

# Tips for the Recruitment process:

## THE BASICS:

### ❖ *Start the process early.*

- You should have a player profile started your freshman year. This is your 'resume' that will grow with you during high school. It is a work in progress. Make sure contact and academic info is correct and up to date!
- The **Magic** program will put together a team brochure that you can send to coaches as well. We will also have these available on our website and at showcase events.

### ❖ *Register for the NCAA Eligibility Center.*

- This is crucial for a player to be listed as a prospective student-athlete for a Div. I or Div. II Institution.
- You do not start sending grades/transcripts until your Jr. Year but you can be ahead of the game prior to that. You can update your profile as often as needed.

### ❖ *Start thinking about 'where' you want to go to school and how far away you realistically want to go.*

- *Do you want mom and dad to be able to see you play in college?*
- *Do you prefer snow to the beach? Rural to the big city? Public or Private?*

### ❖ *Education is more important than softball.*

- If you already have a major or 2 in mind, make sure you have a list of colleges that are a fit. It's about being able to get a college education and play softball NOT just being able to play softball at a college.
- Be careful not to pick a school/team just because of the coach. The coach that recruits you may or may not be the one you play for.
- Ask yourself – If I decide I no longer want to play softball or I am unable to, would I still want to attend this school?

### ❖ *Grades, Grades, Grades.*

- Better academics will make it possible for additional academic scholarship money which often times is more than the athletic money offered.
- Set yourself above other prospective recruits. The NFCA offers academic camps at certain showcases to spotlight the athlete who

is academically talented. It is being offered because so many college coaches from the Northeast expressed interest in a camp geared toward athletes with higher academic standards. You want to be one of those players.

- The minimum requirements include the following: PSAT-175, SAT-1750 or ACT-26 and a GPA of 3.3. AP and Honors classes will add credibility to an already impressive application. For juniors and seniors, an SAT or ACT score (rather than a PSAT) is strongly preferred.

The NFCA expects the Academic camp to accept less than half the athletes of the regular camp. The skills showcased will be the same for both camps and the academic standards should attract many coaches whose college accepts only the better students.

❖ ***Take your SATs & ACTs early and often***

- We suggest taking your SAT's immediately following completion of Algebra II when it's fresh in your mind. ACT's are required for certain colleges; make sure you know if these are needed for the colleges on your list.
- The Math and verbal/reading scores are the ones to focus on.

❖ ***Create a skills video.***

- Even as a freshman you can have something available for coaches to get a glimpse of you as a player. Put together a short clip of your swing and connect it to your profile online.
- Sophomore year – a full skills video can be created and added to your profile online, burned to a cd for distribution and even uploaded to YouTube for easy access via email.

❖ ***Attend Camps and Clinics – especially overnight ones to colleges on your 'list'.***

- Camps and Clinics are the perfect opportunity to showcase your skills in front of college coaches you are interested in playing for. It also gives you the opportunity to explore the college and the campus. Schedule an informal campus tour along with the camp visit.
- Attending Camps and clinics will help you get accustomed to working out in front of college coaches, college level players and other like minded players who want to play in college with you.
- If the camp/clinic being offered is at a college you are interested in, plan on going to several camps that the college offers –

Coaches recognize returning players. Letting a coach know you have interest in their program is a good thing.

- Remember – coaches know other coaches and coaches come to showcase events! Leave a good impression at a clinic/camp and it makes it easier for them to want to see you or your team at an event.
- Remember – coaches cannot contact you directly about recruiting just yet BUT they can talk to you at a camp/clinic setting. If they see you over the winter – they can follow you over the summer!
- Pay attention, you just might learn something!

## CONTACTING COLLEGE COACHES:

### ❖ *Start emailing college coaches now!*

- Send them your summer schedule and your team website info. Tell them why you are interested in their SCHOOL not why you want to play for them
- Fill out the recruitment questionnaire online
- College coaches can not send emails that are a direct reference to recruiting due to the age of the players on the team, however they can send certain types of communications (ex. info on camps). It is an excellent opportunity to expose the players to the coaches by responding to camp invitations, even if they are responding that they are unable to attend. The player can thank them for the invitation, ask to be kept on the mailing list for future correspondence and wish the coach and their team luck for the upcoming season. **The coaches will start to get familiar with the player's names and the Magic Team.** They will see rosters for thousands of teams each year while recruiting and it is a good thing if when they read the rosters, your child's name/team rings a bell with them.

### ❖ *Follow-up is extremely important.*

- Even if you have emailed a coach previously – email again before a showcase or before attending a clinic
- Let them know you are interested

- *There are plenty of scholarships out there - but you have to work for them!*