

COLLEGIATE RECRUITING

HOW IT WORKS AND WHAT TO DO

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HOW AND WHEN TO GET THE PROCESS STARTED

- What is the goal?
 - For some, it's a scholarship.
 - For many, it's a spot on a team
- Junior year is a critical year for identification of talent by college coaches however it does begin even earlier than that.



WHAT ARE THE KEY INGREDIENTS

- Academic History
 - GPA in 16 Core Course
 - SAT or ACT test scores
 - Class Rank
 - Proven ability in classroom
- Gymnastics History
 - JO Nationals finish: AA and events
 - VISA Championships??



ACADEMICS – what you need

- Unofficial copy of high school transcript after junior year.
- Copy of SAT or ACT test scores from the testing agency
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center (www.eligibilitycenter.org) sometime before the end of your junior year.
- Be sure you are doing well in school in 9th and 10th grade.



GYMNASTICS – what you will need

- An ability to help a college program succeed as a team.
- Junior National Team Members and VISA Championships participants are highly sought after recruits.
- These are the most obvious top recruits.



GYMNASTICS (cont.)

- However, not all successful college athletes were part of the above group.
- Individual and multiple event gymnasts can be just as valuable to a college program.
- College program's needs may change from year to year – one year we may need more strength on Pommel Horse and less on Floor Exercise.



NCAA RULES REGARDING PSA's

- A Prospective Student Athlete (PSA) is any student who has entered the 9th grade. At that point he becomes a PSA and the NCAA Rules kick in.
- Rules governing communication with PSA's are pretty strict
 - Coaches cannot initiate phone calls with PSA's until July 1st after their Junior year
 - Limited to 1 call per week



NCAA RULES (cont.)

- PSA's may make phone calls to a coach and speak with him anytime. No restrictions on these calls. If a PSA leaves a voice mail a coach cannot call him back if it's before July 1st after his junior year.
- General correspondence may not be sent to PSA's until September 1st of their junior year (camp brochures and Recruiting Questionnaires are exempt).



NCAA RULES (cont.)

- NCAA has limited what can be sent to PSA's as recruiting material
- As of August 1st, no sport may send a recruiting guide or media guide to a PSA.
- Media guides will no longer be printed – only available online.



NCAA RULES (cont.)

- Allowable forms of communication:
 - General correspondence
 - E-mail
 - Fax
 - Phone calls
 - Instant Messaging and Text Messaging are prohibited
 - Facebook: no chatting allowed; messages ok (e-mail)



WHAT'S NEXT?

- **COMMUNICATE WITH COACHES**
 - Letter of Introduction
 - Recruiting Video
 - Academic records
 - Gymnastics accomplishments
 - Extracurricular activities
 - Family information (parents married/divorced; occupations; brothers and sisters; etc.)
 - Letters of recommendation



WHAT'S NEXT?

- **RECRUITING VIDEO:**
 - What to put on it?
 - When to send it out?
 - How often to update it?
 - DVD vs. YouTube?



RECRUITING VIDEOS (cont.)

- Two things that should be included on a recruiting video:
 - Competition footage – this can get outdated pretty quickly
 - New skill training footage – this should be updated frequently
 - A YouTube account is probably the best way to keep adding to your collection of training video clips.
 - These clips can also be added to your FaceBook page as well.



RECRUITING VIDEOS (cont.)

- When to send it out?
 - As soon as possible but realize that a DVD sent out in the junior year is most likely from meets in the sophomore year. Lot's of times DVD's are showing old news.
 - Mike Burns advice: plan on sending out video of JO Nationals routines as soon as possible after JO's.



RECRUITING VIDEOS (cont.)

- How often to update?
 - As often as possible!
 - Gymnastics is an ongoing process of learning and improving. Between JO Nationals in May and the middle of summer a lot can happen in a gymnast's development.
 - That's why a YouTube account and a Flip Camera are probably the two most valuable things in the recruiting process.
 - Flip camera clips can be downloaded to YouTube accounts easily.



RECRUITING VISITS

- Two types of visits to a college campus.
- Official visits
- Unofficial Visits
 - Official visits are paid visits – limited to 5 per PSA
 - Unofficial visits are unpaid visits – unlimited number of unofficial visits can be taken by a PSA
 - Unofficial visits can occur anytime
 - Official visits can only occur after a PSA starts his senior year of high school



RECRUITING VISITS (cont.)

- Official visit requirements:
 - Register with NCAA Eligibility Center
 - Provide copy of high school transcript
 - Provide ACT or SAT test score or any standardized test scores.
 - Be added to university tracking system by coach
 - Maximum 48 hours on campus.
 - Limited to 5 official visits
 - Parents may accompany PSA on official visit



RECRUITING VISITS

- Unofficial visit.
 - Unlimited number of unofficial visits may be taken
 - Unofficial visits may occur before senior year
 - Very limited as to what school can provide.
 - 3 complimentary admissions to a home athletics event



FINANCIAL AID

- Men's Gymnastics is allowed a maximum of 6.3 athletic scholarships.
- An Athletic Scholarships consists of the following:
 - Tuition and fees
 - Room
 - Board
 - Books



FINANCIAL AID (cont.)

- Men's Gymnastics is an Equivalency Sport under NCAA Rules.
- This means our 6.3 scholarships can be divide up in any number of ways.
- Percentages, dollar amounts, books, etc.
- Certain outside sources of scholarship may be considered 'countable' towards the 6.3 maximum (i.e. USAG Scholarships). PSA may not be able to accept these.



FINANCIAL AID (cont.)

- Signing Periods – Early and Late
 - Early Signing period: November 10 -17, 2010
 - One week period only
 - If scholarship paperwork is not signed in early period...
 - Need to wait until Late Signing Period: April 13 – August 1, 2011
 - Top recruits usually sign early



SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS

- Once a scholarship is offered and agreed upon two documents will be sent to the PSA.
- National Letter of Intent (NLI)
- Tender for Financial Aid
- NLI = binding contract that guarantees PSA the scholarship that is offered and the school that PSA will be attending
- Tender = actual scholarship being offered



SELF MARKETING

- Don't wait too long to contact coaches
- Stay visible – letters, e-mails, video updates, phone calls
- Be able to talk on the phone – good conversationalist
- Take school seriously
- Be a great person!

Questions

