

# Being Recruited: Dream Big While Being Realistic

**Fact: college football has 90,136 players at all levels. The max number of scholarships given is 27,339 across all levels.**

**Fact: 6% of all high school football players play college football of those playing college football 1.7% play in the NFL. 2.4% of all high school football players receive division 1 scholarships to play football.**

## Recruiting Guide:

1. **Academics:** the first question any coach has ever asked me has been how are his grades and test score.
  - A. Meet with guidance counselor in freshman/sophomore year or ASAP to go over schedule and make sure all classes are NCAA compliant.
  - B. Make sure that your \*core classes and ACT score meet the NCAA sliding scale. Scale is attached make sure to notice the changes that are made for 2016 graduating class.

\*core classes include: **Division 1: 16 core classes**  
4 years of English. 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher). 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school). 1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science. 2 years of social science. 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)

**Division II: 14 core classes**  
3 years of English. 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher). 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school). 2 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science. 2 years of social science. 3 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy).**Division III: 16 core classes**  
3 years of English. 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher). 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school). 3 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science. 2 years of social science. 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy).
- **See for more information**  
[https://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/201112\\_Quick\\_Reference\\_Sheet.pdf](https://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/201112_Quick_Reference_Sheet.pdf)
- C. Register for the ACT at the beginning of Junior year and sign up for the test multiple times. If not satisfied with first test spend money in this area on tutors and take advantage of Copley's ACT prep class. Which meets after school leading up to the test in the fall. This score can be as important as anything else you do.

- D. Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center (old NCAA Clearinghouse) by your junior year. Note there is a \$80 fee.

[https://web3.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA\\_EMS/NCAA.jsp](https://web3.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp)

**2. What are college sports really like? Is it for you?**

- A. Talk to a current or former college athlete about their experience. Yes their experiences will be different but there are a few things that will be consistent.
- **It is different than high school**
  - **It takes up a lot of your time in college**
  - **It will feel at times like a job rather than a sport- this is a college coach's only source of income it is their livelihood.**
  - **There are great perks to playing, gear, preferred class scheduling, travel, great friendships and networks.**
  - **Limitations on majors that can be studied depending on the level you play**
- B. Go watch a couple of local game and do it at all levels, as you watch be realistic and honest with yourself as to what level you feel your size, skill set and abilities are the best fit for you. Take in the atmosphere and the facilities and see if this is what you want to spend the majority of your time in college doing.

**3. Picking a group of colleges to focus on: make a 3 tiered list based off of the following things:**

- A. How much does distance and location factor into your decision? Do you hate the city? Do you want to be 5 hours away or 5 minutes away from home? Don't look at schools that don't fit this criteria.
- B. Do they have the major you are interested in studying and how does it rate against other colleges? Get information on these majors and see how they fit your interests.
- C. Cost and financial aid/scholarships available for athletes at this level. Are you and your family able to afford the price tag of this school?
- D. What is the football programs graduation rate of those who enter the program and how many years on average does it take for a player to graduate?
- E. Stability of the coaching staff, this does not mean pick a school based on one coach because coaches move around a lot, but how long has the staff been there and what has their success been?
- F. Offensive or defensive scheme, do they fit your style of play?

**Three tiered list should not have more than 12-20 schools:**

**Tier 1:** 3-5 dream schools **Tier 2:** 3-5 realistically get into schools

**Tier 3:** 3-5 fallback schools

There maybe overlap between the tiers and have your priorities set with these schools as to what is most important to you and your family.

4. Football recruiting side: Out Play/Work/Study everyone else and it is really easy to get recruited:
  - A. Create a highlight video on Hudl as soon as you have clips that are really “highlight” clips. You on the sideline is not “highlight” material. Use the best plays first, college coaches look at literally thousands of these every year, first 10 seconds are critical. Before you send it out to anyone have Coach Chouinard sit down and look through it with you. You want to show all aspects of your game.
  - B. Register on the following three web sites or have Coach Chouinard register you. Note: I will not register someone who has not been a varsity letter winner.
    1. The McAllister Report <http://www.msrohio.com/>
    2. Field Level [www.fieldlevel.com](http://www.fieldlevel.com)
    3. Scouting Ohio <http://www.scoutingohio.com/>

**All of these scouting services are A free and B have very good reputations AKA not scams.**

- C. Camps go to 3-6 summer day camps. One camp should be your dream school and one you are looking to enjoy the experience more than expecting to get recruited. The other 1 or 2 should be based off of the following decisions. **1 cost and location**, you do not need to spend a day traveling to a school as most schools will have multiple schools at the camps and some schools are doing satellite camps in which they will be closer to your home. Example, most MAC schools will have local Div. II and Div. III coaches that are there trying to find talent that fits their level. I would rather see you go to a local MAC camp than to a Div II or III camp more exposer. **2 exposer** is good as long as it is the right kind, a bad time can have a more negative effect a good time. Do not attend too many camps they are going to work you and you need time to recover and be fresh when you run. **3 timing** if you are out of shape and have not trained for the type of drills they will put you through you will not run good times.
- D. Combines, I personally think this is another way for people to make money off of high school kids. They cannot be attended by college coaches and have no bearing on if you can play the game of football. If you are going to attend a combine consider the McAllister Combine it is legit. If Under Armor or Nike invite you then go if not they are making money off of you.
- E. Size, **please go onto the colleges you are looking at and look at the rosters and the size of the players currently on their roster.** It does not make you less of a football player but it does play a huge factor into your recruitment as a football player.

- F. Weight room, if you believe that you are going to be a college football player and you are not in the weight room 100% of the time that it is offered than you are kidding yourself. The players who play at this level are **all the best players on their high school teams**, some is natural ability and the rest is who is willing to outwork the people they are competing with for these scholarship offers.

### **Myths vs. Facts:**

1. Letters vs letters of recruitments
2. Size doesn't matter because my child is special
3. Div II and Div III football is not good football and does not offer the same opportunity as Div I
4. Recruiting services and coaches
5. Personal trainers/Personal Coaches
6. I am going to focus on football only it will help me get to the next level. 224 of the 253 players drafted in the NFL draft played multiple sports in high school. Go compete coaches love multi-sport athletes
7. My coach doesn't believe in me because he said I wasn't a Div I player. If I had scholarships to give each senior on the team would have a free ride. But I will be honest with you and it may hurt to hear what my answer maybe.
8. Coaches do not look at social media. This is as far from the truth as could be, coaches use social media to see the interests, actions and character of a player. If you do not feel comfortable showing a post to your mother or potential coach it should not be posted.

### **How to handle coaches and visits:**

1. If a coach contacts you no matter with the level always return their call
2. Be honest but polite with the coaches you speak with about what your feelings are about the school.
3. Always have questions ready to ask the coaches and make them answer the things you need to know, this is a very important decision get the information you need