

Guide to Starting your Recruiting Process



1. Figuring out your goals for playing in college is the first, the most important step in a successful recruiting process. [Success Through Your Eyes](#) by Christina Wenman may be helpful in this process.
2. Visit the [NCAA EligibilityCenter](#) and create your profile. There are many tools on that website to search colleges by division and volleyball programs. The FAQ section is a really useful read – you will see answers to questions there you didn't even think to ask: <https://naaa.egain.cloud/kb/EligibilityHelp/home>
3. Create a video with just a few highlights of your strengths and about 10 minutes of continuous game play. Coaches get bored watching only your best plays, they want to see how you move, how hard you work on the floor and how you react when things go wrong. Using YouTube to post it is the preferred way coaches want to watch recruiting videos.
4. Create a profile on a recruiting website – don't pay – use a free one but don't expect to get recruited from there. Read the answers to the question on recruiting websites on the next pages from the Volleyball Coaches & Trainers Facebook Group – those are all college coaches who answered the question in that post.
5. Pick colleges that have what you want to study, visit their athletic and volleyball websites – watch some online video of the teams in action to see what looks like a good fit for you. Then fill out the interest forms, contact the coaches directly and send them your activity resume and link to your film. Sell them on the fact that you know about their school, program and you want to be part of it.
6. Go to a camp or two at the schools that you are really interested in AFTER you have started a dialogue with them. If they haven't responded, or told you they are not interested or finished recruiting your class, move on. If you don't know yet – go to a camp that will help you get better! We recommend the University of Georgia camp. Tom Black is one of the best coaches in the country and has built a great program at Georgia (Yes, they are GMS).
7. Give us all of your information to create a Profile for you on our Field Level Coaches Recruiting App.
8. Let us know what schools you are interested in or have given our contact information to as your reference. We always prepare for responding to coaches and will keep you in the loop about what we are telling them when they reach out. We have a good network and our network has a great network of college coaches. We will do anything we can to help, but **the message we hear most from college coaches is that they want to hear from and be convinced that you are driving your recruiting process** – not your parents, not your coach and especially not any of the businesses out there selling recruiting services. After they determine if you have the volleyball qualities they are looking for, they want to see commitment, drive, self-motivation and enthusiasm for volleyball, their school and their program. They want players who already have these qualities - they can teach you the volleyball skills they want you to know.

Your Coaches at NC Coastal Volleyball Club

VCT – Volleyball Coaches and Trainers Facebook Group 22,000 Coach Members
Post and Discussion on which Recruiting sites College Coaches prefer to use:

College Coaches: Do you like the online recruitment websites? Is one specifically better than another? I have multiple girls asking me questions about where they should put their information online, and I'm not exactly sure where to direct them

Sean Manzi NCSA is a pain in the butt. I try to avoid that site based upon their "judgment of talent". Usually I stick to berecruited, but am more apt to girls who take initiative and send a YouTube link and contact info.

Dan Mickle I prefer girls who fill out our questionnaire rather than randomly hitting us through a service

Rich Bozeman Good question Pat. Trying to get my girls educated on what MOST colleges do. Not the ones with the big travel budgets. There's SO much misinformation and scammy moneymakers out there.

Manage

Pat Madia: Not every school does a great job being known. I might be able to name a thousand schools off the top of my head, but I'm sure there's a million I've never heard of. These sites are great for smaller schools to find girls that would have never found them in the first place

Manage

Kuuiipo Tom HUNDREDS....for real, hundreds of submissions in my inbox from recruiting data bases...too many to count. Sensory overload!! Like Mick, I prefer to have an interested student-athlete reach out to me directly. Show me some love and I'll double-down on it in return. Show me ambition in seeking out a quality program and I'll give you a real look. Show me work ethic by creating your own You Tube video and I'll believe that you have what it takes to be successful in our program. As coaches, we're as guilty with our "Front Rush" mass emails to prospects that are intended to make them feel "special" by auto filling their name in strategic locations throughout the body of the text... just like the numerous, "Coach Tom...Susquehanna University..." yada, yada, yada...only to get in touch with them and find out that they have no idea on what side of the Mississippi River we're located. Have your girls do the heavy lifting...the leg work...the "reaching out". That'll get a coach's attention much quicker than ANY recruiting service. I'm not "poo-pooing" the recruiting services and web sites...I'm just saying, if you want this little guys attention, do something different.

Christopher Brian Weber Just using a service isn't enough. Make sure they can get video online...not a problem to use you tube and skip the services altogether. Combo of highlight and 10-15 minutes of real game footage...I get tired of watching hitting of perfect sets only....See More

Kuuiipo Tomalso, like Sean ^^, I'd rather be the judge of their respective talent. I loathe the "This is a DI athlete worthy of a scholarship...". These poor kids don't know the actual differences between the divisions...and some of them couldn't play dead in a cowboy movie yet some evaluator is telling me how she's "perfect" for our program...ugggh..

Christopher Brian Weber Plus I have to give you props...many club coaches do little to nothing to get their players recruited. Best thing you can do is build a network of coaches whom you know that truly care for kids...you have a good start with the ones above that answered your question...I know a few of them.

Dan Mickle I wake to (on average) 100 e-mails a day, that is a form letter from a recruiting site. They instantly go into "When I Get Time" folder. We are a school known for Nursing and Sports Management, but we do not offer Athletic Training. So I spend most of those "When I Get Time" moments deleting people who want a major we don't offer. I would suggest using the services to narrow down the search, then manually contacting (either e-mail or the schools website questionnaire) the school/coach.

Ray Villanueva *i agree with sean manzi....you tube and girls send out information...heard breccruited but nothing beats you tube...*

Jay Van Vark *I delete anything from a service... Send me an email directly with a YouTube video -- I read everyone one of those with interest!*

Joe Czopek *As so many other coaches have said, direct contact gets attention. Tell me you looked at our website, researched my program, found our school has your major. We all prefer videos generated with some unedited game film.*

Pat Madia *To steer this conversation in a slightly different direction (i LOVE the input thus far)... There are scads of schools out there...some kids are using these websites to literally FIND schools they don't know about (to use Susquehanna University as an example...didn't know it existed, I'm from Buffalo, NY)...is there a difference between websites? Ideally, I would tell a kid to use website "X" to find schools, and then visit the school's website to directly contact the coach*

Kuuipo Tom *NOW you're talking, buddy...and I expect an onslaught of recruiting questionnaires from Niagara kids! ;)*
Yes....use the sites for that...AND, it's also great if a kid has their profile on a specific site to add a link to their site. That's a whole lot better than getting a plethora of computer generated, "This athlete matches your..." Emails. Basically those sites all solicit information from college coaches. A hundred years ago I was so excited to promote our program through any of those sites that I must have filled out 10 or so "University and Coaching Profiles". Once the novelty of being somebody (picture Steve Martin in The Jerk when the new phone books came out) wore off and I kept having to update all of these dang profiles, our information on these sites became stale. In essence, it becomes more work than it's worth. That being said, the recruiting sites are an "ok" place to find schools but remember, the information may be outdated. I don't know that one site trumps another in the area of profiling schools.

Larry Carr *Not a college coach but my daughter signed in November. Here's what we did. I rented a high end video camera, filmed matches, cut a highlight video and uploaded it to Youtube. Then my daughter and I went to the 8 different conference websiteshe was interested in playing for. We then went to each team listed on the conference website, found the coach who was the recruiting coordinator and sent an email with the heading: (her name) 2014 6'2 OH. The first time we did this it took about 4 hours but then we had a data base saved. When I filmed a new highlight video we'd send it out again to each coach. It would only take 20 minutes to resend the saved list. Just cut and paste a new address into the same email and hit send. We would only delete a coach if they emailed that they were done with 2014 or were not interested. We started in October 2013 and by February she committed verbally. Worked really well, after a couple of rounds she had 30 schools interested. It was an easy process (a little time consuming) that cost very little. The learning curve on editing the highlight video was very short, I used Power Director and it was easy to use.*

Pat Madia *Larry, I really like that proactive approach. Kudos to you and your daughter for doing your proverbial homework*

Jeffrey Huff *Use a free site like BeRecruited.com or NCSA, but if there is a particular school you are interested in, go to their website and fill out their version of the "I wish to be recruited" form (nearly everyone has these). The most important information you can provide is: Name, graduating class, ACT / SAT score; intended major(s); height / approach jump; city/state; high school / club; contact information. This will usually get the ball rolling...*

Estimated Probability of Competing in College Athletics

	High School Participants	NCAA Participants	Overall % HS to NCAA	% HS to NCAA Division I	% HS to NCAA Division II	% HS to NCAA Division III
Men						
Baseball	482,740	36,011	7.5%	2.2%	2.3%	2.9%
Basketball	540,769	18,816	3.5%	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%
Cross Country	269,295	14,303	5.3%	1.8%	1.4%	2.1%
Football	1,006,013	73,712	7.3%	2.9%	1.9%	2.5%
Golf	143,200	8,485	5.9%	2.0%	1.6%	2.2%
Ice Hockey	35,283	4,323	12.3%	4.8%	0.6%	6.8%
Lacrosse	113,702	14,603	12.8%	3.1%	2.5%	7.3%
Soccer	459,077	25,499	5.6%	1.3%	1.5%	2.7%
Swimming	136,638	9,799	7.2%	2.8%	1.2%	3.2%
Tennis	159,314	7,785	4.9%	1.6%	1.0%	2.3%
Track & Field	605,354	28,914	4.8%	1.9%	1.2%	1.7%
Volleyball	63,563	2,355	3.7%	0.7%	0.7%	2.3%
Water Polo	22,475	1,072	4.8%	2.7%	0.8%	1.3%
Wrestling	247,441	7,300	3.0%	1.0%	0.8%	1.2%
Women						
Basketball	399,067	16,509	4.1%	1.3%	1.2%	1.7%
Cross Country	219,345	15,624	7.1%	2.7%	1.7%	2.7%
Field Hockey	60,824	6,119	10.1%	2.9%	1.4%	5.8%
Golf	79,821	5,436	6.8%	2.8%	1.9%	2.1%
Ice Hockey	9,650	2,531	26.2%	8.9%	1.1%	16.2%
Lacrosse	99,750	12,452	12.5%	3.7%	2.6%	6.2%
Soccer	394,105	28,310	7.2%	2.4%	1.9%	2.9%
Softball	362,038	20,419	5.6%	1.8%	1.7%	2.2%
Swimming	173,088	12,980	7.5%	3.3%	1.2%	3.0%
Tennis	189,436	8,596	4.5%	1.5%	1.0%	2.0%
Track & Field	488,267	30,326	6.2%	2.8%	1.5%	1.9%
Volleyball	452,808	17,780	3.9%	1.2%	1.1%	1.6%
Water Polo	21,735	1,217	5.6%	3.3%	1.1%	1.2%

Sources: High school figures from the [2018-19 High School Athletics Participation Survey](#) conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations; data from [club teams](#) not included. College numbers from the NCAA [2018-19 Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report](#).