

THE RECRUITING ROADMAP

Use this roadmap to track your progress through the recruiting journey and check off completed tasks along the way.

Throughout the roadmap, you'll find links to helpful articles and resources that provide deeper information on specific topics - click these to learn more about each step.

This isn't a shortcut; it's a long haul, so pace yourself and stay consistent. Some pit stops happen simultaneously, and you may need to revisit certain steps.



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Step 1:

Understanding the Journey

Before you hit the road, you need to understand where you're going and what it takes to get there. Take time before you get going to have honest family conversations about expectations, finances, and commitment levels.

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| ☐ Learn the <u>recruiting rules</u> | ☐ Calculate your SAI (Student Aid Index) to plan your financial strategy |
| ☐ Learn the <u>difference between NCAA divisions, NAIA, and JUCO</u> | ☐ Research the cost of college |
| ☐ <u>Set realistic recruiting, performance, and academic goals</u> | ☐ Understand financial aid, student loans, and <u>scholarship opportunities</u> |
| ☐ Understand the costs involved in the recruiting process and set a recruiting budget for your family.
Think about the cost of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Camps, clinics, and showcases• Highlight videos and recruiting services• Unofficial and official visits• Club/travel team participation• College applications and testing | ☐ Understand eligibility requirements for each division |
| | ☐ Know your level of play |

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Step 2: **Building Your Base**

With your direction set, it's time to lay the foundation. Focus on developing your skills and maintaining strong academics while establishing an online presence. These early actions build the base for future coach interest and recruiting success.

- ☐ Focus on academics
- ☐ Focus on skill development
- ☐ Build an online presence on NCSA or other social media platforms
- ☐ Capture game footage
- ☐ Create and share highlight videos



Step 3: **Finding Your Fit**

Now that you've got your base, it's time to explore. Research a wide range of schools and start building a list of favorites based on your academic, athletic, and personal priorities. Fit goes beyond athletics - look for the full college experience that's right for you.

- ☐ Research schools across ALL divisions
- ☐ Build your favorites list of programs based on your top priorities
- ☐ Compare programs based on your top priorities
 - High School major
 - Location
 - Desired experience
 - Playing time, team role, coach style
 - School size, student diversity, school facilities
 - Safety
 - Cost

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Step 4: **Getting on Coaches' Radars**

You know where you want to go; now let coaches know you're out there. Small actions can get you noticed in a big way.

- ☐ Fill out recruiting questionnaires
- ☐ Follow coaches and teams on social media
- ☐ Contact college coaches
- ☐ Attend exposure events: camps, combines, clinics, and showcases



Pit Stops: **Staying Eligible**

Consistency is key, this step is about showing you're serious, dependable, and committed to your goals.

- ☐ Stay on track with core academic requirements (better grades = more scholarship opportunities)
- ☐ Register with NCAA and/or NAIA Eligibility Centers
- ☐ Keep your online profiles updated with new stats, achievements, and videos
- ☐ Keep coaches updated on your progress

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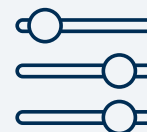
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Step 5: **Nurturing Relationships**

As interest grows, shift your focus to deepening connections. These conversations help both you and the coaches figure out if it's a good fit.

- ☐ Schedule calls with coaches
- ☐ Schedule and plan official and unofficial visits
- ☐ Meet the team and tour campuses



Step 6: **Fine-tuning Your List**

With more clarity and feedback, it's time to narrow your focus.

- ☐ Adjust your school list based on coach communication or changing circumstances and preferences
- ☐ Cast a wider net if you're not hearing back from coaches
- ☐ Start applying to schools
- ☐ Track application costs and deadlines

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The Final Step: **Evaluate and Commit**

You've put in the work, now it's decision time. Compare your options, consider all angles, and choose the program that aligns with your goals and values. Once you've made your decision, commit with confidence.

- ☐ Compare all offers: athletic scholarships, academic aid, walk-on opportunities
- ☐ Negotiate offers if that is a possibility
- ☐ Choose the school that fits you holistically and commit
- ☐ Sign your letter of intent or financial aid agreement
- ☐ Notify other coaches respectfully once committed



Every journey has twists and turns. There might be some bumps along the way, but what matters most is that you keep moving forward together and find a detour if you hit a roadblock.