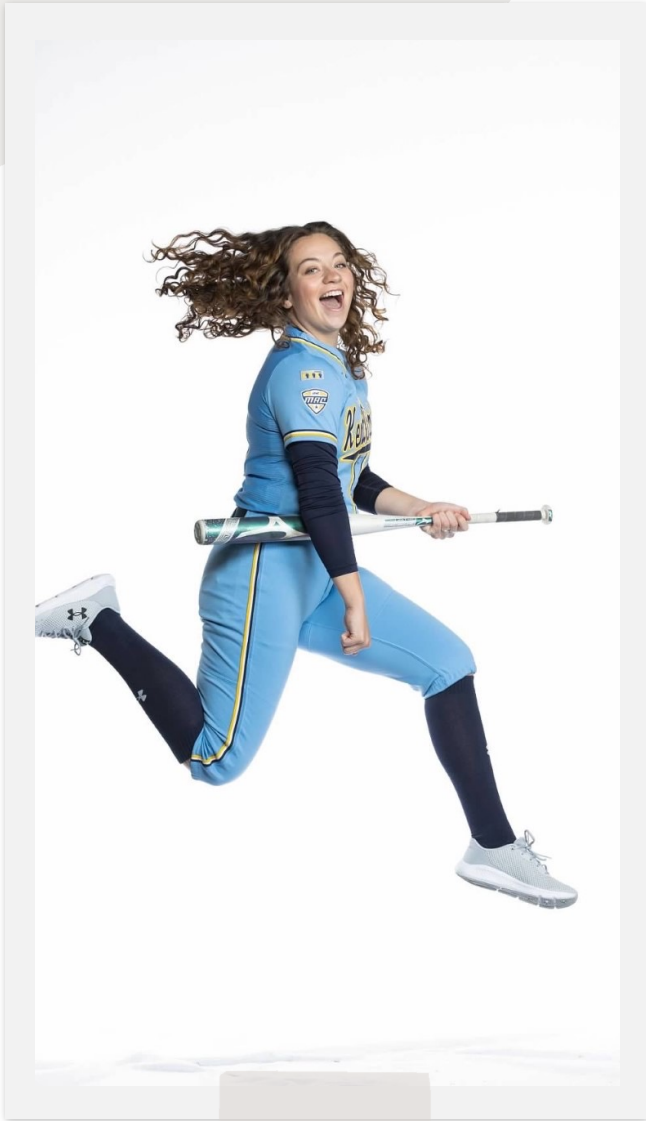


DIVISION 1


recruiting guidelines

- **Basic Recruiting Guidelines:**
 - **SCHOLARSHIP:** Athletic 12.0 most schools and academic but must meet requirements so it doesn't count against athletic scholarships.
 - **TRANSFER PORTAL and NIL-Name Image Likeness** deals have changed the landscape of RECRUITING
 - **September 1** of junior year: Coaches can send athletes all forms of private electronic correspondence, including text messages, instant messages, direct messages and emails, as well as all recruiting materials. Coaches can also call athletes at this point. NO contact is permitted before this date between a college coach and the recruit, their parents, their current coaches or any other third party.
 - September 1 of junior year: Athletes may begin taking unofficial visits (UNLIMITED) and official visit(5 paid visits to school and they pay for the visit)
 - September 1 of junior year: Coaches can conduct off-campus contact with athletes at their home or school.
 - **Senior year:** College softball coaches can conduct off-campus communications with athletes and/or their parents.
 - **Camps:** Coaches can't talk to you until Sept. 1 your junior year





DIVISION 2

- Scholarship limits: 7.2 athletic Scholarships allotted per program and academic scholarships
 - **Basic Recruiting Guidelines:**
 - **Any time:** Athletes can receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials and non-athletic recruiting publications at any time.
 - **June 15** before junior year: Coaches may begin calling athletes. They can also conduct off-campus communications with athletes and/or their parents. At this time, athletes may start taking official visits.
 - **Camps:** Coaches cannot talk to you about recruiting until the camp is done for the entire DAY. So if they have pitching camp, hitting camp, defense camp---can't talk to the coach until all of that is done.
 - **Visits:** Tryouts/practice with the team is allowed.
- 

NAIA

- NAIA has over 200 universities and colleges
- OWN affiliation separate from NCAA.
- Comparative to many Division II schools.
- **Scholarship Limit:** Varies school to school— Dollar amount for Athletic Scholarships and Academic Scholarships
- **Recruiting Guidelines:**
 - The NAIA has fewer recruiting rules than the NCAA. NAIA coaches can contact student athletes anytime during high school. NAIA recruiting tends to start a little later than NCAA DI recruiting, as NAIA coaches see which athletes just missed the cut to compete at a DI school. They also spend more time making sure that their school is the right fit for athletes socially and academically, as well as athletically.

DIVISION 3

- Over 400 colleges and universities
- **Scholarship limit:** NO athletic Scholarships ALL ACADEMIC and financial aid Money
- **Basic Recruiting Guidelines:**
 - **Any time:** Athletes can receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials and non-athletic recruiting publications at any time.
 - **June 15** after sophomore year: Coaches may begin calling athletes. They can also conduct off-campus communications with athletes and/or their parents. At this time, athletes may start taking official visits.



Advice for Student- Athletes

- Know your major and pursue colleges for your major
- What are you looking for in a college? Roster Size? Major? Distance from Home? Affordability? City campus? Suburban campus? Rural campus?
- Go watch a college game at all of the different levels-can you see yourself playing there? Is that the right level for you?
- What's important to you? Starting? Joining a winning team?

Student Athlete Advice – continued



- Coaches/Student Athlete be realistic on abilities because you want to be happy. That goes back to watching a college game
- Play softball at the college level for yourself not your parents or even HS/ summer ball coaches–PARENTS BEHAVIOR Matters!
- Camp at schools----it is a fundraiser for most, is it a camp for you to show off your skills, being invited is nice but some programs want numbers. Just need to do research per school
- Remember lots of players are there. How do you stand out?
- ENCOURAGE Student/athlete to do the work in recruiting---email, go to camps, visit, make sure you let the coach know you are interested in their school
- Picking a college based on the coach is tricky! It can certainly be a factor you consider, but there are others that should come first. Coaches may come or go!

How Can You Help your Student-Athletes? Build Relationships!

- Work with college coaches and student-athletes to help everyone find the right fit.
 - “If everyone is honest, and the student-athlete follows their heart, then they should end up where they belong.”
- Try to encourage this to be a stress-free (or minimal stress-inducing) process for the student-athletes.
- You can help the athletes and coaches connect....after that, your role may be minimal. Or, you may be closely involved throughout the process. It will vary from athlete to athlete and school to school.
- HS & Summer Ball coaches should do their best to try to watch college softball LIVE at all different levels, in order to get a reference point as to where their players are best suited to play! Careful not to "oversell" anyone.
- Understand the “fit” for your PSA’s along with talent level. If you have never watched a certain college team play how do you know she will be a great fit
- Be upfront and honest. Watch out for hyperbole! Being untruthful about the character of an athlete or exaggerating ability just to get her recruited is not good. College coaches take note and usually do not recruit from your program going forward. If a College coach misses on a player it could cost them their job. Don’t get offended if a coach doesn’t take a player, sometimes it’s not about their talent, but the team’s needs.
- Do help your players with communication, but don't do it for them! Letters need to come from the student-athlete. It always helps to come watch some of the college teams so you have an idea of what our teams are about.
- Always include the graduation year and academics on any correspondence to a college coach. That determines everything in the college world.
- College coaches want more detail than just the measurables. How do they perform in key situations?
- Educate the parents on how to communicate with coaches, along with the student-athletes

Don't(s) to pass along to your Student Athlete

- Don't treat coaches different at different level... a lot of us know each other and help each other in the recruiting process.
- Don't ask for money the first time you talk to a coach.
- Don't talk negatively about other coaches, programs, teammates, parents, etc.
- Don't sell something that isn't true, be honest about abilities, stats, measurements, etc.
- Don't tell a coach you are interested in an email if you aren't actually interested when they reach back out.

CHECKLIST FOR HS SOFTBALL PLAYERS

FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Let your high school coach and guidance counselor know you are interested in playing college softball
- Register with the **NCAA Eligibility Center** if interested in NCAA division I or II
- Make sure you are taking the **proper college prep classes** to meet NCAA academic requirements
- Send a letter and athletic resume to the coaches of the colleges you are interested in with a high school and summer schedule (include uniform #) - let them know of your interest (Division I & II can't respond)
- Start sending information to college coaches prior to your summer season with your summer schedule
- Fill out online questionnaire
- **Make a video** and send it to schools who you are interested in or **post it on an internet site**
- Attend college games and try to see varying levels, meet the coach if you can (Junior or Senior).
- **Attend college camps and clinics, start visiting various types of college campuses**
- Possibly take the ACT and/or SAT – in the summer after your sophomore year, you may take the tests as many times as you want
- **SURF THE WEB**, check out colleges and athletic programs through internet web sites.

JUNIOR YEAR

- Check with your guidance counselor to make sure you are taking the required number of **core courses**
- Register with the **NCAA Eligibility Center** if interested in NCAA division I or II, if you have not done so
- **Take the ACT and/or SAT** – early in your junior year, you may take the tests as many times as you want
- Contact the admission's department requesting information about the school and entrance requirements
- Update your athletic resume, and send transcript to the coaches of the colleges you are interested in with a high school and summer schedule (include uniform #) - let them know of your interest
- **Visit college campuses**, talk with their coaches and players (Junior or Senior)
- Talk with college coaches and find out what their needs for the future are and what your opportunities would be (Junior or Senior).
- Update your **video** and send it to schools who request it or **post it on an internet site**
- Attend college games and/or practices and continue to attend college camps and clinics

SENIOR YEAR

- Check your academic eligibility and retake the ACT and/or SAT if needed
- **Apply for admissions** to the schools you are most interested in early in the fall
- Obtain and **submit financial aid applications** - FAFSA and any school applications that are required
- **Apply for academic scholarships** at the schools you are interested in and through local organizations
- If you have not made a decision on a school, continue to visit the schools you are interested in and talk to the coaches about your opportunities realizing at this time you may need to look at small colleges
- Continue to go to camps and clinics until you have made a decision
- Upon graduation, have your guidance counselor send a copy of your final transcripts to the NCAA Eligibility Center if you are attending a division I or II school and to the admission's department.
- Complete amateur eligibility status for the Eligibility Center.

QUESTIONS TO ASK THE COLLEGE COACH

What to Ask on a Visit

- How many coaches do you have on staff? Who does your recruiting?
- How many years have you coached at this school? What are your future plans or goals?
- How many players do you have on your team? How many seniors do you have? Do you keep walk-ons?
- How many players are on scholarship? Partial or full?
- What is your team GPA? What percentage of your athletes graduate in 4 or 5 years?
- What are your academic requirements? What type of academic supervision and assistance do you have? What type of study tables do you have and who has to go?
- Does your school have academic priority scheduling? What is the school policy on missed classes for athletes?
- How many players can you travel with?
- Who are the players currently on the team that play the position(s) you play? What year and how many years have they started?
- What are your recruiting needs and priorities? What positions are you recruiting?
- If you are a sophomore or junior, what summer tournaments do you go to? What information would they like for you to provide for them? Is there anything that they want or need you to do? Do you want a video?
- Is it possible to play another sport?
- What are your team rules or policies?
- What was your team record the last couple of years? Ask about conference play?
- Where do you go to play your games? Do you take a spring trip?
- What are the time commitments through the various times of the year? Do you have a fall season?
- What times are your practices, conditioning, weight training, and individual workouts?
- Where do you practice and play your games? What are the facilities that you use?
- Do you have an athletic trainer at your practices, home games, and away games? Who treats injuries?
- Where do the athletes live and who do they live with? Do they have to live on campus?
- Can freshmen have cars? How do players get to practice?
- When you travel, how do you travel? Bus, vans, fly?
- What equipment is provided by the school and what equipment do you have to provide for yourself?
- Are there any additional costs that you will have playing at your school?
- What fundraising projects do you have your team do?
- What community service projects does your team do?
- How successful is the school's athletic program? Are the women treated equally as the men's programs?
- If you receive a scholarship offer you want to ask these questions:
 - What will the scholarship cover?
 - How or why would a scholarship be reduced or taken away?
 - If you are injured what happens to your scholarship?
 - Do you have summer school scholarship aid?
 - Do you have scholarship aid for 5th year seniors?
 - Will the increase in tuition, room, and board be covered by your scholarship? These costs usually go up every year.

