

COLLEGE BOUND

SMUFC 2008

Table of Contents

Understanding Types of Schools and Divisions.....	page 2
Eligibility.....	page 3
How to Contact Soccer Program Representatives.....	page 4
Timeline.....	page 5
College Visits.....	page 8
Is This Really What I Want.....	page 10

Note:

For more detailed information, please check the following links on the SMU website:

NCAA College Brochure

SAT Test Dates

ACT Test Dates

FAFSA FAQs



You can do it!!!

UNDERSTANDING TYPES OF SCHOOLS AND DIVISIONS

NCAA - The **National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)** is a voluntary organization through which the nation's colleges and universities govern their athletics programs. It is comprised of institutions, conferences, organizations and individuals committed to the best interests, education and athletics participation of student-athletes. The membership is divided within three divisions:

Division I-schools must meet minimum financial aid awards for their athletic programs and there are maximum financial aid awards for each sport. The scheduling criteria must include 100% of the minimum number of games played against Division I opponents and the schools must sponsor at least 14 sports for men and women, with two team sports for each gender.

Division II-schools must not exceed maximum financial aid awards and teams usually feature a number of in-state and local student athletes. The scheduling criteria must include 50% of games against opponents in Division II but traditional rivalries with regional institutions dominate schedule. Student athletes pay for school through a combination of scholarship, grants, student loans, etc.

Division III-schools encourage wide participation in athletics, and student athlete experience is of paramount concern. The schedule is focusing on regional in-season and conference competition. No financial aid is given based on athletic ability.

NAIA - The purpose of the **National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)** is to promote the education and development of students through athletic participation. NAIA has over 50,000 athletes participating at nearly 300 member colleges and universities throughout United States and Canada. NAIA supports gender equity and is committed to the true spirit of competition through the five core values: respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership and sportsmanship.



- **COLLEGE RESOURCES**

www.collegeboard.com – SAT preparation support, SAT registration, college research tool

www.act.org – ACT preparation support, ACT registration

www.ncaa.org – all eligibility and competition rules and regulation, membership information

www.ncaaclearinghouse.net – registration for student athletes, mandatory for athletes trying out for Division Schools

www.naia.org – all eligibility and competition rules and regulations, membership

www.athleticscholarships.net – scholarship opportunities and guidance

www.fafsa.com – financial aid and scholarships

www.collegefundingsolutions.org – scholarship and loan opportunities and guidance

ELIGIBILITY

All students who plan on being intercollegiate student-athletes in Divisions I and II must be certified by NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse (www.ncaaclearinghouse.net). Upon registration, the Clearinghouse determines each student's eligibility for practice and competition, as well as eligibility to receive athletics scholarships that have been offered by a college coach.

Note: NCAA requirements have changed: The class of 2008 is required to take 16 core curriculum courses.

a. NCAA Clearinghouse

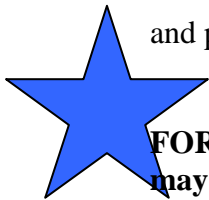
- only applicable for students who wish to participate in DI and DII athletics as freshmen
- does not guarantee your admission to any DI/DII school
- transcripts will be sent by your high school directly to Clearinghouse
- register after May of your junior year

b. Eligibility for DI

- 16 REQUIRED COURSES
 - 4 years of English
 - 3 years of Mathematics (Algebra or higher)
 - 2 years of Natural and Physical Science (including 1 year of lab science if offered)
 - 1 extra year of English, Math or Natural/Physical Science
 - 2 years of Social Science
 - 4 years of other core courses from the above or foreign language, religion and philosophy

c. Eligibility for DII

- 14 REQUIRED COURSES
 - 3 years of English
 - 2 years of mathematics
 - 2 years of Natural and Physical Science (including 1 year of lab science if offered)
 - 2 years of additional courses in English, Math or Natural/Physical Science
 - 2 years of Social Science
 - 3 years of other core courses form the above or foreign language, religion and philosophy



NOTE: ALWAYS CHECK WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR FOR SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (example: UC Schools). Requirements may change from year to year; meet with your college counselor for the most updated information.

HOW TO CONTACT SOCCER PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES

a. Create a Student/Player Profile Sheet and Resume

- Profile and resume must include your high school years
- Register your profile information on websites as GOTSOCCKER.COM, CSL and CYSA
- DVDs are a great addition to your resume but make sure the coach is interested in seeing it before sending.

b. When contacting Coaches from schools you are interested OR have expressed interest in you

- Be realistic about your level of play.
- Request an evaluation and make sure you personalize your letter. Keep in mind that coaches may not evaluate players until the completion of their junior year.
- Include a resume with both your academic and athletic achievements.
- When you receive a player profile sheet, complete and return the form immediately. If you are missing some information, let the coach know you will provide it as it becomes available.
- Contact the coaches who are interested in seeing you play with your game schedule. Include your team name and jersey number. Make a special note if you change your jersey number when attending as a guest player.

c. Email coaches

- **Show your interest.** Coaches have thousands of players they are seeing so you need to follow up. Coaches are usually ready to help if they are impressed with your interest and dedication.

d. Visit schools

- **Focus on programs high on your top choices list.** Set appointments in advance to meet with coaching staff. Prepare your list of questions for the meeting. If meeting with an admission officer, have a question list ready, focusing on your area of interest.

TIMELINE

a. Season of competition



Redshirt Definition:

The term “redshirt” is used to describe a student-athlete who does not participate in competition in a sport for an entire academic year. If you do not compete in a sport the entire academic year, you have not used a season of competition. Each student is allowed no more than four seasons of competition per sport.

NCAA rules indicate that any competition, regardless of time, during a season counts as one of your season of competition in that sport. It does not matter how long you have been involved in a particular competition, you will be charged a full season of competition.

b. Recruiting Regulations (for a detailed list check the NCAA website)

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- you may receive brochures for camps and questionnaires
- you may PLACE calls to your coaches at your expense
- college recruiters may not call you
- off campus contact is not allowed
- no official visits
- unofficial visits are allowed

JUNIOR YEAR

- you may receive recruiting material starting September 1 of your junior year
- coaches may call once before May of junior year and weekly starting July 1 of senior year
- off campus contact is allowed once during April on your high school campus
- no official visits
- unofficial visits are allowed

SENIOR YEAR

- college coaches may call once per week
- recruiting material is allowed
- official (beginning the first day of class) and unofficial visits are allowed
- evaluation and contact with coaches may occur up to 7 times during senior year
- college coaches may contact you up the 3 times during senior year

TIMELINE (continued)

c. To Do List

FRESHMEN YEAR

- take challenging courses (Algebra I, Geometry, College Prep English, Foreign Language)
- try to earn A's and B's. Focus on class work and homework and develop study skills
- join clubs, play sports, volunteer
- use school resources and/or www.csumentor.edu for academic help

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- continue to take challenging courses to expand your knowledge and satisfy the college admission requirements (Geometry, Algebra II and College Prep English)
- continue to earn A's and B's
- register and take the October PSAT
- expand your interests-enrichment programs, camps on college campuses, volunteering, maybe a summer job (Department of Labor - youthrules.dol.gov/jobs.htm)
- start taking tours and inform yourself on colleges, financial aid, scholarships and educational requirements
- continue to play club soccer and high school soccer
- work with your team on video footage of games

JUNIOR YEAR

- meet with your college counselor
- strive for A's and B's – especially important in junior and senior year
- prepare for SAT and ACT; checkout the College Board's SAT Question of the Day and/or Thomson-Peterson's Word of the Day
- register and take the October PSAT
- evaluate your writing skills
- plan your SAT and ACT dates, usually spring of junior year
- attend college information programs
- continue to play club soccer, work with your team on planning your tournament schedule (college showcases)
- work with your coach and your club management on proper dissemination of your team information on websites used by college coaches
- visit campuses

TIMELINE (continued)

SENIOR YEAR

- take as many challenging academic courses as you can – APs
- review your class schedule with your college counselor
- maintain good grades
- take additional SAT or ACT
- Oct 1-Nov 30: APPLY TO COLLEGES
- January: Complete and file FAFSA
- February: Financial aid application for Cal Grant
- March/April:- English Placement Test (EPT) or Entry Level Math (ELM)
-provide college coaches with updated information on your scheduled tournaments

d. National Letter of Intent



The NLI is a voluntary program with regard to both institutions and student-athletes. No prospective student-athlete or parent is required to sign the National Letter of Intent, and no institution is required to join the program.

By signing a National Letter of Intent, a prospective student-athlete agrees to attend the designated college or university for one academic year. Pursuant to the terms of the National Letter of Intent program, participating institutions agree to provide athletics financial aid for one academic year to the student-athlete, provided he/she is admitted to the institution and is eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules. An important provision of the National Letter of Intent program is a recruiting prohibition applied after a prospective student-athlete signs a Letter of Intent. This prohibition requires participating institutions to cease recruitment of a prospective student-athlete once a National Letter of Intent is signed with another institution.

The National Letter of Intent has many advantages to both prospective student-athletes and participating educational institutions:

- Once a National Letter of Intent is signed, prospective student-athletes are no longer subject to further recruiting contacts and calls.
- Student-athletes are assured of an athletics scholarship for one full academic year.
- By emphasizing a commitment to an educational institution, not particular coaches or teams, the program focuses on a prospective student-athlete's educational objectives.

COLLEGE VISITS

a. When visiting, be prepared to get the most of your tour. Here are some tips:

- bring a journal
- attend a class
- observe and communicate with students and professors
- stay overnight if possible
- arrange an interview with an admission officer
- take a campus tour
- eat a meal on campus
- visit the career center
- visit the Athletic Center
- MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE COACHING STAFF
- visit the Financial Aid Office

b. Suggested questions to ask

1. Academics and student life

- what kind of student activities does the college offer
- do most students stay on campus over the weekend
- is housing guaranteed for all years, if not, is there affordable housing nearby
- percentage of graduating students in four, five and six years
- student/teacher ration
- school safety
- financial aid policies and the average indebtedness of a graduate

COLLEGE VISITS (continued)

2. Athletics

- what do you look for in incoming players
- where are you in the recruiting process
- have you seen me play
- would you like to see me play
- what system do you play
- where do you see me fitting into this system

3. Questions to ask yourself

- will I enjoy the campus atmosphere
- how do I fit into the Team Social Atmosphere
- is this school providing me with the right academic opportunities

c. Financial Aid

Each school's financial aid award offer should include all the costs of attendance. If they are not listed, call the school or access the website and research all costs beyond tuition. Typical costs are:

- personal expenses
- books
- travel (depending on distance and mode of transportation, travel expenses may be as high as \$2,000).
- computer

Financial aid awards may not be made final until the following forms are completed and sent to each college: FFSa, CCS profile-if required, each college's individual financial forms and copies of 2008 Federal Tax Returns.

The rule is: follow up!

Delays in receiving financial aid are common when all required documents are not received on time.



IS THIS REALLY WHAT I WANT?

You should choose a school for academics first, and then look for soccer opportunities.

1. Academic Factors to Consider

- institution focus
- academic department rank
- size, location, ethnic diversity, cultural environment
- major pre-requisites
- tuition for in-state or out-of-state
- athletic tutoring program
- graduating rate for school and team
- admission GPA, SAT and ACT standards

2. Athletic Program Factors to Consider

- affiliation, conference membership
- scheduling history
- make and number of coaching staff – full/part time
- training staff experience and network (professional and national team)
- ranking/performance history
- attendance
- team atmosphere
- training schedule
- facilities
- distribution of scholarships
- expectations
- playing time policies
- playing system

REMEMBER! The more personal effort you put out, the greater chance of success. Good Luck!