

FINALLY... A ROAD MAP

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DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START MAKING YOUR
DREAMS OF PLAYING COLLEGE BALL COME TRUE?
YOU DO NOW...

FRESHMAN YEAR

- 1 Get a copy of the NCAA's *Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete*.
- 2 Plan your academic course load so that you're taking required NCAA core courses. This will include at least 2-3 years of math; 4 years of English; Science/Lab Science; History/Government; Language; and so on
- 3 Play the most competitive travel ball you can.
- 4 Whenever you have the opportunity, visit college campuses to see what the collegiate experience is all about.
- 5 **Optional:** Attend college camps or clinics.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- 1 Continue to take the required NCAA core courses.
- 2 Track your core course GPA to ensure you are getting the very best grades you can!
- 3 Review the NCAA's *Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete* to be sure you understand what recruiting guidelines apply to you.
- 4 Continue to play competitive travel ball.
- 5 Begin to research schools and teams to find out what sort of collegiate experience will be right for you.
- 6 Consider purchasing a copy of *Preparing to Play Softball at the Collegiate Level* from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.
- 7 Begin taking unofficial visits to colleges.
- 8 **Optional:** Attend college camps or clinics.
- 9 **ELITE PLAYERS:** Make a skills video and upload it to YouTube. Put together introductory packets to send to college coaches. Target all sorts of teams, not just the big name programs. Plan on writing at least 30 to 40 colleges.**
- 10 **ALL PLAYERS:** Consider sending out introductory postcards with your grad year, contact information, travel team and upcoming travel ball schedule.

1) With two outs and a tie score in the bottom of the seventh, the batter hits a single. Runner 1 scores from 2nd but misses 3rd on the way. No appeal is made and the umpires leave the field. The defense can call the umpires back to make an appeal.

RECRUITING

Softball

NCAA eligibilitycenter.org
NAIA playnaia.org
NJCAA njcaa.org
FAFSA fafsa.ed.gov
NFCA nfca.org

JUNIOR YEAR

- 1 Continue to take the required NCAA core courses.
- 2 Track your core course GPA to ensure you are getting the very best grades you can!
- 3 Review the NCAA's *Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete* to be sure you understand what recruiting guidelines apply to you.
- 4 Continue to play competitive travel ball.
- 5 Register with the NCAA and the NAIA Eligibility Centers.
- 6 Schedule and take the SAT and ACT at least once.
- 7 Make a skills video or update your existing video and upload it to YouTube.
- 8 Put together introductory packets (or updates) to send to college coaches. Target all sorts of teams, not just the big name programs. Plan on writing at least 30 to 40 colleges.
- 9 Begin taking unofficial visits to colleges.

SENIOR YEAR

- 1 Continue to take the required NCAA core courses.
- 2 Track your core course GPA to ensure you are getting the very best grades you can!
- 3 Review the NCAA's *Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete* to be sure you understand what recruiting guidelines apply to you.
- 4 Take the SAT and ACT again at least once.
- 5 Check with the NCAA and the NAIA Eligibility Centers to make sure your certification is current.
- 6 Continue to play competitive travel ball.
- 7 Follow up (by phone) with schools you've contacted or who have contacted you.
- 8 Begin/continue taking visits to colleges, particularly the schools that are recruiting you.
- 9 Begin applying to colleges.
- 10 Make sure your parents apply for financial aid in January by filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

RULES QUIZ!
T OR F! (SEE P3
FOR INSTRUCTIONS)

***Recruiting timelines vary tremendously from Division I to Division III and NAIA schools. Since 75 percent of all players will compete at the NCAA Division II, Division III or NAIA level, keep in mind that while coaches at Top 25 Division I schools may be scouting freshmen and sophomores, (as well as juniors), the majority of college coaches are more likely to be focusing on juniors and seniors. For most athletes, this process is a marathon, not a sprint, and you may have to continue to contact coaches into the fall or even the winter of your senior year. By staying on track from the beginning to end of your high school career, you will hopefully find the school that can offer you the collegiate experience you've been dreaming of!*