

Swimming & Diving in College

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Swimming & Diving in College

- Who is this guy??
- For the coaches.. Setting the tone.
- Got to LOVE the sport!
- Academically sound – they better be
- Impact to lifestyles – Minor to MAJOR
- Priority #1 for colleges – WIN!
- Control over athletes – varies.

- Don't fear college athletics!
- Tell athletes to make their own experiences, but listen to others
- Athletes should have confidence and an open mind

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- Where to start??
 - NCAA Eligibility Center (a.k.a. NCAA Clearinghouse or EC)
 - What is it??
 - Certifies you meet eligibility standards for Division I & II
 - Not needed for Division III.
 - www.eligibilitycenter.org to get started.
 - NAIA – www.playnaia.org
 - Takes time to go through
 - When to start? Register with Eligibility Center at the start of Jr. year.
 - Send test scores (ACT/SAT) to the Eligibility Center – Code=9999
 - Initial point of contact - Counselors
 - Classes & Tests (ACT/SAT) & Grades
 - What if I don't know? Do it anyway – just in case!!
 - SEND A **FINAL OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT** IMMEDIATELY AFTER GRADUATION!!

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Divisions of Competition

- I – Highest competitive level, scholarship offered
- II – Scholarship offered
- III – Scholarship NOT offered
- NAIA – Scholarship offered
- Junior College – Scholarship offered.
- Division II & III are very comparable in level of competition.
- NAIA is semi-competitive, though not as deep due to smaller number of schools.
- JC – Non-competitive. 2-year schools.
JC Swimming = Rare

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Scholarships

- Can pay for all or part of tuition, room & board, books, fees. You can participate without one too!!
- Awarded by the school, not the NCAA.
- Year to year, not 4-year. Subject to change – up or down.
- NLI (National Letter of Intent) is NOT a scholarship!
- Amounts available –
 - DI – Women=14 “Scholarships”; Men=9.9 “Scholarships”
 - DII – Women=8.1 “Scholarships”; Men=8.1 “Scholarships”
 - JC – 15 Scholarships combined

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Scholarships (continued)

- Ivy League – Division I, but no scholarships
 - Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Columbia, Penn, Dartmouth, Brown
- Military Academies – Division I, but “no scholarships”
 - Air Force, Naval, West Point (Army)
 - Service commitment – 5 years.

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Recruiting

- Letters/Media Guides – “Dime a dozen”
- Phone Calls
- Evaluation – Watching you practice or compete.
- Home Visits
- Official Visit – Athlete visits school campus at the school’s expense. Very planned out. Limit of 5.
- Unofficial Visit – Athlete visits school campus at their own expense . Contact coach. Planning up to you. Unlimited.

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Recruiting (continued)

- Rules for when/how you can be contacted – MANY...
 - Cannot talk to a college coach at a meet until you are “released” by your coach and the meet is over.
 - See NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete for gory details.
- The more you can do for the school, the more likely your chance for scholarship. It’s a sprinters world...
- Best references – Coaches!

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Recruiting (still continued...)

- Recruiting agencies – Pricey. Get references! It is legal
- Be your own recruiting agency!!
- Don't wait to be recruited.. Sell yourself!
- Distant schools.
- Coach sends a letter to a school.
- Beware.. Coaches are the experts, you are the rookie.
- Walking on.
- The Game.

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Recruiting (OMG – STILL continued...)

- Video & Use of technology. (YouTube, DVD)
- Be unique without being a dork.
- Historical data. Show growth and progress if possible.
- Go to the school for the academics!!

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National Letter of Intent (NLI)

- What is it?
 - An agreement that the school will give athletic money if the student agrees to attend the school.
- Binding document with THE SCHOOL, not THE COACH. **If coach leaves, you are still obligated to the school.**
- NLI is NOT a scholarship. NLI must be accompanied by an institutional financial aid agreement (scholarship).
- Signing Dates – Mid-Nov. (11/10) & Mid-Apr. (4/13)
- Whoops.... What if I pick the wrong school??
- www.nationalletter.org

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Odds and Ends

- Show up in shape!
- Think it through!
- Represent well!
- Enjoy it!
- What schools offer swimming??
 - Ncaa.org under “Sports”
 - beRecruited.com
 - Collegeswimming.com
- Good “fit”??

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Odds and Ends (Continued)

- Adjustments...
 - Campus life, academic demands, athletic demands
- Post-Season expectations
- Ask questions – What if's??
- Athletic program reputation – coaches, athletes
- Academic program reputation – Do they offer your major (duh)??
- Non-Athletic aid – APPLY!!
- Walk on expectations
- 20 Hour Rule

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Documents:

- NCAA 2010-11 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete
- Recruiting - A Coaches Perspective
- Recruiting - Marketing Yourself
- Recruiting - Narrowing the List
- Recruiting - The Big Trip
- Recruiting - Tips for Choosing the Right College
- Recruiting - What Coaches Want
- Sticker Shock
- Swimming and Diving in College (Slides)