pitchers display a command of at least 3 pitches with high velocities. On average, they have the ability to throw many innings, and most often they are only used on the mound and rarely as position players. Most D1 players come from large high schools. Many of these programs are considered the best in their area or in the state. In addition, most DI players have been awarded accolades such as All-Area, All-County, or All-State.

The average characteristics by position are as follows

#### Pitchers:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>K's/Inning ERA</u>	<u>Velocity</u>
Right	6'1"	180>1	2.50	88-90 MPH
Left	6'1"	180>1	2.50	85-87

#### Fielders:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Speed &amp; Misc.</u>
Outfield	5'11"	170	(60)< 6.6 Velocity (86-87)
Mid. Inf.	5'11"	175	(50)< 6.9 Velocity (85+)
Corn. Inf.	6'2"	200	8+ HR's      30+ RBI'S
Catchers	5'10" – 6'0"	180	pop < 1.95

\*Velocity must be verified by a neutral source

### **Division II Baseball**

For some schools, especially those in the Southern States and out on the West Coast, Division II Baseball is an extension of Division I. There are very few differences between the typical West Coast or Southern Division II player and the average Division I player. For the Division II schools up North, the athletes may be a notch below the average Division I and perhaps a little less polished. They may not throw as hard, play for the top high schools programs, or possess at least 4 of the 5 measurable tools. This is not always the case, as there are some very solid Division II Baseball Programs up North. However, it is no secret that overall, the better baseball schools are those located in warmer climates.

**The minimum requirements by position are as follows**

#### **Pitchers:**

<b>Hand</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>K's/Inning ERA</b>	<b>Velocity</b>
<b>Right</b>	<b>6'0"</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>85 MPH</b>
<b>Left</b>	<b>5'10"</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>83</b>

#### **Fielders:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Speed &amp; Misc.</b>
<b>Outfield</b>	<b>5'9"</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>(60)&lt; 6.8</b>
<b>Infield</b>	<b>5'7"</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>(60)&lt; 7.1 from SS</b>
<b>Catchers</b>	<b>5'9"</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>pop &lt; 2.0</b>

Much can be determined on film. It is very difficult to measure defensive abilities on paper. Fielding percentage cannot be used as an accurate statistic because it is difficult to calculate and it can be easily manipulated. Most Division II players have received several accolades, such as All Conference or All Area.

### **Division III Baseball**

Some Division III programs are stronger than others, but there seems to be more continuity with the physical characteristics of Division III players than there are for Division II or NAIA. Certain D III programs, such as Wisconsin Whitewater or George Fox, play at a superior level. However, for the most part, the range of physical characteristics was slim.

**The minimum requirements by position are as follows**

#### **Pitchers:**

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>K's/Inning ERA</u>	<u>Velocity</u>
Right	5'8"	155	4.00	81 MPH
Left	5'8"	155	4.00	79

#### **Fielders:**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Speed &amp; Misc.</u>
Outfield	5'7"	140	(60) < 7.0
Infield	5'7"	150	(40) < 4.9
Catchers	5'8"	165	pop < 2.1

### **NAIA BASEBALL**

The discrepancies in characteristics are very severe when it comes to NAIA baseball. Some NAIA schools are playing at a Division II level, while others are competing at a lower Division III level. There is a mix of Division II criteria and Division III criteria that make up the recruiting guidelines for this league.

### **Junior College Baseball**

Unlike the NAIA conference, Junior Colleges do have 3 divisions for the purpose of separating stronger JC programs from the weaker ones. While there may be somewhat of a drop off in talent between Division III Junior College and Division I and Division II Junior Colleges, there is little difference between Division I and Division II Junior Colleges. Many of the Junior College players lack the 'polish' to be considered Division I players coming out of HS, but they already possess the necessary physical tools to be successful at the Division I level. All they need to do is harness and polish those skills. The GPA's of most of the Junior College athletes are lower than those attending 4 year

schools, suggesting that these athletes need one to two years to mature academically as well.

## **Division Recruiting Differences**

### **Division I**

Baseball coaches at the Division I level rely on professional scouts, word of mouth, nominated and hand selected showcases, and All-State/Area. These coaches are recruiting players at events such as the Area Code Games played in Southern California and the East Coast Showcase in Wilmington, NC. These players are ready to compete as a freshman or transfer. Many division one coaches are also recruiting junior college players because they have physically matured and have proven themselves at the college level. Many junior college players were drafted out of high school and attend a JC to have the flexibility to sign a professional contract early in their collegiate career. Countless numbers of these players are on state championship caliber teams and are potential Gatorade Player of the Year candidates. Most Division I player will be drafted by Major League teams. The time line for recruiting can vary. Some players will verbally commit as early as sophomore year and others will commit as late as June of senior year. Most Division I players will sign in the early period in November.

### **Division II**

Many Division II rosters are inundated by junior college transfers. These coaches rely on JC coaches as their eyes and ears for recruits. Many times Division II coaches are recruiting players that lower level Division I coaches are also recruiting but these players never get an offer from a Division I coach. Most of the time Division II coaches start the recruiting process during the spring of a player's junior year of high school or after the first season for a junior college player. Division II coaches rely on their own camps and showcases to recruit players.

### **Division III**

Most of these coaches spend their time recruiting high school players. These players are from the local area or state of the college. These players are usually all-league players and coaches rely on these nominations to learn about players. Several Division III coaches go to Division I college camps and recruit the players attending these camps. Coaches recruit late in the process and usually not until the player's senior season.

### **NAIA**

Many of these coaches also rely on their own camps and showcases to recruit players. A few recruit Division I transfers and junior college transfers. Again, the relationships these coaches have with division one coaches are important because many of them also recruit at Division I camps. NAIA coaches invite players to workout for them at their schools to get a better evaluation.