



# The College Recruitment Process

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What do college coaches look for when they are recruiting players?** First, a recruit must be able to play at the school's level of competition. Equally important, a recruit must meet the school's minimum academic requirements and ideally, far exceeds the minimum in order to also qualify for academic scholarships. This enables the coach to spread baseball scholarships across more players on his roster.
2. **What are the typical steps in the recruiting process?** During the junior year, potential recruits must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center for initial approval to play NCAA Division I and II sports. College coaches are permitted to write letters to prospects after September 1 of the junior year. Personal contact may take place after July 1 *following* the junior year; at which time, the rules also permit once-per-week phone calls from coaches to players.
3. **Do letters or phone calls from colleges mean they are going to offer a scholarship?** No. Many schools send out hundreds of letters to potential recruits; in fact, some may actually be form letters.
4. **Is it a good idea to attend a college baseball camp?** If you are interested in a particular school, it is definitely a good idea to attend their summer/fall baseball camp. You will have an opportunity to meet the coaching staff, demonstrate your baseball skills and very importantly, visit campus. A number of colleges, especially smaller ones, select many of their recruits from these camps.
5. **Will sending a video improve the chances of being recruited?** It may definitely help. Videos should be kept to about three minutes and should include throwing during infield/outfield practice and several at-bats during a game; also include footage of running to first on a hit. Pitchers should throw one inning or 15 pitches.
6. **Do college coaches pay attention to recruiting services?** Smaller schools typically use these services more often than Division I schools. Good recruiting services do more than just send out mass mailings; they are much more proactive in promoting potential recruits to specific, appropriate schools and may offer a variety of personal, consulting services as well. It is important to not be "sold" a recruiting service and certainly do not allow a recruiting service to oversell a potential recruit's ability. If interested or in doubt about a particular service, ask your coaches for assistance.
7. **How many official and unofficial visits can my son make?** During their senior year only, recruits are permitted one official, paid visit to no more than five NCAA schools. Unofficial (unpaid) visits are unlimited and may occur at any time.
8. **What is a good scholarship offer?** Under NCAA rules, Division I schools may offer a maximum of 11.7 full scholarships for baseball; Division II schools may offer 9.0. (Division III schools are not permitted to offer athletic scholarships; academic scholarships take their place at this level.) Division I and II scholarships are usually divided and shared by 25 players; the highest percentage typically goes to pitchers, followed by catchers and shortstops. Keeping this in mind, anything north of 50% is a great offer. Also, offers may actually increase if a player goes high in the amateur draft.
9. **What is a Verbal Offer and Commitment?** NCAA member schools may make verbal offers to recruits prior to their junior year assuming contact rules have been followed. Verbal offers and commitments are non-binding. Verbal offers are validated by binding agreements called National Letters of Intent which may not be offered to or signed by a high school student prior to his senior year.
10. **What is the National Letter of Intent (NLI)?** The NLI is a binding agreement between a prospective student-athlete and an NLI member institution. A prospective student-athlete agrees to attend the institution full-time for one academic year (two semesters or three quarters). The institution agrees to provide athletics financial aid for one academic year (two semesters or three quarters).

11. **What is the Early Signing Period?** Dates for the Early Signing Period (for signing National Letters of Intent) are set each year by the NCAA and differ by sport. For students enrolling in the 2016-2017 collegiate academic year, the early signing period for baseball starts November 11, 2015 and ends November 18, 2015.
12. **What is the Regular Signing Period?** For students enrolling in the 2016-2017 collegiate academic year, the Regular Signing Period begins April 13, 2016.
13. **What is the Final Signing Date?** For students enrolling in the 2016-2017 collegiate academic year, the Final Signing Date is August 1, 2016.
14. **What percentage of scholarship money is spoken for in the Early Signing Period?** More than half of the NCAA institutional athletics scholarship money is allocated during the early signing period.
15. **What if a scholarship offer is not received in the Early Signing Period?** In limited cases, some players develop late and are not recognized until late in their high school career. And, it is true that some college coaches hold back a limited amount of scholarship money just in case a player (typically a pitcher or player who fills a specific position need) reveals himself late in the process. However, in most cases, not signing by this period typically indicates that Division I and most Division II schools do not have a sincere interest.
16. **What is the penalty for not fulfilling the NLI agreement?** The basic penalty is that a student-athlete has to serve one year in residence (full-time, two semesters or three quarters) at the next NLI member institution and lose one season of competition in all sports.
17. **Can a scholarship be revoked if a recruit is injured or does not perform as expected?** Yes, scholarships are renewable every year. Coaches can increase scholarship money, reduce it or decide not to renew a scholarship at the end of a season. If injured, most coaches will renew your scholarship, but they are not obligated to do so.
18. **Does playing at a top 25 school increase my chances of getting drafted?** Scouts are looking for players with major league tools whether players attend a smaller Division III or NAIA school or a nationally-ranked Division I school. Attending a top flight program, however, will increase your chances because you will be playing with/against many high level players, including a number who have been previously drafted.