

MD United Soccer

Boys College Recruiting Seminar



Panel Members

- **Scott Buete**, University of Maryland
- **Alun Oliver**, St. Mary's College
- **Nate Kaponek**, George Mason University



Class of 2016

- ❑ See Full List ([Click Here](#))
- ❑ Wide Range of Schools
 - ❑ *Local Schools*
 - ❑ *Ivy League Schools*
 - ❑ *High Academic Reputations*
 - ❑ *Big 5 Power Conferences*
 - ❑ *Top 20 NCAA Div. 3 Programs*
 - ❑ *Service Academies*
 - ❑ *Small | Big | City | Rural |*



MD United/Freestate Boys College List

2008-2015 College List	Naval Academy	St. Bonaventure
Case Western Res. Univ.	Mt. St. Mary's	La Salle University
Dickinson University	Air Force Academy	Methodist College
Christopher Newport College	University of Maryland	Wake Forest Univ.
Virginia Wesleyan	UMBC	Anne Arundel CC
Bridgewater College	Clemson University	St. Mary's College
Univ. District of Columbia	American University	Stevenson College
Chowan University	Univ. of NC - Greensboro	Salisbury University
Lesley University	Howard University	Frostburg University
Widener University	Duquesne University	Washington College
Shenandoah University	York College	Millersville University
NC Wesleyan	Coker College	Kings College
Lycoming College	Carnegie Mellon University	Le Moyne College



Important to recognize:

**Every player's process and timeline is different
– Continually ask questions and don't be afraid
to ask for help!!!**

**If you were to get a career ending injury would
you be happy just going to school?**



What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

www.ncaa.org



What is a student-athlete?

A **student athlete** is a participant in an organized competitive sport sponsored by the educational institution in which he or she is enrolled. **Student athletes** must typically balance the roles of being a full-time **student** and a full-time **athlete**.

Changes from High School to College



The Right Fit

Academics

Athletics

Environment

Finances



Academics – First Priority

- You need to get good grades and good SAT/ACT scores.
- Take SAT/ACT Prep Courses
- The better your grades & scores = more options
- Focus needs to be there as a HS Freshman continuing through HS graduation = good grades and a high GPA.
- Coaches want players who can balance both school and soccer.
- Research schools with your major or academic interests



Finances

Scholarships

Merit Based Aid

Need Based Aid

Other Sources



Environment

- **Teammate Personality / Chemistry**
- **Size of school**
- **Location**
- **Climate**
- **Class size**
- **Dorms - Quality of living space**
- **Extracurricular Activities**
- **Urban / Rural**



Soccer (Athletics) – Part 1

- Program geared toward college recruitment with staff experienced in the recruiting process (MD United)
- Watch College Soccer games - get a gauge of the level
- Must attend college showcase events, ID Clinics and Camps
- Visit colleges prior or after showcase events when out-of-state
- Fully commit yourself to the sport and continuous improvement as a player



Soccer (Athletics) – Part 2

- **What is your special quality and identity as a player?**
- **Work hard to improve weaknesses**
- **Demonstrate outstanding intangibles: work rate, coachability, fitness levels, competitive fire and being a great teammate.**
- **Understand your club coaches and club directors will be your highest level reference college coaches contact.**
- **Maintain a good coach-player-parent relationship and ask for an ongoing honest assessment of your ability.**
- **Work together to create a realistic list of schools.**



When considering schools, players need to ask themselves several questions:

- Do I want to go to a big school or a smaller school?
- What part of the country would I like to be in?
- What do I think I might want to study?
- Does the school offer what I want to study?
- Does the school fit our family's budget?
- What are the athletic facilities like?
- What are the soccer facilities like?



Contacting Coaches

- Be proactive in the process!!!!
- Design a cover letter and profile (examples on MD United website).
- Use proper grammar. Spell check all correspondence.
- Research – know obvious info about a school before contacting a coach.
- The most effective communication comes from a player not parent.
- Email cover letter and profile before every tournament – not last minute
- Invite local coaches to league games.
- Request an unofficial visit.

D1 - Before 9/1 of Junior Year, coaches cannot directly contact you (email/call)

D3 – Can receive phone calls or emails anytime.



What are colleges coaches looking for on game day?

- *“Work ethic, attitude and coachability are also attributes that we look for.”*
- *“Speed, athleticism, ability to deal with conditions, poor refereeing, yelling coaches, etc.”*
- *“Work rate, winning attitude, attitude toward ref and coach and parents”*
- *“Clues that give us an idea of what type of person he is. Does he help carry the balls, does he shake hands with the referee after the game?”*



What is NCAA Division 1?

- **322 DI Women's College Programs**
- **Recruiting time-table – when do players verbally commit?**
- **It's never too early to start the process and never too late to be recruited**
 - **Every player's process is different**
 - **The key is finding the right fit and balance between academics, soccer and the social environment**
- **Scholarship**
 - **Fully funded versus non-fully funded**
 - **Partial scholarships**
 - **Combined Athletic and Academic**
 - **Academic**



Recruiting Rules for Soccer, Div. 1

- **Freshman & Sophomore Year**
 - Telephone calls: Players can make calls to the coach. College coach cannot call you back.
 - Official visit: None Allowed
 - Unofficial visit: Players may make unlimited amount of unofficial visits
- **Junior Year**
 - Recruiting materials: Players may begin receiving as of September 1 of junior year.
 - Telephone calls: Players make calls to the coach. College coach can call once per week starting July 1 AFTER junior year.
 - Off-campus contact: Allowed starting July 1 AFTER Junior year
 - Official visit: None Allowed
 - Unofficial visit: Players may make unlimited amount of unofficial visits



Recruiting Rules for Soccer, Div. 1

• Senior Year

- Recruiting materials: Allowed
- Telephone calls: Players may make calls to the coach. Coach can call once per week starting July 1 AFTER junior year.
- Off-campus contact: Allowed starting July 1 AFTER Junior year
- Official visit: Allowed beginning opening day of classes of senior year. Limited to five official visits to Divisions I and II colleges.
- Unofficial visit: Players may make unlimited amount of unofficial visits



What is the NCAA Division 3?

- ❑ Smaller Academic Institutions with different focus for athletics
- ❑ Do not offer athletic scholarships.
- ❑ Athletics in D3 is highly competitive.
- ❑ There are over 136,000 athletes at over 430 D3 colleges and universities and each one is **studying to earn a valuable degree** in preparation for the workplace while playing the sport that he or she loves.



Why consider a Division 3 School?

- Attending a D3 college or university will assure you the **opportunity to play the sport you love while earning a valuable degree** that will prepare you for life in the real world.
- It is a common misconception that D3 means lesser quality athletics. **D3 provides high-level athletics**, which in many cases rival D1 and D2 programs.
- High school sports stars often choose D3 colleges to **avoid getting lost at D1 school**.
- D3 schools feature a higher number of sports teams and athletes on campus.



NCAA Division 3 Recruiting Rules

- Unique from the D1 and D2 levels, **D3 institutions can contact prospective recruits by phone or mail at any point in high school.**
- If any coach or representative of the college's athletic interests (booster or representative) approaches you (or any member of your family) about enrolling and participating in athletics at that college, you then become a "recruited prospective student-athlete" at a particular college.



Major differences between levels...

- **Athletic scholarship vs. Financial aid packages**
- **Spring (off) Season**
- **Competition Travel and Time commitment**
- **Recruiting Rules**
 - Unique from the D1 and D2 levels, **D3 institutions can contact prospective recruits by phone or mail at any point in high school.**



What impresses coaches on a visit?

- *“When the recruit speaks more than the parents do”*
- *“Eye contact”*
- *“When they come prepared with questions and have clearly put some thought into this very important decision”*
- *“How easy is player to talk to and how she/he treats her parents”*
- *“The player’s character, manners and maturity.”*
- *“Ability to communicate and ask questions, mainly.”*
- *“I am impressed by kids rather than their parents asking the questions”*
- *“When they have a good idea of what they are looking for in a college, academically, socially and geographically.”*



Other Items

- PSAT/SAT's
- Recruiting Services?
- Video?
- Walk-on
- University Club Teams
- **QUESTIONS?**

