

# Your Fall Recruiting Checklist

Follow these steps to ensure you find the best athletic, academic, social and financial college fit.

## Start of Junior Year – August/September

### Check in with your high school guidance counselor.

Are you on track to graduate on time with [the required number of NCAA core courses](#)? 10 of your core courses will be locked in at the end of your junior year. If you failed or got a low grade in an important class early in high school, make sure you retake that class before the end of your junior year.

### Talk to your high school/club coach or an NCSA recruiting expert.

By now, you should have a clear game plan for your athletic recruiting to-do's. What areas can you improve in—both athletically and academically? What types of schools do you want to apply to, and how do you compare to current team rosters?

### Keep Track of Important Dates:

1. Stay up to date with the [D1 and D2 Recruiting Calendars](#).
2. Learn more about [how the new NCAA Recruiting Rules and Updates](#) affect juniors.

## September

### Register with the NCAA.

If you're unsure of which division level you want to compete in, or are set on D3 schools, create a free profile—you can always upgrade to a paid account later. Receiving interest from D1 and D2 coaches? You may be better suited for an NCAA Certification Account.

### Narrow down your list of target schools—and reach out to coaches.

Whether you're checking out [your Top Matches](#) or [Coach Activity Report](#), make sure you have at least 30-40 schools—a mix of safety, target and dream schools—added to your [NCSA Favorites](#). Then, make sure you've reached out to each coach on your list.

### Regularly update your NCSA profile.

This is your athletic recruiting resume, so make sure coaches are seeing and evaluating your most recent info—including your transcript, verified stats and in some cases, your highlight footage.

## October

### Create a game plan for the ACT and SAT.

While the NCAA is no longer requiring student-athletes to take these tests to be eligible to compete in the 2025-26 academic year, many colleges—including those at the NCAA D1 and D2 level—may still want students to complete these tests for admissions or scholarship purposes. Stay current on testing dates for [the ACT](#) and [SAT](#)—including when you have to register for each test.

### Remember to consider all the costs associated with the ACT and SAT tests.

There are fees—and fee waivers—for each test, but don't forget about the costs of tutoring or test prep resources like online classes and guides.

## November

### Follow your top choices on X and Instagram.

Following a team or coach on social media is a unique way to set yourself apart from other recruits. You'll get a behind-the-scenes look at a team's dynamics, stay up-to-date on their accomplishments, and show coaches that you're genuinely interested in their program.

### Go on a college visit or take a virtual campus tour.

[Unofficial](#) and [official visits](#) provide a great opportunity to get some one-on-one time with a college coach, meet your potential team and tour the campus/athletic facilities, while virtual visits offer a safe, cost-effective option to get a good feel of the school.