

Maryland United

Boys College Recruiting Seminar

www.mdunitedfc.org

[resources](#)

[college recruitment](#)



Panel Members

- **Scott Buete**, University of Maryland
- **Alun Oliver**, St. Mary's College
- **Paul Killian**, Naval Academy
- **Colin Herriot**, MD United
- **David Mongey**, MD United



MD United Commitments

- ❑ 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 |*



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 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**.



The Right Fit

Academics

Athletics

Environment

Finances



Academics – First Priority

- You must get good grades and good SAT/ACT scores.
- Focus needs to be there as a HS Freshman continuing through HS graduation
- The better your grades & scores = more options
- Coaches want players who can balance both school and soccer
- Research schools with your major or academic interests
- Ask coaches what the “Admission standards” are at their particular school



SAT/ACT

- **Take the SAT and/or ACT.** These scores will likely be discussed before you actually submit an application regarding your chances of being accepted, potential merit-based scholarship, etc. If you don't have these test scores by the end of your junior year, it can be hard to predict the chances of being accepted or earning merit-based scholarship. **We highly recommend you take an SAT/ACT prep course to help increase your scores.** The SAT and ACT are different tests, so if you struggle on one of them, consider taking the other one as well to see if that test is more suited to you.



What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

www.ncaa.org



Cover Letter & Profile

- **Prepare or Revise a Player Profile and Cover Letter** and start emailing to your list of schools. Always send these before every major tournament **1-2 weeks in advance**. Do not wait until the last 1-4 days prior. College coaches make their “players to watch” schedule in advance. Don’t get lost in the shuffle by waiting last minute.
- **Invite local coaches to league games** (not just tournaments)
- Create an email **ONLY** for college recruiting.
NameGradYear@JohnSmith2022@gmail.com
- Examples on [MD United Website](#)



What are colleges coaches looking for on game day?

- **Technical, Tactical, Athletic & Mental quality** – on the ball and off the ball related to position. What is the player's special and consistent quality?
- **Work rate, attitude and discipline** are also major attributes that we look for. Do players keep working, problem-solving, show heart/fight or give-in?
- Can players really **compete** and have a **positive presence and impact** on the game?
- Do players **communicate** on the field – verbally and non-verbally?



What are colleges coaches looking for on game day?

- Do players display **appropriate body language and positive reactions** when taking instruction or criticism from a coach or from making a mistake?
- Can players **deal** with difficult weather conditions, poor refereeing, frustration?
- **Clues that give us an idea of what type of person she is.**
When on the bench are they “in the game” or “at the game”?
- Do they **encourage their teammates?**
- **At tournaments, coaches typically watch one half and don't know the score**



Soccer (You)

- What is your **special quality and identity** as a player?
- **Are you still improving?** Work hard to improve weaknesses.
- Demonstrate outstanding intangibles. What is your **character** on and off the field?
work rate, coachability, fitness levels, focus, competitiveness, 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.
- **Fully commit yourself to the sport and continuous improvement as a player**



Soccer (You)

- Be in a **program geared toward college recruitment** with staff experienced in the recruiting process (MD United)
- **Watch College Soccer** - get a gauge of the level
- Attend college **showcase events**
- Attend **ID Clinics and Camps**
- Arrange **Unofficial Visits**
- **Visit campuses** -- even if just driving through -- make use of your time when traveling to tournaments and league games.



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**



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?
- What will be my role on the team?



What is NCAA Division 1?

- **205 DI Men's College Programs**
- It's never too early to start the process and never too late to be recruited
 - **Every player's process is unique**
 - The key is finding the **right fit and balance** between academics, soccer and the social environment
- **Athletic Scholarship Offered**
 - Fully funded versus non-fully funded
 - Partial scholarships
 - Combined Athletic and Academic
 - Academic



Recruiting Rules for Soccer, Div. 1

• Freshman & Sophomore Year

- Recruiting materials: Prospect can only receive general camp or clinic invitations and questionnaires
- Calls, Texts, Emails: **COACH CANNOT** make phone calls, send a direct email, or text until **AFTER SEPT 1 Junior year**.
- **PROSPECT CAN** send unlimited emails, texts, and make phone calls. Coaches cannot return.
- Unofficial visit: Players may make unlimited amount of unofficial visits



Recruiting Rules for Soccer, Div. 1

• Junior & Senior Year

- Recruiting materials: Allowed
- Calls, Texts, Emails: **Players and coach** can make unlimited calls, emails, and texts to **each other AFTER SEPT 1 Junior year**.
- Official visit: Allowed beginning opening day of classes of *senior year only* 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.**



Making A Decision

- When and How
- Verbal Commitment
- Injuries after Commitment
- What happens if Coaching Staff changes
- Signing NLI



QUESTIONS

