

# CollegeInfo Soccer ACTION Plan

## Freshman—9th Grade

- TRY YOUR BEST IN SCHOOL! Don't let your grades slide. If you do, it will hurt you later. Don't be too proud or too busy to attend study sessions or work with tutors. Do whatever you can to get your grades up to the best they can be!
- Play on one or more highly competitive club soccer teams. Set high goals for yourself at practice. Work on physical conditioning.
- Tryout for the USYSA Olympic Development Program (ODP). Don't worry if you don't make the team; but, don't limit your opportunities by not trying out.
- Tryout for your high school team.
- Learn about college soccer programs. Make an effort to visit campuses and see college games.
- Attend summer soccer camps. A specialized skills camp may be better than a college camp this summer.

## Sophomore—10th Grade

- KEEP UP YOUR SCHOOL WORK. Take PSAT in October. Don't prepare for this test this year. You need an idea of how you score without preparation. Get the test analyzed for areas that need improvement. Work to improve those areas.
- Continue to play the highest club-level competition available. Get your team to start collecting video footage of competitive games. Start a collection of newspaper clippings detailing your success. Keep a detailed record of your game statistics. Encourage team management to publish a roster that you can send to college coaches in areas where the team will be competing.
- Keep trying out for ODP. Don't give up if you weren't selected the first time.
- Play for your high school if your club and ODP events allow.
- Identify 20 possible colleges or universities by May. List schools at different levels of academic and athletic intensity that give you options to choose from later. Don't narrow your search too much right now.
- Make a two-year plan on how/where you can be seen playing by college coaches.
- Attend a summer skills camp or college recruiting camp at a school that interests you.

## Junior—11th Grade

- KEEP UP YOUR SCHOOL WORK. Take PSAT again in October. Study for the test this time.
- Continue to play club soccer at the highest level possible. Roster or guest-play on teams that attend recruiting events. Try out again for ODP. Play for your high school if your club and ODP events allow.
- Travel with your team to recruiting events throughout the year. Write college coaches and arrange for them to evaluate your play. Now is the time to showcase yourself!
- Make informal campus visits throughout the year. Continue to collect team video footage.

- If a college coach sends you a player profile form to complete, return it *immediately*, even if you can't answer all the questions. Send updates as you get the additional information.
- Take ACT in April or June. Take SAT in May or June. Selective schools will require tests known as SAT II or Achievement Tests. Check the schools that interest you to see if you will need to take them.
- File with the NCAA Clearinghouse at the end of May or beginning of June, not before.
- Get applications for admission and scholarships during the summer before your senior year. Try to find out if essays are required and, if so, find out the topic so that you can work on the essays during the summer.
- Attend a summer college recruiting camp at a school that interests you. If you had an exceptionally good experience the previous year, than you might want to go back.

## Senior—12th Grade

- KEEP UP YOUR SCHOOL WORK. Retake ACT and/or SAT if you can improve.
- Keep in contact with coaches from the schools that interest you. Be sure they know that you are serious. Prepare a personalized soccer video for coaches who request one.
- Prepare admission and scholarship applications by Dec 1. Know application deadlines. Apply early.
- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible. Delay may keep you from getting financial aid. This form cannot be submitted prior to Jan. 1 because your parents' income tax information for the past year is required.
- Most college coaches finalize their player recruit list by end of December. Most preliminary negotiations for financial aid start in December.
- College athletic scholarship offers are usually finalized in February. Most student-athletes complete the college-search process and choose a school by April 1.
- Arrange to have your final high school transcript sent to the NCAA Clearinghouse.
- Use the summer to get ready for college. Get physically and mentally fit for fall college soccer tryouts.

# 21st Century Soccer Recruiting—the Internet

Listed below are web sites that will supply you with information that can help you with the college recruitment process. New sites are springing up daily. Be sure to check the links at these web sites for other related sites.

## **www.collegesoccer.com Exceptional Information**

One of the best to learn about different college programs! The section on the National Scoreboard provides constant updates of college scores. The College Soccer News section highlights fast breaking stories. The *Next Wave* section details where senior recruits have signed. Explore all the areas and don't forget to check out the link section.

## **www.espn.go.com**

Click on the section that says college sports. Once in that section, click on the soccer areas for current articles and scores in men and women's soccer.

## **www.Info@gotsoccer.com**

This site has a useful summer camp section with camp ads from many top college programs. There is also a tournament section but at this time it did not appear that a lot of the highly regarded recruiting events were listed.

## **www.naia.org**

This is the official web site of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Information is available on schools with soccer programs that are affiliated with the NAIA.

## **www.ncaa.org**

This is the official web site of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Information is available on schools with soccer programs that are affiliated with the NCAA. Check out the *NCAA Eligibility Rules*, *NCAA Clearinghouse*, *NCAA Soccer Championships*, etc.

## **www.njcaa.org**

This is the official web site of the National Junior College Athletic Association. Information is available on schools with soccer programs that are affiliated with the NJCAA.

## **www.nscaa.com**

This is the web site of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. It services all different coaching levels. Check out the *News* module. Although many of the articles will not apply to the student-athlete, the site has very thoughtful articles about different aspects of the college soccer scene. Also, the NSCAA soccer rankings of all the college associations and the conference rankings are updated regularly during the season and are very helpful. It also includes information on soccer programs at junior colleges.

## **www.socceramerica.com**

**Soccer America** is often referred to as America's No. 1 soccer news weekly. This is the web site of that highly respected publication. One click on the *College* module will bring up a variety of articles on men's and women's college soccer. The coverage is especially good during the fall college season. Check in often to keep up with the ups and downs of the fall competitions. The organization also puts out weekly rankings during the season.

## **www.soccerbuzz.com Top Women's Soccer Source**

**Soccer Buzz** is a free magazine on the Internet devoted to women's collegiate soccer at the NCAA Division 1 level. It provides information on teams, players, games and coaches for over 260 universities and colleges across the US. Game results are provided by NCAA member institutions and posted as they are made

available. This site is filled with all kinds of detailed information. It is worth your while to check every nook and cranny. Don't forget to look at the links!

### **[www.soccerinfo.com](http://www.soccerinfo.com)**

This site offers college scores and schedules as well as conference information. Scores are often posted with 24 hours of college matches. It is unusual to find this kind of NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA information all on one site.

### **CollegeInfo – For More Information Please Contact:**

Kent & Ramona Barber 1001 Woodland Pk. Dr. W. Des Moines, IA 50266  
Phone: (515) 223-0987.