

PSC STRATEGIC COLLEGE PLANNING OUTLINE

PLAYERS:

- Senior players (12th graders) should already be in contact with coaches at schools of interest. Players should be working their college list down to the final few schools under consideration. Players should contact the coach as soon as the schedule for the showcase they are attending is released.
- Make sure you have all important information from your school of choice including financial data, Loan Information (FASFA) and housing information. Do not hesitate to contact your college coach with any questions.
- Players should have already visited the schools they are serious about and seen the team play. This visitation process can and probably will continue into the winter months. Do not hesitate to go back to a school for an additional visit. Choosing school is a big decision!
- If you are planning on attending a division 1 or 2 school, see your high school guidance counselor for a NCAA Clearinghouse Application. It is required for all athletes at those levels and this process should be started already. It takes a number of months for the NCAA to check and approve student transcripts and core courses.
- Autumn is an important time for both players and college coaches. Coaches want commitments and players want to get accepted at the schools of their choice. Remember, unlike when you are in 11th grade, coaches can speak to 12th graders directly. This may occur at the showcases you are attending. Do not hesitate to use your club coach or parents as resources should this occur.
- Junior players (11th graders) should be signed up for SAT or ACT testing (They start in January). Try to take the test at least 2x prior to the end of school in June. This will give you a strong indication if you need to take the test again in the fall. Discuss with your parents about SAT Prep courses or tutoring and touring schools during the spring.
- Juniors (11th grade and U17) should have a list in place of schools of interest. The list can be long and will change. All coaches on the list need to be contacted with an introductory letter about you. In addition, advise the coach of where you are playing in regard to tournaments during November and December. Send coaches the schedules as soon as you receive it.
- Be aware that coaches cannot speak directly to 11th graders or younger players according to NCAA rules. They can communicate with players via email and can answer questions you ask in those emails. They cannot recruit you. They can only come and observe you play and formulate opinions about your game. They can and often do speak to your club coach. U17 is important for this reason. This is the time you can develop a relationship with a particular coach or school.
- Sophomore players (10th graders) should start to think about schools of interest. Visit school websites. Take virtual tours. Investigate the academic and athletic programs at various schools of interest. There is a wealth of information on college websites. Talk to your parents! Speak to your club coaches. They have a wealth of information.

PARENTS:

- Senior players (12th graders) are entering the final phase of choosing schools need to start thinking about the FASFA. This federal financial form is required for everyone. Financial aid is linked to this program. If you need more information ask your club coach or contact your school of interest. There is a ton of information available. You just need to ask.
- For junior players (11th graders), now is the time to start contacting coaches at schools of interest. Players must send the coaches the schedules for their tournaments. It is the only way they will get exposure.
- Start the discussion about visiting schools in the spring. Planning is important in this area. Spring time is full of activities (including soccer). Don't wait! Plan to take a tour! All schools offer free tours regularly. Visit the college website to sign up.
- Juniors should sign up for SAT or ACT tests if not done as of yet. Players should take the SAT once or twice prior to June of 11th grade. You can always take the test again in the fall of 12th grade. Get a baseline score this spring. Investigate SAT prep courses or a SAT tutor if necessary. Get the information early so you can try to coordinate with your club coach in regard to the spring soccer schedule.
- Sophomore players (10th graders) should be starting the process of investigating schools of interest. Encourage your child to visit school websites and take a virtual tour. Discuss with your child about their interests, how far they are comfortable being away from home, do they want to go to a large or small school, etc. It is never too early to start this discussion.

COACHES:

- Senior players should be in the final stages of commitments to schools. Follow-up with your players about their status.
- Use the time during high school soccer season as an opportunity meet with your players and discuss the progress they have made. College doesn't just happen. It takes planning and work on everyone's part.
- Start pulling together the list of schools in which your juniors (11th grade) have an interest. Look at your spring showcase schedule and plan with those schools in mind. Tournament deadlines will come and go before you know it - be sure to get your paperwork completed for this. This is a very important time for 11th graders.
- Sophomore players should begin the process of thinking about interests and searching for schools. The winter and spring are great times to do web searches. Begin this discussion with your players. Encourage them to be proactive about college.